

# NMSBVI ALAMOGORDO CAMPUS 2014 - 2015



New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired 1900 N. White Sands Blvd. Alamogordo, NM 88310 From the desk of: Brenda Holmes

Welcome Back to School!

Danette Fuller has accepted the position to be our Director of Educational Services. She will be traveling statewide assisting students and districts. I have accepted her previous position, Director of Student Services, and I am excited to have returned to NMSBVI to be a part of their team once again. I have 16 years of experience working in the field of Special Education. I am looking forward to assisting students, families and staff as we progress through the school year.

We look forward to the beginning of a new school year. Construction continues on many areas on campus. Again this year we will use only one dorm with boys on one side and girls on the other. The most exciting news is the opening of our new educational building. Our new educational building is designed to enable us to accomplish specific needs of our students. More information is coming regarding our Open House to be scheduled.

We are not changing our schedule of classes for elementary and secondary school students this school year. Elementary students (K –  $2^{nd}$  grade) will have class from 8:10 – 3:05. All other grades ( $3^{rd}$  grade through high school) will have classes from 8:10 – 4:00. Alamogordo High School will continue the block schedule for the 2014-2015 school year, which in turn affects our high school inclusion schedule. In order to accommodate for this, inclusion high school students will have a modified block schedule. Some classes will meet two to three days per week for two periods but still have the required amount of classroom instruction time. For secondary academic and career students, eighth period (3:10 – 4:00) will continue as a study period for homework, academic tutoring, or life skills instruction.

Times have changed for our Preschool students. The overlapping of the 2 classes will enable students to grow in their skills and independence. There will be a morning (8:00 - 1:30) Preschool class and an afternoon (10:00 - 3:30) Preschool class.

In an attempt to keep you informed about events on our campus, NMSBVI website is in the process of being revised and updated. Please access our web page at www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us to help you stay connected with the activities on our campus. You can also "like" NMSBVI on Facebook and visit our YouTube page. Links are provided on our website.

Thank you for entrusting NMSBVI to be a part of your child's education.

Brenda Holmes Director of Student Services

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July 1, 2014

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back!

We welcome each of you back to sunny Alamogordo and a new school year! Whether this is your first time on our campus or whether you are returning for another school year, we are glad you are here!

Once again, you are returning to a construction site! Thanks to the good people of New Mexico, we have acquired funding to make some major upgrades throughout our campus. As I write this letter, construction crews are working seven days a week to finish our new Watkins Education Center so that we can begin classes next month in our new building. We are very excited for you to see our new education space. It was designed by Dekker/Perrich/Sabitini and constructed by Bradbury Stamm. There are so many features in this building that you are going to enjoy: large classrooms, windows, a Life Skills center!

In addition, we are currently replacing the underground utilities. This project will be nearing completion by the time school starts. During this school year, you will see the library move to its permanent location and Health Services move to Jack Hall. Lots of exciting changes are happening!

If this is your first year with us you will find that residential campuses differ from public schools. Although you may take several traditional classes, your school day starts when your alarm sounds in the morning and often extends into the evening hours. Our goal is to use your entire day for instruction so that we can help you get ready for graduation or to return to your family and home school. This Student/Family Handbook is provided for your information and guidance during the 2014-15 school year. Please read the handbook carefully; these are sound educational practices and they help ensure the provision of a safe and orderly learning environment. These rules are meant to both protect and to keep you safe; understanding the rules and deciding to follow them will make your stay much more enjoyable.

Parents, in the back of the handbook you will find an acknowledgement form indicating that you have received and read the handbook. Please share this handbook with your child, then fill out the form, sign it, and return it to the Education Department Administrative Assistant, Ms. Carolyn DeLone. For more information I encourage you to visit our website at <u>www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us</u>.

Thank you for intrusting your child to us for the upcoming school year. We commit ourselves to providing the best education we can for your child. We expect that when we develop a transition IEP to send your child back to you, you will have many areas of growth to celebrate with them. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or require assistance in any way.

Respectfully,

Linda M. Lyle Superintendent

### NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

1900 North White Sands Blvd. Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310 (575) 437-3505

# **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

	Work Ext.
Superintendent - Linda Lyle	4413
Executive Assistant - John Williams	4419
Director of Educational Services - Danette Fuller	4432
Director of Human Resources - Veronica Hernandez	4468
Director of Business & Finance - Sylvia Hartley	4463
Director of Institutional Support - Margie Macias	4488
Coordinator of Outreach Program - Valerie Tiensvold	(505) 859-0430
Coordinator of Early Childhood Program - Patricia Beecher	3061
Coordinator of Family, Infant, and Toddler Program - Cindy Faris	(505) 859-0427

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

Director of Student Services – Brenda Holmes	4433
Secondary Principal – Maritza Morales	4486
Elementary Principal – Miguel Villalobos	4485
Program Coordinator – Kelly King	4471
Program Coordinator – Jackie Hinkle	4492
Program Coordinator (Related Services) - Randal Martin	4447
Administrative Assistant - Carolyn Delone	4458
Administrative Assistant – Roberta Vazquez	4459
Teacher - Natalie Yannarelly	4506
Teacher - Donelle Bunch-Sydow	4529
Teacher - Datha Peters	4521
Teacher - Shan Hendrix	4501
Teacher - Jeff Killebrew	4530
Teacher - Dana Lyons	4522
Teacher - Virginia McGoldrick	4512
Teacher - Laura Miyoshi	4518
Teacher - Meghan Miller	4517
Teacher - Dave Nohe	4429
Teacher - Mary Vaughn	4525
Teacher - Jerri Young	4531
Transition Services Coordinator - Michala Wadley	4470

# STUDENT SERVICES (cont'd)

### Support Services

Behavior Support Specialist/Counselor - Jackie Hinkle	4492
Library Assistant - Amy Brody	4510
Physical Therapist - Randal Martin	4447
Occupational Therapist - Lori Adams	4410
Orientation & Mobility - Kelly Carnes	4528
Orientation & Mobility/Inclusion - Ron Later	4478
Speech Therapist - Alex Burks	4526
Transportation Supervisor - Jeremiah Vaughn	4541

### **Residential Life/Recreation**

<b>Residential Li</b>	fe Supervisor - Janet Hannah (439-4426)	4426
Dormitories: Garrett East Office Staff (439-4443)		4443
	Garrett East Student Phone	
	Garrett West Office Staff (439-4444)	
	Garrett West Student Phone	4577

### **Student Health Services**

Health Services Supervisor - Holly Obrovac	4480
Nurse - Shelley Wade	4457
Nurse - Brenda Hunt	4457
Nurse - Doug Wood	4457
Nurse - Sandra Renteria	4457
Substitute - Michelle Graves	4457
Substitute - Joshua Landry	4457

# **NMSBVI BOARD OF REGENTS**

### 2014-2015

### President

Christine Hall 10315 Propps Dr., NE Albuquerque, NM 87112

### **Vice President**

Caroline Benavidez 520 Mayfair Place SW Albuquerque, NM 87121

#### Secretary

Alicia McAninch P.O. Box 146 La Luz, NM 88337

#### Member

James A. Miyagishima 2051 Crescent Drive Las Cruces, NM 88005

### Member

Al Sena 2103 Coba Road SE Rio Rancho, NM 87124

# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED 2014-15 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST	Students Return to NMSBVI First Day of School – NMSBVI and APS	August 10 August 11
SEPTEMBER	Labor Day Holiday (Students Travel) No Public School (Pre K – 12) No Public School (Pre K – 12)	September 1 September 19 September 22
OCTOBER	First Quarter Ends (Report cards mailed Oct. 17) Students Travel/Columbus Day No Public School (Pre K – 12) In-service/Students Travel – AM	October 10 October 13 October 30 & 31 October 31
NOVEMBER	No Public School (Pre K – 12) Fall Break	November 11 November 24 - 28
DECEMBER	Second Quarter Ends/First Semester Ends	December 19
	(Report cards mailed Jan. 16) Students Travel Home for Winter Break/12:30 p.m. Winter Break	December 19 December 22 - January 5
JANUARY	Students Travel/No Public School School Resumes – NMSBVI & APS Students Travel/ Martin Luther King Day	January 6 January 7 January 19
FEBRUARY	Students Travel No Public School (Pre K-12) Students Travel/No Public School Students Travel/Presidents' Day In-service/Students Travel – AM	February 5 February 6 February 9 February 16 February 27
MARCH	Third Quarter Ends	March 13
	(Report cards mailed Mar. 20) Spring Break	March 30 – April 3
APRIL	Students Travel/No Public School	April 6
ΜΑΥ	No Public School Fourth Quarter Ends/Second Semester Ends (Report cards mailed June 2)	May 8 May 22
	Graduation / Dismissal 12:30 p.m.	May 22



### **NMSBVI SCHOOL SONG**

by

### **ELIZABETH GARRETT**

There's a school in Alamo That we think is great, "Tis in fair New Mexico, called our Sunshine State." All our hearts beat loyally; Everyone is true To our dear old Alma Mater – Love it? Course we do!

Then cheer, then cheer, Of NMSBVI are we; With pride each son And daughter hails our Glorious Alma Mater. Then cheer, then cheer, Of NMSBVI are we; With a Boom! Bang! Rip! Roar! Here we come, Here we go; We're the greatest School in New Mexico! We're bound to win The victory, good old NMSBVI for thee.

## **NMSBVI BELL SCHEDULE**

	9.10 0.00
FIRST PERIOD	8:10 - 9:00
SECOND PERIOD	9:05 - 9:55
THIRD PERIOD	10:00 – 10:50
FOURTH PERIOD	10:55 – 11:45
FIFTH PERIOD	11:50 – 12:40
LUNCH –	
Preschool	11:00
Elementary	11:45
Intensive Support Programs	12:30
Secondary	12:45
SIXTH PERIOD	1:20 - 2:10
SEVENTH PERIOD	2:15 - 3:05
EIGHTH PERIOD	3:10 - 4:00
(Activity Period)	

## Preschool hours: 8:00 – 1:30 morning class 10:00 – 3:30 afternoon class

# Younger Elementary (K – 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.) hours: 8:10 – 3:05

General Information

#### **NMSBVI MISSION STATEMENT**

As a leader and unifying entity in the field of educating students birth-high school who are blind or visually impaired, NMSBVI is a statewide network of services that ensures all students who are blind or visually impaired will become independent productive members of their communities by identifying and providing quality education and collaborating with students, families and partners to provide outstanding training, resources and support services.

#### NMSBVI BELIEF STATEMENTS

- All children can learn and we value their individual talents.
- Independence is the right and ultimate goal of every student who is blind or visually impaired.
- NMSBVI is the leader in the field of educating students who are blind or visually impaired.
- NMSBVI supports the education of all students with blindness and visual impairment in the state.
- Parents and students who are blind or visually impaired need to be provided current information about all aspects of the education of their children.
- Education begins with families and continues throughout the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
- Education of individuals who are blind or visually impaired encompasses not only academic skills, but also specialized skills of blindness and visual impairment including compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes, orientation and mobility, social interaction skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, career education, use of assistive technology, sensory efficiency skills, self-determination
- Children who are blind or visually impaired should have the ability and the choice to be integrated into their communities.
- We believe that all children learn best when provided with the appropriate level of specialized instruction and the appropriate educational environment.
- The most effective way to teach is through collaboration with one another and other partners.
- We hold ourselves accountable for excellence in preparing students to lead independent lives.
- We believe that NMSBVI should remain a separate entity to serve blind/visually impaired students.

#### **NMSBVI STRATEGIES**

- We will foster an atmosphere of creativity that results in innovative practices and programs.
- We will create a training system that results in sufficient numbers of specialized staff in the field of blindness and visual impairment for the state of New Mexico.
- We will create a system to convey and receive information about blindness and visual impairment educational services, trends, research, etc. to all those involved or interested in serving students who are blind or visually impaired.
- We will build a system of data-driven decision making that will be used collaboratively to determine goals, services and settings for educating New Mexico students with blindness or visual impairments.
- We will develop a system that supports the successful transition of students with blindness or visual impairment and their programming across settings.
- We will acquire community support and the resources essential to advance the success of each student with blindness or visual impairment.

#### **CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT**

NMSBVI values a safe learning environment and maintains a drug, tobacco, alcohol, and weapons free campus.

In order to promote an environment which encourages positive growth and self-esteem for all students, NMSBVI has banned a number of materials from campus. The banned materials include, but are not limited to, the following: alcohol, drug paraphernalia, drugs, fireworks, guns, knives, pornography, and any music, DVD's, videos, clothing, or posters, which promote racism, violence, suicide, drugs, etc.

If you have questions regarding any banned material, or if you are not sure whether or not the material is allowable, please check with the Director of Student Services.

#### **VISITING CAMPUS**

Parents/relatives of students are welcome to visit NMSBVI. Whenever possible, advance plans for visiting on campus should be made with the Director of Student Services. All visitors must check in with Administration during school hours or Health Services or the Residential Life Supervisor during non-school hours to obtain a visitors pass. Only those visitors whose names are on the Student Update form may visit students.

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event that inclement weather occurs, the following plan will be in effect:

- If Alamogordo Public Schools run a delayed schedule, NMSBVI will run on the same delayed schedule. Residential students will remain in the dorm until school start time.
- If Alamogordo Public Schools closes school, NMSBVI will also cancel classes. Residential students will remain in the dorm with meals provided in the dorm.

#### CAMPUS SURVEILLANCE

The New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment for its students, faculty, and staff. The School seeks to deter the destruction of School property and other conduct prohibited by law and School policies, as well as aid in the investigation process when disciplinary infractions are reported. The Superintendent designates the School Safety and Security Coordinator ("SSC") as its law enforcement unit responsible for the physical safety and security for purposes of FERPA compliance. The SSC is authorized to create and maintain records for law enforcement purposes, including but not limited to the creation and preservation of evidence through digital surveillance for use in potential criminal prosecutions and student disciplinary proceedings. The SSC is authorized to install and maintain a video surveillance system ("VSS") on all School campuses. The VSS will monitor and record activity and School property and such information may be used for law enforcement purposes. (NMSBVI policy 107)

#### DEFINITIONS

- A. School property means all property owned or under the direct control of the School.
- **B.** Video surveillance media means digital video, videotape or any other tape, computer hard-drive, CD, disk, or other device or medium used to store information from a video surveillance system. It also means a closed circuit television camera,

video, physical or other mechanical, electronic, or digital surveillance system or device that enables continuous or periodic video recording, observing, or monitoring of personal information from individuals in open, public spaces on School property.

#### SCOPE OF SURVEILLANCE

- A. The VSS shall be designed and operated so as to minimize intrusions on personal property.
- **B.** The VSS shall monitor only those areas on School property where individuals do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. For example, video surveillance may monitor hallways, classrooms, parking lots, and other outside common areas, but not washrooms, changing rooms, or offices.
- **C.** The VSS shall not be directed towards property or windows of property adjacent to School property.

#### EIGHTEEN PLUS YEARS (ADULT STUDENTS)

By law an eighteen year old is an adult and has the right to make their own decisions and control his/her own Free Appropriate Public Education decisions. Unless guardianship has been determined by age 18, NMSBVI will assume that the student has this decision making power. NMSBVI transition coordinator is available to help families to determine if guardianship is needed and to provide information about the guardianship process. NMSBVI strives to maintain parent/guardian involvement in their child's education by encouraging adult students (18 years and older) to include their family in all decision making processes.

#### STUDENT REGISTRATION/ANNUAL RE-ENROLLMENT

Parents are required to complete all registration materials annually before their child enters NMSBVI. Re-enrollment must be completed in person at either of two registration sessions (one session is scheduled in Albuquerque and one in Alamogordo).

#### Needed Yearly at Enrollment:

- Enrollment packet including enrollment update, student releases, video permission and contact information.
- Medical information including medical history, family physician's name, address and phone number, names of recurrent or chronic medical problems, special diets or allergies, current immunizations record, and current medical insurance information.

During the school year, please call the education office (575-439-4458) to inform the school of any change in general information (e.g., address, telephone number, permissions, etc.).

#### PHOTOGRAPH RELEASE

We request permission to photograph/video your child with our assurance that the photographs will be used only for official school purposes. Your signature on the photograph/video release permission form will permit us to photograph or video your child and publish or otherwise use the photographs/videos as needed for instruction or for press coverage. Examples include press coverage of special programs, field trips, or training videos.

#### **STUDENT FILES**

NMSBVI maintains students' educational and health files. The custodian of these files may release information from the records only:

- With written consent of parent, guardian or adult student; or,
- Upon order of a court; or,
- As required by the Superintendent or her designee in the discharge of official duties.

All requests for records should be addressed to:

Records New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired 1900 North White Sands Blvd. Alamogordo, NM 88310

\*\*Please note that a fee may be charged to copy any records that are released.

#### ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends less than 90 percent but more than 75 percent of the days the class is offered may only receive credit for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the Director of Student Services that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class.

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed a plan approved by the Director of Student Services, then the student will be referred to the Attendance Review Committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit, if appropriate.

The actual number of days a student must be in attendance in order to receive credit will depend on whether the class is a single semester or full year class.

In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the Attendance Review Committee will use the following guidelines:

- The committee will attempt to ensure that it is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the Board of Regents by filing a written request with the Superintendent within five days of notification of the committee's decision.

#### COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

All students shall be expected to attend school as many days as school is in session in accordance

with the Compulsory Attendance Laws found in the New Mexico Statutes Annotated 22-12-2 and 6.10.8 NMAC 1978.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

**TARDY** – Those students that are not in their appropriately assigned classroom when class is designated to begin.

**EXEMPT** – School-sponsored, official activities, or religious holidays are EXEMPT and will not be counted in the total of TEN (10) credit loss absences.

**SCHOOL-SPONSORED** – are those monitored by school personnel and/or for which school transportation is provided, or those sanctioned and approved by the school administration.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE** – an absence for which work can be made up. Excused absences include such circumstances as illness, medical appointments (require doctor's note), family emergency, religious holiday/practice, and other valid reasons as determined by the Director of Student Services.

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** - An absence for which no appropriate excuse has been provided by the student's parent/legal guardian within the time limit provided by this policy. Special family situations may be considered appropriate for excused absence when prior approval is received from the school.

**TRUANT** – A student who has accumulated five unexcused absences within any twenty day period.

**HABITUAL TRUANT** – A student who has accumulated ten or more unexcused absences within a school year.

After the **third** (3rd) unexcused absence, a letter will be sent home informing the parents/legal guardians that the school's records show three unexcused absences in one or more of their student's classes.

After the **fifth** (5th) unexcused absence, a letter will be sent home informing the parents/legal guardians that school records show five unexcused absences in one or more of their student's classes. In addition, the parent/legal guardian will be required to meet with the Superintendent or his/her designee for the purpose of identifying the cause(s) of the unexcused absences and to develop appropriate interventions designed to eliminate unexcused absences.

After the **seventh** (7<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence, a letter will be sent home informing the parents/legal guardians that school records show seven unexcused absences in one or more of their student's classes. In addition, the parent/legal guardian will be required to meet with the Superintendent or his/her designee for the purpose of identifying the cause(s) of the unexcused absences and to establish a written plan designed to prevent future unexcused absences. The plan will be confirmed in writing and signed by the Superintendent or his/her designee and the parent/legal guardian.

If a parent/legal guardian fails to arrange, or appear for, a conference regarding unexcused absences within 10 days of notice from the school, the school will provide written notice to the probation services office of the judicial district where the student resides.

If a student accumulates **ten** (10) or more unexcused absences within a school year the Superintendent or his/her designee shall give written notice to the parent/legal guardian of the habitual truancy, by certified mail or by personal service. If there are any other unexcused absences after delivery of a written notice of habitual truancy, the student shall, within seven (7) days of the unexcused absence, be reported to the probation services office of the judicial district where the student resides for an investigation as to whether the student shall be considered to be a neglected child, or a child in a family in need of services.

#### PROCEDURES TO REPORT AN ABSENCE/TARDY

- 1. Parents/legal guardians are required to contact **Health Services (575) 439-4457** or the **Transportation Manager (575) 430-7396** prior to or during an absence.
- 2. If a student is absent for a medical appointment, a <u>physician's written note stating day</u> <u>and time of appointment is required.</u>
- 3. When a student returns from an absence a parent must send a signed note describing the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older and their own guardian.

When absent for more than five consecutive days because of illness, a student must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school.

- 4. Long term or chronic illness must be verified by a physician's written statement and a parent should have on-going contact with the Director of Student Services or his/her designee for the duration of the illness.
- 5 Third and subsequent tardy (minor/moderate student incident) in any class per semester will be referred to the Director of Student Services or his/her designee.
- 6. A tardy will not be excused unless they are verified doctor/dental appointments or the tardy is verified by the Director of Student Services.

#### CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REPORTING

Pursuant to Section 32A-4-3, NMSA 1978 (as amended 2005), any NMSBVI staff member knowing or having reasonable suspicion that a child/adolescent/dependent adult is abused or neglected will report the matter immediately to the State of New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department/Adult Protective Services Central Intake at 1-800-797-3260 or Tribal Law Enforcement or social services agencies for an Indian child/adolescent/dependent adult residing in Indian country.

#### PETS

Personal pets of resident/day students are not permitted on campus; the exception is a guide dog that has been trained by an accredited program and assigned to the student.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIAL**

No printed material or literature may be distributed on the property of NMSBVI without prior approval and consent of the Superintendent.

#### FUNDRAISERS

Any on or off-campus fundraisers by individual students or classes <u>must be approved in advance</u> by the Superintendent.

#### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will respect your child's participation in off campus religious activities. Parents requesting their child attend specific church activities, prayer meetings, Bible study, etc., must provide NMSBVI with information regarding the day, time, and transportation arrangements.

#### DAY STUDENTS

- Day students may be on campus after school hours for supervised programs such as Resource, Athletics, Student Council/Key Club, Choir or pre-planned after school events to which they are invited.
- Day students must be picked up promptly at the end of the activity for which they were on campus after hours.
- Day students are not eligible to participate in afternoon/evening Residential Life activities, such as the Recreation Center unless individually permitted by the Residential Life Supervisor. Consent by the Residential Life Supervisor must be given for a day student to be on campus in the evening.
- NMSBVI will host quarterly open swim nights for day students and their families to enjoy the NMSBVI swimming facilities and socialize with residential peers.

Student Conduct

#### **STUDENT RIGHTS**

Students have a right to expect courtesy, fairness, and respect from members of the school staff and other students.

Students have the right to attend class and pursue their education under competent instructors.

Students have the right to privacy of their personal possessions unless there is reason to believe that the student is in possession of or concealing materials prohibited by law or school regulation.

Students have a right to expect and have available to them clear and understandable rules of student conduct.

Students have the right to form and express their opinions on issues orally, in writing or other modes of communication without jeopardizing their relations with staff.

Students have the right to appropriate counseling for personal and educational problems. Access to consultation within a reasonable period of time must be assured.

Students have the right to be protected by legal provisions which prohibit the release of personal information to other than legally authorized persons without the consent of the parent, guardian, or eligible students.

#### CANE USAGE

Unless specifically designated by an IEP team as a student who does not need a cane, **students are required to have and make proper use of canes while on campus**. Residential Life staff will remind students to take canes with them and to use them. All NMSBVI staff will remind students to use their cane. Students who choose not to use canes (or use them appropriately) are subject to disciplinary measures.

A student's first cane is provided at no cost. Replacement canes will be given as needed, provided that the Orientation and Mobility Instructor/staff member involved feels that damage to their original cane was caused by normal wear and tear from proper usage. If neglect/abuse of property is suspected, the involved student(s) will be required to pay for the replacement cane. Payment may be in the form of money or community service.

#### DRESS CODE

The Board of Regents and Administration encourages students to dress conservatively and appropriately. The following is a list of violations of the Student Dress Code:

- a. Bare feet. Shoes or appropriate footwear shall be worn at all times.
- b. See-through or revealing clothing.
- c. Bare midriffs.
- d. Pajama pants
- e. Inappropriate clothing, jewelry or tattoos.
- f. During the educational day, hats will not be allowed in any building or in the classroom unless by IEP decision.
- g. Any article of clothing that graphically depicts scenes of violence, death or other gruesome, macabre, or cruel acts.
- h. Any article of clothing that depicts alcohol, drugs, gangs, tobacco or sexually suggestive materials.

- i. Any clothing accessory that could be used as a weapon.
- j. Wearing pants below the waistline (sagging and dragging).

# Skirts or shorts may be worn; however, the length of the skirt or shorts must be below the fingertips when the arms are relaxed by the side.

Appropriate underwear is to be worn properly at all times.

Students shall wear proper clothing to off-campus events which may be determined by staff conducting the event. Failure to arrive in proper attire for a field trip will result in the privilege being denied for the trip and credit (if appropriate) shall be lost.

The Dress Code shall be reviewed and revised on a yearly basis.

#### PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

The following is a list of appropriate displays of affection between students:

- a. Hello hug, frontal that is brief in nature
- b. Side hugs while standing or sitting upright
- c. Resting head on shoulder, side by side
- d. Holding hands
- e. A brief kiss for "hello", "goodnight" or "goodbye"
- f. Arm(s) around waist side by side

#### MISCONDUCT

Any student who willfully violates or fails to follow NMSBVI rules or regulations, or performs an act, which materially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of a classroom or school, a school-sponsored activity, or any other aspect of the educational process at NMSBVI, will be subject to discipline or suspension.

In the case of suspension, the nature and circumstances of the violation must reasonably warrant a suspension and the length of the suspension imposed. As a general rule, no student shall be suspended unless another form of corrective action has been previously imposed upon the student as a consequence of misconduct of the same nature.

If, however, the violation of school rules for student conduct constitutes "exceptional misconduct" as defined below, suspension may be imposed without prior alternative corrective action.

"Exceptional misconduct" is a violation of NMSBVI rules for student conduct, which is so serious in nature and/or serious in terms of the disruptive effect upon the operation of the school as to warrant an immediate resort to suspension.

#### DISCIPLINE POLICY

NMSBVI has established standards of conduct for students and the disciplinary process to protect members of the school community, maintain and advance its educational mission, and provide for the orderly conduct of the school's activities. School policy and rules of conduct shall be applicable to all students in any program or activity conducted by NMSBVI.

Teachers will develop guidelines for conduct, required rules, grading procedures, and other teacher determined standards and have these expectations posted in accessible formats in their classrooms.

School and residential life rules, as well as policies and procedures for discipline, will be clearly communicated to students in the following ways:

- a. General and special rules (staff expectations of students) will be listed and posted in each classroom and each dorm.
- b. Rules and lists of expectations will be reviewed orally and in written form. Students should review and sign a written copy stating they understand the rules.
- c. Policies and Procedures for Discipline will be reviewed orally with students.

#### UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The following are examples of unacceptable behavior necessitating optional disciplinary action, up to and including short or long-term suspension from school.

- a. Open or persistent defiance of authority.
- b. Physical or verbal assault upon a student(s) or school personnel.
- c. Creating or attempting to create a disturbance.
- d. Unauthorized or excessive absences from class.
- e. Excessive tardiness.
- f. Willful disobedience.
- g. Profanity or vulgarity. Clothing, books or other possessions containing any form of vulgarity, profanity or obscenity.
- h. Disrespect for school property or damage to school property. In case of damage to or loss of school property, the appropriate administrator will conduct an investigation and seek appropriate restitution for the loss or damage. If items are lost or damaged, parents will be notified. Restitution may include the cost of replacement or repair and will be charged to the individual borrowing the item.
- i. Stealing, gambling, extortion, concealing and/or withholding stolen property.
- j. Bullying (verbal, physical, or electronic).
- k. Violations of the Dress Code.
- I. Use of tobacco on campus.
- m. Fighting, extortion, arson.
- n. Sexual harassment.
- o. Sexual contact.
- p. Gang affiliation/behavior.
- q. Selling, possessing or using (or having used within six hours before arriving at school) a narcotic, alcohol or dangerous drug, including, but not limited to marijuana, LSD, heroin, and barbiturates: or non-narcotic intoxicants such as un-prescribed cough medicine, glue, gasoline, beer or any form of intoxicating liquor or alcohol and the possession of drug paraphernalia.
- r. Theft.
- s. Immoral conduct.
- t. Disruptive behavior or failure to comply with school transportation providers while on a school bus, suburban or car.
- u. Possession or use of weapons.
- v. Vandalism.
- w. Verbal or implied threats or threatening gestures by an individual or group.

A Progressive Discipline Plan will be guided by the following:

#### a. **DISCIPLINE:**

Routine discipline involving minor infractions of rules or inappropriate conduct which is not serious enough to report to the supervisor or administrator and can normally be handled by teaching staff, residential life assistants, or related professional staff

#### b. MINOR/MODERATE STUDENT INCIDENT:

1.	First Offense	Verbal Warning by instructional or residential staff.
2.	Second Offense	Elementary students – natural consequence given by
		teacher or Residential Life Supervisor. Secondary
		Students – natural consequence given by teacher or
		Residential Life Supervisor as well as a self-reflection worksheet.
-		
3.	Third Offense	During the school day – referral to Principal.
		After the school day is over – referral to the Residential
		Life Supervisor

After third offense, Referral to Director of Student Services

#### c. SEVERE/SERIOUS STUDENT INCIDENT:

For each severe/serious student incident, the following actions must be taken immediately:

- 1. Immediate referral to Principal or Residential Life Supervisor.
- 2. Director of Student Services notified by Principal or Residential Life Supervisor.
- 3. Parents notified; referral to School Social Worker/counselor.

#### DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Following is a list of optional disciplinary actions which may be imposed. The order of the list is not sequential, but optional.

- a. On-campus community service
- b. In-school detention
- c. Removal from class or group
- d. Verbal or documented warning to student
- e. Contract or action plan
- f. Activity suspension
- g. Parental notification
- h. Confiscation or temporary holding of personal items (ex: cell phones)
- i. Probationary period
- j. Financial restitution
- k. Refer to other social or educational agencies
- I. Short term out of school suspension
- m. Long term out of school suspension
- n. Involve law enforcement or juvenile probation office
- o. Any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate under the circumstances
- p. Expulsion

#### POLICY ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND AVERSIVE THERAPY

Corporal punishment, under any circumstance, is forbidden. No employee shall administer aversive therapy except as provided for under the New Mexico Administrative Code and the IEP process.

#### DISRUPTING SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Continued disruptive behavior or non-compliance to reasonable requests by school transportation personnel may result in the student not being allowed to ride in NMSBVI vehicles to and from NMSBVI. The parents/guardian would then assume the responsibility for the student's transportation.

#### PROHIBITED BY STATE REGULATIONS

State Statutes or Regulations set forth certain acts prohibited in all New Mexico schools. The commission of or participation in the activities designated below is prohibited in all New Mexico public schools and is prohibited for students whenever they are subject to school control. Acts prohibited by regulations:

- a. Criminal or delinquent acts
- b. Gang related activity
- c. Sexual harassment
- d. Disruptive conduct
- e. Refusal to identify self
- f. Refusal to cooperate with school personnel.

State regulations regarding rules of conduct for New Mexico Public Schools are made part of this handbook by reference as if set forth in full. Copies of this regulation are on file in the Director of Student Services' office.

#### STUDENTS DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

Students at NMSBVI have the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others. If students make decisions that hurt others or their property, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with their IEP. In disciplinary cases, students are entitled to due process. This means that students:

- a. Must be informed of accusations against them.
- b. Must have the opportunity to accept or deny the accusations.
- c. Must have explained to them the factual basis for the accusations.
- d. Must have a chance to present an alternative factual position if the accusation is denied.

#### PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENSION

A student may be suspended (excluded from classroom instruction) by the Superintendent or designee for a period of more than one (1) day but not to exceed ten (10) days. Should any student become subject to a suspension of more than 10 days, the following procedure will be used to determine consequences:

- a. An IEP team consisting of members listed below shall meet as soon as reasonably possible:
  - 1. The student
  - 2. Parent/Guardian
  - 3. Members of the NMSBVI administrative staff

- 4. Others as appropriate.
- b. The IEP team shall review the situation for which the student has become subject to suspension and make the following determinations:
  - 1. Is/was the situation related to the student's disability (manifestation determination)?
  - 2. Does the situation warrant suspension?
  - 3. What type and length of suspension (if determined appropriate) should result?
  - 4. What, if any, additional agencies (i.e. CYFD, local school district, police, etc.) shall be notified/become involved?
  - 5. Which team members shall accept responsibility for each notification?
  - 6. How will the student's educational program be provided and monitored until the student is re-admitted to school?

#### **EMERGENCY SUSPENSION**

The Superintendent or designee may suspend a student without a hearing if reasonable cause exists to indicate:

- a. The physical safety of the accused student or of others is endangered.
- b. The school is in the midst of a violent upheaval.
- c. The student is causing substantial interference with the operation of the school.

The emergency suspension will terminate when it is determined by the student's IEP team that the student's presence at school will not result in a situation warranting further actions.

#### GANG AFFILIATION/BEHAVIOR

The policy of NMSBVI prohibits gangs and gang-related behavior or incidents.

#### **DEFINITIONS**:

**Gangs** – Any assembly of three or more individuals who gather together on a continuing basis, whose purpose, NMSBVI reasonably believes, is to commit anti-social behavior or to violate school policy.

**Gang-related Behavior or Incidents** – Any behavior or event, including, but not limited to the following items, which has the effect of disrupting school activities or fosters, enhances or encourages gang activity at NMSBVI:

- a. Possession, wearing, use, distribution, or display of any sign, symbol, badge, color, or other item that is evidence of affiliation with, or membership in, a gang. Students will not be permitted to wear pants below the waistline (sagging and dragging) or wear caps, bandanas, handkerchiefs, shoestrings or any other item associated with gang-related behavior.
- b. Participation in any act, either verbal or non-verbal, to include gestures, expressions, handshakes, etc. that may indicate affiliation with, or membership in, a gang.
- c. Participation in any act that may further the interest in gang affiliation or gang membership.
- d. Participation in any act that may be evidence of intimidation, threats, "pay for protection," or any other behavior of potential violence.

- e. Participation in the writing, painting, or inscribing of gang-related graffiti, to include messages, symbols or signs on school premises.
- f. To assemble or congregate as a gang or members of a gang for any purpose.

#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

It is a violation of school policy to sell, possess or use a narcotic, alcohol or dangerous drug, including, but not limited to marijuana, methamphetamines, heroin, and barbiturates; or non-narcotic intoxicants such as un-prescribed cough medicine, glue, gasoline, beer (including 3.2 beer), or any form of intoxicating liquor or alcohol. It is also a violation of school policy to possess any type of drug paraphernalia. Students who distribute and/or sell alcoholic beverages, unlawful drugs, controlled substances, hallucinogens/inhalants or items that purport to be any of the foregoing to other students or persons during school time, on school premises, on school transportation or during school-sponsored activities are subject to long term suspension and will be referred to law enforcement.

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action or may be subject to the filing of criminal charges depending upon the severity of the infraction. In addition, a student will be subject to disciplinary action(s), including short term suspension or long term suspension from school, when charges are filed in any state or federal court accusing the student of a criminal offense. This applies to crimes that occur on or off campus. Any NMSBVI staff member who knows or in good faith suspects any student of using or abusing alcohol or drugs shall report such use or abuse in accordance with NMSBVI Policy 516.

Students who violate this policy may be provided the opportunity to correct unacceptable behavior while remaining in school. If behavior is not corrected students may be suspended and not permitted to return unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. These acts of unacceptable behavior will not be permitted while students are on or near school premises, riding school transportation or attending any school-sponsored activity. Blood test and/or urine analysis may be requested and results utilized for specific purposes in accordance with NMSBVI Policy 150, Alcohol and Drug-Free School and Campuses and Alcohol and Drug-Free Work Place.

Law enforcement officials will be notified to make the determination regarding the student being in possession of or under the influence of alcohol, illegal substances and/or drug paraphernalia. The Superintendent or designee will notify the parents/guardians. The Superintendent or designee may also require the student to receive urinalysis or blood testing prior to disciplinary actions being imposed. The student will receive one or more of the following disciplinary actions which include but are not limited to:

- a. Counseling with a qualified alcohol/drug counselor.
- b. Attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous.
- c. The student may be given a long-term suspension. During any period of long-term suspension, the student will forfeit the privilege of participating in or attending any and all extracurricular activities.

#### SMOKING

NMSBVI Policy 145 prohibits the use of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, and chewing tobacco, by students, staff, parents, guardians and visitors, in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or during school functions away from school property.

Students under the age of 18 are not permitted to have any tobacco products on campus; infractions against this policy will result in discipline which may include but is not limited to parent/guardian notification, referral to a smoking cessation program, detention assignment, campused and in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Students, over the age of 18, who smoke must surrender all smoking products to the Residential Life Supervisor for safekeeping. Students who do not surrender all smoking products will be subject to disciplinary procedures. Students may only smoke in designated areas off campus. Students who smoke will be offered a smoking cessation program and will receive education related to the long-term health hazards of smoking.

#### POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS

In order to comply with the Gun-Free Schools Act, any student of NMSBVI who uses or possesses a firearm or other weapon at school, at any school sponsored event, or in or upon school property, including school transportation, may be subject to discipline, up to and including long term suspension or expulsion.

#### Firearms are defined in Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 921, as:

- a. Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive
- b. The frame or receiver of such a weapon
- c. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- d. Any destructive device including any explosives, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce or any device similar to the above.

#### THREATS TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Any threat of physical harm to school personnel, whether verbal, written, or conveyed in any manner, or assault upon school personnel will result in disciplinary action.

#### BULLYING

Any threat or act of bullying, whether verbal, written, or conveyed in any manner, inflicted against students or school personnel will result in disciplinary action. Bullying is defined in NMSBVI school policy 517.9. Any reports of bullying must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or designee. Reports may be submitted by staff, student, parent and/or guardian on the student's behalf. Investigation of allegations will occur within two (2) school days, and a written decision will be completed within ten (10) days of the report of abuse.

#### E-MAIL/SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

When using the school's computers, the students will sign and agree to follow the Internet Access Agreement. Students who opt to use social media will receive specific training and support in order to make wise decisions. The following guidelines will be used:

- NMSBVI's code of conduct for students applies to all online communication. It is acceptable to disagree with others' opinions; however, it must be handled respectfully.
- Criticism must be constructive, not hurtful. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
- Be safe online. Never give out personal information including last names, phone numbers,

addresses, exact birthdates and pictures.

- Do not share passwords with anyone except teachers or parents.
- Linking to other websites to support your thoughts and ideas is recommended. However, be sure to read the entire article prior to linking to ensure that all information is appropriate for a school setting.
- Do your own work! Do not use other people's intellectual property without their permission. Be aware that it is a violation of copyright law to copy and paste others' thoughts and claim them as your own. It is a good practice to hyperlink to your sources.
- Be aware that pictures, videos, songs and audio clips may also be protected under copyright laws. Verify that you have permission to use the images, videos, songs or other clips.
- Students are prohibited from using any computer, cell phone, or other communication device (on or off campus) to harass or bully.

Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in the project and/or access to future use of online tools.

#### VANDALISM

NMSBVI may prosecute to the full extent of the law any individual who willfully destroys, mutilates or disfigures NMSBVI school property of any kind.

Restitution for willful destruction of school property or personal property deemed essential for learning is the responsibility of students and parents.

#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

All students have a right to be educated in an environment free from sexual harassment by other students or adults. Students shall not engage in verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or an adult. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors, sexual assault or unnecessary touching.

Sexual harassment may take many forms, including but not limited to:

- a. Leering, staring, sexual flirtations or propositions.
- b. Slurs, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or degrading descriptions.
- c. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body, overly personal conversation.
- d. Sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures or gestures.
- e. Spreading of sexual rumors.
- f. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class.
- g. Touching of an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way.
- h. Limiting a student's access to educational opportunities because of gender.
- i. Basing academic and/or student activity privileges on submission to sexual conduct from students or staff.
- j. Cornering or blocking the normal movements of an individual in a sexual manner.
- k. Displaying sexually suggestive objects in the educational environment.
- I. Sending electronic content of a sexual nature

Any student who believes he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should report the incident to a teacher, counselor, or the Director of Student Services. Allegations of sexual harassment shall be investigated and, if substantiated, corrective or disciplinary action taken. This action may include suspension of the student and suspension or termination of the employee.

NMSBVI prohibits retaliatory behavior against a student who complains or participates in the complaint process. A complaint of sexual harassment will not reflect negatively on the student's academic standing, rights or privileges.

#### STUDENT RIGHTS IN REGARD TO SEARCH

The physical facilities of the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired are temporarily assigned to students for use by them, but are not and do not become the property of the students. Contents in desks, lockers, and rooms assigned to students are subject to inspection at any time for cleanliness, missing property, banned items, and evidence of vandalism.

Inspection and search can be conducted for the location and discovery of items such as non-prescription drugs, apparatus for the administration of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, pornographic materials, fireworks, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons, and stolen property.

When a search focuses on a particular student because of a suspected rule violation, school officials will, if circumstances permit, document in writing reasons for believing a search is justified before making the search.

If possible, student will be notified prior to a search, and the student will be present when the search is made. In the absence of the student, a witness will be present with a school official.

If a major reason for a search is to seek evidence of a criminal violation, school officials will report the information to law enforcement officials and allow them to conduct the search subject to standards applicable to police searches. If the police seek permission from school officials to search a student, his/her property, or his/her locker to obtain evidence for criminal prosecution, school officials will require the police to obtain a search warrant unless the search falls within one of the exceptions of the Fourth Amendment's search warrant requirements.

The above safeguards will be observed unless, in exceptional cases, they interfere with school officials' affirmative duty to maintain order and discipline in the school and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the students and staff.

In the case of theft reported by a student or staff member in dorms, educational settings or transportation:

- Staff will interview the student to gather information and help the student attempt to locate the item.
- A reasonable search of others' belongings will be conducted by NMSBVI staff. If possible, student will be notified prior to a search of their belongings, and the student will be present when the search is made. In the absence of the student, a witness will be present with a school official.
- . At least two people will be present at all times during a search of a room and/or personal belongings, one of which will be the School Security Coordinator or his designee.
- In the case of items valued under \$250, an incident report will be completed. The student, student's parent or school administration has the option to file a police report.
- In the case of items valued over \$250, an incident report will be completed and a police report will be filed by NMSBVI. It is important to note that even if a police report is filed, police will not conduct a search of any NMSBVI premises without a search warrant.
- NMSBVI will not be held responsible for lost items. Items such as CD's, CD players, IPods, mp3 players, money or other personal belongings brought onto campus or in school vehicles are the responsibility of the student. If the parent/guardian wants personal belongings or money controlled by staff, it must be clearly identified and given to staff. The safest option for students in terms of keeping cash secure on campus is use of the student account.

Emergency Procedures

# **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

To ensure the safety of students and employees, written procedures have been established as a guide for students and employees to follow in an emergency evacuation. For further information please refer to the Safety Procedures section of the NMSBVI website.

The procedures are reviewed orally with the students and drills are practiced regularly, both during the school day and the evening hours of operation. The emergency procedures are also reviewed annually by the NMSBVI Safety Committee.

# STUDENT PROCEDURES IN AN EMERGENCY

In a drill and/or actual emergency, students will follow these procedures:

#### Fire, Explosion and Bomb Threat:

When an alarm sounds or when directed by staff, follow staff directions and leave the building at the nearest exit moving at least 100 feet away from the building, respond to the roll call, move to assembly area when instructed, and remain calm. Do not return to the building until you receive instructions to do so from your teacher or another staff.

If you discover a fire, smoke, or intense heat and the alarm has not been sounded, activate the nearest fire alarm by pulling the handle on the fire alarm box in the area, or exit the building and immediately report the fire to any staff person.

#### Tornadoes and High Winds:

When weather conditions indicate the possibility of a severe windstorm or tornado, the Superintendent will assign a staff member to monitor weather reports and report bulletins to him/her. At the first indication that an emergency exists, the Superintendent will direct staff to move the students into sheltered areas where they will remain until the emergency has ended. Persons are not to leave shelter areas until "all clear" is indicated by those in authority.

If staff do not have advance warning, all students are to remain in the building and be kept away from windows and away from the windward side of the building in interior hallways if possible.

#### Earthquake:

Students within buildings at the beginning of an earthquake should remain where they are, sitting or crouching below the level of desks and tables or in inner walls and doorways. Students outside of buildings at the beginning of an earthquake should immediately move as far away as possible from buildings and other elevated objects.

#### Lockdown Procedure:

If the Superintendent, or his/her designee, determines that there is sufficient cause to believe that imminent danger is present, the Superintendent, or his/her designee shall call for lockdown of all buildings in which children receive instruction, reside, or in which staff are assigned, as appropriate.

Lockdown will be indicated by phone messages to key personnel, or announcement on the school's public address system, dependent on the situation. In the case of any lockdown procedure, information will be shared with key staff as the situation progresses.

All students and staff should follow the lockdown procedures that have been published for each building on campus. Drills will be held each quarter so that students and staff are familiar with the published lock down procedures. In the event of a lockdown, the Superintendent or his/her designee will call and inform parents.

Medical Services

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Health Services' phone number is (800) 437-3505, ext. 4457.

The Health Services department is usually staffed 17 hours per day (6:00 AM -11:00 PM).

School nurses and other trained staff take care of normal health care needs, treat minor illnesses and injuries and the nurses also administer medication. NMSBVI does not have the facilities for surgery, immediate post-surgical care or for more severe types of illnesses. The local hospital will be used for emergencies. When a child becomes too ill to attend classes for several days or is infected with a contagious disease, arrangements will be made to transport the child home.

Whenever it is determined that a child should be seen by a physician, every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are also informed when their child is seriously ill, has a fever, needs a new medication or if an accident requires emergency treatment. Emergency phone numbers are not used for routine calls or mild illnesses.

## IMPORTANT!

**If your son or daughter is ill when it is time to return to school, please keep him/her home**. Call the Transportation Manager on the cellular phone (1-575-430-7396) or the Health Services Manager at (1-575-430-9445) and inform them of your child's impending absence and date of his/her expected return. If you cannot reach anyone, you may call Health Services (1-800-437-3505 ext. 4457) or the school office (1-800-437-3505 ext. 4458). Health Services re-opens at 3:00 p.m. on travel days.

The Department of Health requires that you immediately notify the school if your child has received a diagnosis of a contagious disease. Reports should be made to the Health Services (800) 437-3505, extension 4457. The conditions that require notification include, but are not limited to:

Polio, strep throat, tuberculosis, scarletina, meningitis, measles, food poisoning, chicken pox, mumps, hepatitis, impetigo, whooping cough, etc. If your child is diagnosed with any of these, they must be cleared by a physician to return to school.

If the student is exposed while at NMSBVI, the parent/legal guardian will be notified by a school nurse.

Only those students who can provide proof of immunizations may lawfully enroll in public schools in New Mexico. All students new to the school must provide proof of immunization at enrollment. In addition, because NMSBVI is a residential school we strongly encourage students to receive an annual FLU shot.

Proof of the following immunizations is required:

- a. DPT: (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis)
- b. Polio
- c. Measles: (10 day and 3 day)
- d. Hepatitis B
- e. Varicella (chicken pox) or laboratory documentation of having the disease.
- f. HIB (preschool)
- g. Hepatitis A (preschool)

Medical or religious exemptions will need verification at the time of enrollment. This exemption must be renewed each year prior to enrollment.

If your child is diabetic or requires a special diet, NMSBVI staff will endeavor to follow the prescribed diet, as well as teach the child the benefits of proper nutrition. Special diets must be prescribed by your child's physician on the form that is provided in the enrollment packet.

NMSBVI has a no nit policy. This means that if your child has head lice, he/she will be sent home for treatment and removal of all nits. If there are two or more cases of head lice in the same classroom or dormitory, parents/guardians of the other children will be advised of possible exposure.

If a child misses his/her regularly scheduled transportation due to illness or a medical appointment, parents/guardians are responsible for making arrangements for transportation to school. In extenuating circumstances, special transportation could be scheduled by contacting the Director of Student Services.

Parents/Guardians need to relay medical information directly to Health Services, not via the residential life, education department, or transportation department. \*Parents need to call Health Services and give the nurses an update any time their student goes to a medical appointment while at home so that we are kept informed.\*

#### MEDICATION

Any medications (including over-the-counter medicines or vitamins) received or brought from home must be immediately turned over to the school nurse. OTC (over-the-counter) medications require an order from your physician. These medications include, but are not limited to Tylenol, Ibuprofen, cough medicine, etc. Daily vitamins or supplements must also have a doctor's order to be given while on campus. Students may not keep medications (both prescription and non-prescription), including vitamins in the dormitory or elsewhere on campus, except in Health Services. The exceptions to this are the following:

- Asthma inhalers may be kept in the student's possession, under a physician's order and with an emergency plan signed by the parent/guardian.
- Topical acne medication, with approval from the Health Service's nurse
- Certain topical creams or lotions with approval of the Health Services nurse
- Epinephrine pen may be kept in a student's possession, under a physician's order and with documentation from the physician that the student knows how to properly administer the injection.
- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to notify Health Services when their child is to be given a new medication and secure the medication and the written orders from the physician.
- No medication/supplements can be given, no change in medication/supplement to any medication executed, or any medication/supplement discontinued until the parent/guardian provides Health Services with a written, signed physician's order. Orders may also be faxed to: (575) 439-4494. A photocopy of the prescription can also serve as an order. \* <u>Please do not send student back to school without the written</u> <u>orders or the medications.</u>\*
- Medication orders must be renewed by the prescriber annually per State Law.

- Medications cannot be administered by the information on the pharmacy label. We are required to also have a written order from the prescriber.
- Your child's prescription bottle must match the written Doctor's order.
- Medication brought to Health Services must be in the <u>original container</u> and properly labeled with correct name and directions. We cannot administer medication samples unless your physician labels them according to the Board of Pharmacy regulations.
- Over-the-Counter medications must be provided in a new, unopened container/box.
- When a prescription is almost finished, please do not combine the old and the new prescriptions.
- Prescriptions sent to school should be the most recently filled prescription to ensure that it is not outdated.
- If a prescription is in pill form, the pharmacy must now split the prescription or refill so
  that you have a supply of pills at home and the school has a supply of pills. The Board
  of Pharmacy does not permit us to send medications in pill form home on weekends,
  holidays, etc. We will continue to send inhalers, eye drops, ointments, etc. that cannot
  be duplicated for home and school. But if you do have extras of any of these types of
  medications, is it preferred that they not be shipped back and forth.

Financial responsibility for medical services (other than those received from the school doctor or nurse), medications, etc. will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Parents/Guardians are required to reimburse NMSBVI for prescriptions filled here and for any copays related to insurance.

If your child is eligible for Medicaid or has other health care coverage, a copy of his/her card must be sent to Health Services where it will be on file, if needed, for medication and/or other medical services. If there is no record of insurance, NMSBVI will pay for prescriptions and then invoice the parent/guardian for reimbursement. Any other medical costs, such as emergency room visits, will be billed directly to the parent/guardian. It is the parent's responsibility to notify NMSBVI of any changes in their child's insurance coverage.

Transportation staff are not permitted, under any circumstances, to administer a student's medications. However, students that are cleared by their physician (via a written Dr's. order) and the Health Services nurses may self-administer during transportation with transportation staff supervision.

#### <u>Medications which must be sent back and forth must be given to transportation staff rather</u> than being packed in student luggage.

Parents/guardians who have children on continuing medications must send medication refills in a timely manner. **Students cannot remain at school without their prescribed medications**. Health Services staff will only be able to do 2 prescription pick-ups per student per year on prescriptions that should have been provided to the school by the student's family. For any additional prescriptions pick-ups, there will be a \$25 surcharge for the pharmacy pick-up that will be billed to the parent/guardian.

Educational Program | Student Services

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, under the direction of the Board of Regents, is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (K-12) and the New Mexico Public Education Department and is a residential/day school for students who are blind/visually impaired, including those with multiple impairments, of school age.

# SCHOOL SUPPORT

Tuition, transportation, meals, lodging, limited medical care, and limited educational materials are provided without cost to the parents of every child who is found eligible for attendance. Parents/Guardians are required to pay for clothing, personal expenses and medical costs.

# FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS and PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. They are:

a. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.

Parents/Guardians or eligible students should submit to the school (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Director of Student Services will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

b. The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading

Requests should be made in writing to the Director of Student Services and should clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they feel it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the school will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

c. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Regents; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in

performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district (school) to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

d. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is;

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

# DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team is responsible for determining whether the student has completed a planned program of study making him/her eligible to receive a diploma. Upon completion of a planned program of study that meets the following requirements, the student will be awarded a diploma. Students may be awarded a diploma by completing any of the following programs of study:

- a. A <u>standard program</u> of study is based upon meeting or surpassing all requirements for graduation under the New Mexico Standards of Excellence with or without reasonable modification of delivery and assessment methods. All services for students in a standard program of study end when the student receives a diploma.
- b. A <u>career readiness program</u> of study is based upon meeting the State Board of Education's Career Readiness Standards with Benchmarks as defined in the IEP with or without reasonable modifications of delivery and assessment methods. Students in career readiness programs may receive services until the age of 22.
- c. An <u>Intensive Support program</u> of study is based upon meeting or surpassing IEP goals and objectives, with or without, reasonable modifications of delivery and assessment methods, referencing skill attainment at the student's ability level which may lead to meaningful employment. Students in Intensive Support programs are entitled to services through their 22<sup>nd</sup> year.

# **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students attending the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired are required to meet standards for program completion for their prescribed course of study in order to earn a diploma. The prescribed course of study includes a minimum of credits in selected courses and/or evidence that the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) has satisfactorily met the student's needs and credit requirements.

## Graduation Requirements for Students on the Standard Program (24 credits):

- Four credits in English (with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature
- Four credits in mathematics (one shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit
- Three credits in science (two of which shall have a laboratory component)
- Three and one half credits in social science, including: U.S. and World History and geography, government, and Economics
- One-half credit of New Mexico history
- One unit in physical education
- One unit in one of the following: a career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language other than English
- Seven and one-half elective units that meet department content and performance standards
- At least one of the units required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in cooperation with an institution of higher education or a distance learning course

Additional elective courses which have been specifically designed for students with visual impairments or blindness and which have been approved by the NMSBVI Board of Regents include all areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum.

In order to be eligible to graduate from NMSBVI, all Academic and Career path students must have successfully completed either a cottage or apartment (as deemed appropriate) living experience their senior year.

Braille instruction is available as an elective or a communication skills credit at NMSBVI and has been approved by the Board of Regents for high school credit. All students attending NMSBVI will have a current Learning Media Assessment. The Braille addendum will be discussed at each student's IEP meeting to determine the need for instruction and use of Braille. If the student's eye condition is degenerative and the student has the cognitive and tactual ability to become a Braille reader, Braille instruction will be a priority.

In order to obtain maximum benefit and skill mastery from the program, students may choose to spend from 4 to 6 years to complete their high school studies.

# STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

Quarterly report cards are mailed to parents/guardians following each nine-week period. Progress on IEP goals is reported quarterly.

# ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES

- All personal electronic devices (including but not limited to: cell phones, pagers, video game devices, personal music devices, and walkie-talkies) will be prohibited during the education day with the exception of meal time.
- Any CDs or tapes that contain violence or profanity will be confiscated and returned to parents/guardians with the agreement that it not be returned to school.
- Students are not allowed to use their cell phone to take pictures of staff or other students without that person's permission.
- Students are prohibited from using any computer, cell phone, or other communication device

(on or off campus) to harass or bully.

• Any student abusing the use of their personal electronic devices will have the device confiscated until the end of education day.

# EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM

What is known about students who are blind and visually impaired is that, unless skills such as orientation and mobility, social interaction, and independent living are learned, these students are at high risk for lonely, isolated, unproductive lives.

The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) addresses these specific needs of children with blindness or visual impairment. The ECC includes:

#### Compensatory or Functional Academic Skills, Including Communication Modes

Compensatory and functional skills include such learning experiences as concept development, spatial understanding, study and organizational skills, speaking and listening skills, and adaptations necessary for accessing all areas of the existing core curriculum. Children may use Braille, large print, print with the use of optical devices, regular print, tactile symbols, a calendar system, sign language, and/or recorded materials to communicate.

#### **Social Interaction Skills**

Social interaction skills are not learned casually and incidentally by students who are blind or visually impaired as they are by sighted persons. Social skills must be carefully, consciously, and sequentially taught to students who are blind and visually impaired.

#### **Recreation and Leisure Skills**

The teaching of recreation and leisure skills to students who are blind or visually impaired must be planned and deliberately taught, and should focus on the development of life-long skills.

#### Career Education

Many of the skills and knowledge offered to all students through vocational education can be of value to students who are blind or visually impaired. They will not be sufficient, however, to prepare students for adult life, since such instruction assumes a basic knowledge of the world of work based on prior visual experiences. Career education in an expanded core curriculum will provide the visually impaired learner of all ages with opportunities to explore strengths and interests in a systematic, well-planned manner.

Because unemployment and underemployment have been the leading problem facing adults with a visual impairment in the United States, this portion of the expanded core curriculum is vital to students.

#### Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology is a tool to unlock learning and expand the horizons of students. Assistive Technology can be a great equalizer for students who are blind or visually impaired by enhancing communication and learning, as well as expanding knowledge of the world.

#### Sensory Efficiency Skills

Through the use of thorough, systematic training, most students with remaining functional vision can be taught to better and more efficiently utilize their remaining vision. The responsibility for performing a functional vision assessment, planning appropriate learning

activities for effective visual utilization, and instructing students in using their functional vision in effective and efficient ways is clearly an area of the expanded core curriculum.

#### Independent Living Skills (ILS)

Opportunities for learning specific living skills and personal independence are provided to students through Independent Living Skills and experiences in residential dormitories. Students are involved in activities of independent living throughout the day whether it is dressing or vocational endeavors.

Areas of emphasis include the following:

- Personal grooming and hygiene, including daily bathing, care of teeth, and proper use of cosmetics and personal items.
- Clothing care, including folding and hanging clothes, orderliness in drawers and wardrobes, selection of appropriate clothing, laundry, and minor clothing repairs.
- General room-care, including making and changing beds, mopping floors, dusting.
- Foods and kitchen skills, including shopping and food preparation, menu planning, and personal eating skills.
- Use and care of personal possessions and school property.
- Earning and spending money for goods.
- Personal management and organization.

<u>Cottage/Apartment Living Experience:</u> As Expanded Core Curriculum is a central focus during a student's time at NMSBVI, a demonstration of proficient independent living skills is essential to preparing a student for post-graduation life. In order to be eligible to graduate from NMSBVI, all Academic and Career option students must have successfully completed either a cottage or apartment (as deemed appropriate) living experience their senior year. If extenuating circumstances make completing this requirement impossible, student must have written exemption from NMSBVI Superintendent to be allowed to graduate from NMSBVI without meeting this requirement.

#### **Orientation and Mobility (Independent Travel)**

Independent movement is critical for all children with visual impairments. Students are expected to travel with the greatest possible degree of independence, assuming responsibility for their personal safety while on campus or while engaged in school-sponsored activities off-campus.

All students will undergo an Orientation & Mobility assessment upon arrival at NMSBVI.

- a. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team will consider current orientation/mobility assessments, as well as cognitive, psychological, orthopedic, neurological, and other assessments in determining which students need to use a mobility device to safely navigate the constantly changing obstacles, elevations, textures, and lighting conditions that will be encountered both on and off campus.
- b. Orientation & Mobility goals will be determined during the IEP process. However, specific goals will be determined in consideration of the following precepts:
  - 1. Orientation & Mobility training will be provided so as to achieve maximum

safety and independence in all environments and under all lighting conditions typically encountered on and off-campus.

- 2. Orientation & Mobility training will be provided with the expectation that students are responsible for their own personal safety at all times, both on and off-campus.
- 3. Orientation & Mobility training will be provided with an emphasis on comprehensive skill building/problem solving in preference to route memorization.
- 4. The ultimate goal of Orientation & Mobility training is to train students to function, to the highest degree possible, as fully independent, self-sufficient individuals, capable of navigating their environment independently, with safety, skill, confidence, and grace.
- 5. Students determined to need a mobility device for independent travel will do so as follows:
  - (a) Students are required to use their canes on campus at all times with the exception of their dormitory room.
  - (b) Human guide is not considered to be independent mobility, and shall be used only in rare circumstances, such as emergency medical situations, adverse weather conditions, construction areas, high noise environments, and the like. In such circumstances, human guide will be used as a supplement to the mobility device, not as a substitute for the mobility device.

#### Self-Determination

This area of the ECC highlights the importance of believing in one's self, while understanding one's abilities and limitations. Self-determination is the ability for people to control their lives, reach goals they have set and take part fully in the world around them.

#### LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to use and enjoy the NMSBVI Library, which maintains a collection of learning materials that support the school's curriculum. The collection also includes basic reference tools and selections of general interest. Materials are available in a variety of formats, including regular print, Braille, large print, audio recordings, video and CD-ROM. Assistive devices (such as the Kurzweil Personal Reader, closed-circuit television enlargement systems and speech access software and hardware for computers) are also available. The Library is open during school hours on scheduled school days. Additional access to the library during evening hours must be arranged ahead of time with the library supervisor and must be supervised by authorized NMSBVI staff. Students are allowed to check out up to 5 books/materials at a time for a 3 week period. If a student continuously fails to return library materials, library privileges may be restricted. All library books/materials checked out by students must be accounted for by the Librarian four weeks prior to the winter break and the summer break. In the case of damage to or loss of library items, restitution may include the cost of replacement or repair and will be charged to the individual borrowing the item.

# **GUIDELINES FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS**

- a. Staff will provide supervision for every student at all times, despite the fact they may have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- b. Students will obey all NMSBVI School Rules/Regulations for Conduct.
- c. Staff will occupy adjoining hotel/motel rooms to all students to provide supervision, room checks and to ensure safety, if possible. If not possible, staff will occupy hotel/motel rooms that are in close proximity to all students. Room checks will be conducted periodically.
- d. Staff will be seated with students during every phase of transportation. When using NMSBVI vehicles or rental cars, one staff will serve as the designated driver while remaining staff sit with the students.

# LOCKERS

Lockers will be issued to secondary students. The school is not responsible for valuables or books that disappear from lockers. School personnel have the authority to inspect any locker and its contents at any time.

Should a student choose to use a lock on their assigned locker, the student must supply either a duplicate key or the combination, whichever is appropriate, to the School Office.

# USING SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AT HOME

Students may be approved to take special equipment, books, and/or musical instruments to their homes during major vacations or during summer months. Checking out such items will require completion of an NMSBVI Equipment Loan form with parent and student signature. If items are lost or damaged, restitution may include the cost of replacement or repair and will be charged to the individual borrowing the item.

#### MANDT SYSTEM

The Mandt System for co-managing student behavior has been approved by the Board of Regents for use by staff at NMSBVI. Mandt is a systematic training program designed to help staff reduce the potential for verbal and physical abuse to themselves as well as co-workers and students. The system encourages and teaches the use of a graded system of 10 alternatives ranging from philosophy and attitude (least restrictive) to therapeutic restraint (most restrictive). The system is based upon the principle that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Training is provided to staff on a regular schedule for either initial certification or re-certification.

# STUDENTS TRAVELING HOME WITH OTHER STUDENTS FOR THE WEEKEND

If a student plans to go home with another student for the weekend, parents must complete the following:

- Send a written statement to the transportation manager with your signature stating that your child has permission to go home with another student, include the name of that student and the date(s) of the visit. This must be received no later than Wednesday before the weekend visit. Letter can be faxed, mailed, or emailed.
- Your child must also have written permission from the parents of the child whom they are

visiting.

• If you have any questions, call the Transportation supervisor – 575-430-7396

# **TRANSCRIPTS OF CREDITS**

In order to be considered official, transcripts of credits must be received or sent by mail. All transcripts requested by schools and colleges will be sent free of charge. Seniors who wish to have a final transcript sent to a college must file a request for this transcript with the School Office.

## **TRANSITION SERVICES**

Transition Services are provided by a Transition Coordinator. At age 14 each student, often together with the parent/guardian, is asked to begin thinking of post-school goals in the areas of education, vocation, residential, community involvement, and leisure activities. These goals are then taken into consideration in curriculum planning, scheduling of related services, and needed outside agency networking. Together, these areas will contribute toward an individualized transition plan for each student that is designed to relevantly link education and services with future goals.

Residential Services

# GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Residential Life program is to support educational programming while simultaneously serving as a home away from home for residential students.

# INTRODUCTION

Students attending the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired who do not live in Alamogordo may reside in the dormitory setting. Each wing of each dorm includes a kitchen, living room, laundry room, computers, television, Braille writer, and some toys for younger students. Student rooms feature beds, dressers, desks and closets.

Students are encouraged to bring items from home to place in their rooms to make them more personal. Many students bring CDs, MP3s, IPODs, and other personal electronic devices. It is important to mark (using a permanent marker or etching tool) these items, including initials or name on individual CDs. Student dorm rooms do not have internet access.

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Student mail will be directed to the student via the school mail system.
- Meals in the dining room and snacks in the dorm are provided at no charge.
- Foods or beverages are not permitted in student rooms but there is kitchen space available for any food/beverage items a student needs to store.
- Students are not permitted to borrow, lend, sell or buy items from one another.
- All students are expected to check in and out with Residential Life staff when leaving their dormitory areas, whether going to class, going off campus or to recreational activities.
- Residential Life assistants may deny permission to leave the dormitory if chores or homework have not been completed.
- Students who have demonstrated the maturity and O&M skills necessary for independent travel around campus are generally permitted to move around campus without direct supervision.
- Unless specifically designated by an IEP team as a student who does not need a cane, students are required to have and make proper use of white canes while on campus.
- If students have off campus activities after school, Residential Life staff either walk with the student to a nearby destination or drive if the student needs to go somewhere farther away.
- Day students are not eligible to participate in afternoon/evening Residential Life activities, such as the Recreation Center unless individually permitted by the Residential Life Supervisor. Consent by the Residential Life Supervisor must be given for a day student to be on campus in the evening.

#### CLOTHING/DRESS

Students need appropriate clothing as they travel on campus. It is best if students have enough clothes at home and at school so there isn't a need to transport clothes to and from home every weekend. Every article of clothing (including socks) and personal items must be appropriately marked with a permanent marker.

The following is the minimum required clothing list for residential students.

at least 5 school outfits	sweater and/or light jacket
one dress outfit	bathrobe
at least 7 sets of underwear/socks	winter coat (sent no later than October)
shoes	swimsuit

The following is a required list of personal items. Consumable items like toothpaste must be promptly replaced when depleted.

2 tubes of toothpaste toothbrush 2 bottles of body wash and/or soap tissues sanitary supplies (girls--older) 2 towels 2 bottles of shampoo and conditioner 2 sticks/bottles of deodorant nail clippers hair brush and/or comb electric razor (boys—older) 2 washcloths and/or scrubbers

Students who are not toilet trained will require a minimum of 10 outfits and enough diapers on hand at all times to make it through at least 2 weeks.

# PHONE USE IN THE DORM

NMSBVI is committed to helping families stay in touch while students are in Alamogordo and to ensuring that students have every opportunity for success. This requires minimizing disruptions in student routines, including establishing and maintaining healthy sleep patterns. The following practice balances those two competing needs.

Students may make and receive telephone calls at the 800-437-3505 number. When calling into the dorm, enter extension 4502 (Garrett East) or 4577 (Garrett West) when the message plays. Should there be more demand for the phones than supplied, phone calls may be limited to 20 minutes.

Use of dorm phones will be aligned with a student's assigned bed time.

- No phone calls will be initiated by a student any later than 15 minutes prior to their bed time. If a call is initiated prior to 15 minutes before their bedtime, the call will be completed at bed time.
- No phone calls will be received by a student after their bed time. If a call comes in for a student, dorm staff will take a message for the student to include the name and number of the person calling. Phone calls that are obviously an emergency will be taken by the student.
- Morning phone calls must occur at a reasonable time to allow for the student to prepare for the day.
- Morning phone calls will not be received by students prior to 6:55 am. If a call is received prior to that time, all callers will be requested to call back at 6:55. All morning calls must be completed by 7:10 so that the student can leave for breakfast.

**Cell Phones –** cell phone usage by students in the dorm must be reasonable and not interfere with chores, homework, preparation for the next day, or sleeping.

- Cell phones should be turned off and put away by assigned bedtimes each school night. Emergency phone calls after these hours should be dialed into the dorm phone and handled by dorm staff.
- Cell phones will not be used during the time that a student is doing homework or performing any living skills tasks while in the dorm. This includes preparing a meal, doing laundry, cleaning of room, etc. Students can respond to the voicemails they receive when their chores are completed.
- If a student is using their cell phone improperly (talking on the phone while doing chores, texting or calling after they are supposed to be sleeping, while doing homework, etc.) their cell phone will be temporarily confiscated until their assigned task (chore, sleeping,

homework, etc.) is completed. A second offense may result in the phone being held by dorm staff until Friday morning and then returned to the student.

- Residential Life staff may not monitor a student phone call including speaker, the nature of the conversation or the time of call.
- Students are not allowed to use their cell phone to take pictures of staff or other students without that person's permission.
- Students are not allowed to use their cell phone (on or off campus) to harass or bully.

#### MONEY/STUDENT ACCOUNTS/ATM CARDS/ PRE-PAID CREDIT CARDS

The safest option for students in terms of keeping cash secure on campus is a student account.

- You may use cash or check (made payable to NMSBVI Student Account) to start or contribute to an account.
- The student then deposits the check into their account at the front desk.
- To withdraw money, a student makes out a withdrawal form, gets an approval signature from an Instructional Lead or Residential Life Director/Supervisor, and then takes the form to the front desk.
- To ensure accountability, NMSBVI retains copies of all student transactions.

You may also provide your child with an ATM/Debit card or pre-paid credit cards. At least two banks in Alamogordo (Wells Fargo and First Federal) have talking ATM machines.

#### STUDENT PRIVACY AND PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

To the greatest extent possible, access to each student room will be limited to that student. Students are encouraged to spend time together in common areas of the dorm or on campus. Residential Life staff enter student's rooms primarily to assist the student. Contents in desks, lockers, and rooms assigned to students are subject to inspection at any time for cleanliness, missing property, banned items, and evidence of vandalism or theft.

To protect student privacy, only students and relevant NMSBVI staff are permitted in dorm rooms and the hallways of the dorms. The only exceptions to this are the first and last days of the school year, in which parents/guardians will be allowed in the hallways and student dorm rooms in order to help students set up or pack up their rooms. Students are welcome to visit with family in the common areas of the dorm (such as the living room) or outside on campus.

Personal possessions are not confiscated by Residential Life staff unless the items are banned by the school (such as drugs or weapons), when a personal possession is used in violation of school rules (ex: cell phones during homework), or as part of disciplinary consequence in coordination with parents.

#### **OBLIGATIONS AND EVENING OPTIONS**

Students have a number of obligations in the dorm. Clothing management (washing, drying, folding, putting away, etc), taking care of personal hygiene (showering, washing hair, brushing teeth, etc) and room organization (making bed, putting things where they belong, etc) are the primary chores and are typically done in the evenings during the week. Each student has a set day of the week and time to do laundry and, depending on student need, some students have set shower times.

Students have the opportunity, once their dorm obligations are met and/or scheduled, to play

and/or relax in the Recreation Center and/or the gym. The Rec. Center also has access to both bikes and rollerblading equipment. While students must wear protective equipment (helmet, knee pads, gloves, etc) and the residential life staff monitor students closely, it is important to realize that bumps and bruises are a part of childhood.

## **ON-CAMPUS TRAVEL**

Students who have demonstrated the maturity and O&M skills necessary for independent travel around campus are generally permitted to move around campus without direct supervision. However, there are times when the Residential Life staff will require students to travel together and/or with a member of the Residential Life staff.

Unless specifically designated by an IEP team as a student who does not need a cane, students are required to have and make proper use of white canes while on campus. Students who choose not to use canes (and use them appropriately) are subject to disciplinary measures.

## **OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL**

All students are encouraged to socialize with peers in the campus setting.

Students who are under 18 or have a guardian must have permission from a parent or guardian to leave campus.

Students over 18 who are their own guardian will follow the guidelines set forth for off campus travel and will sign appropriate waivers.

Transportation Services

# STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Students travel home on designated weekends as indicated in the Transportation Travel Calendar. Each NMSBVI transportation vehicle will have two drivers. Drivers have pertinent student information with them as they travel, such as Student Information Update documents, the Parent's/Guardian's Authorization to Treat, Restrictions, Precautions and Allergy List, and the list of people to whom the student may be released at travel destinations.

# All travel-related communication should be made directly with the Transportation Manager (575-430-7396).

Students leave campus on travel days by 12:30 pm and arrive at their designated pick up point usually by 6:00 pm. Return trips to campus begin at pre-designated times at the return origination, arriving at the NMSBVI campus usually by 6:00 pm. When transportation arrives with your student or arrives for pick-up of your student, please allow a few extra minutes to communicate with the driver and receive or give any medications, pertinent documentation, etc. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to bring student to/from the transportation vehicle upon arrival at student's destination.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

- If a parent/guardian is not at the pickup point at the designated time, Transportation will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted by the completion of travel, the student will be brought back to the NMSBVI campus or taken to the law enforcement agency in the pick-up city.
- It is the **parents'/guardians' responsibility** to insure Transportation has current contact addresses and telephone numbers in case contact needs to be made while traveling.
- Prescribed medications **MUST** accompany your student. <u>Your student may not return to</u> <u>school without their proper medication.</u>
- Please give Transportation twelve (12) hour notification if your student is not returning to school on the return travel day by calling the Transportation Manager at 575-430-7396.
- If the student does not return to school on the scheduled travel day due to illness or medical reasons, the parent/guardian will be responsible for making arrangements for transportation back to school. Contact the Transportation Manager at 575-430-7396 or the Director of Student Services at 575-439-4433.
- Feeder mileage compensation will be paid for regular transportation days as listed in the transportation calendar. Compensation minus any outstanding fees accrued through other departments will be paid to parents/guardians on a monthly basis via check. Checks will be issued and mailed to address on file within 10 days of receipt of all required documentation.

#### **Release of Students to Authorized Person**

Students **will not** be released to anyone except the parent/guardian or those designated on the school enrollment form unless **written** authorization is obtained from the parent/guardian. For safety reasons, parents/guardians or their designees will be asked to show identification when receiving the student if the driver does not know the person receiving the student.

#### **Transportation Cancellation or Delay**

If travel is considered unsafe due to weather conditions, the transportation department will notify the parent/guardian. If a delay is caused by any other unforeseen circumstances, notification will be made if the delay is in excess of 30 minutes. Parents/guardians may call the Transportation Manager at 575-430-7396 for travel updates.

**REMEMBER** – due to possible cancellations/delays arising, it is imperative that Transportation have current contact information for each student. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to update contact information with Transportation Manager.

## LUGGAGE AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

All luggage must be clearly marked and tagged with the student's name, telephone number and home address. Luggage not marked **will not** be placed on transportation for travel until properly marked and tagged.

In addition, NMSBVI **will not** be held responsible for lost items. Items such as CD's, CD players, IPods, money or any other personal belongings brought on to NMSBVI vehicles are the responsibility of the student. If the parent/guardian wants personal belongings or money controlled by the driver, it must be clearly identified and given to the driver. (For example, money should be put in a sealed envelope, identified as belonging to the student and given to the driver with instructions as to where the funds should be delivered upon arrival on campus.)

	SUPERVISION AND DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES	
•	Students shall follow directions of the driver the first time given	
•	Students shall be prepared for pickup at the predesigned pickup location prior to arrival of transportation staff.	
•	Students are to avoid horseplay in vehicle that may distract driver.	
•	Students shall remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.	
•	Students shall exhibit appropriate classroom conduct at all times while on transportation vehicles.	
•	Students shall refrain from the use of profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substance while on transportation vehicles.	
•	Students shall be allowed to eat or drink school provided snacks and drinks while on transportation vehicles.	
•	Students shall respect the rights and safety of others.	
•	Students shall refrain from extending head, arms or objects out of the bus or suburban windows.	
	MOVIES ON TRANSPORTATION	
All bu	All buses and suburbans are equipped with DVD players; only movies rated G, PG, and	

All buses and suburbans are equipped with DVD players; only movies rated G, PG, and PG13 will be shown. Only one PG13 movie will be shown per trip. Students under age 13 or without parent permission to view PG13 movies will be provided an alternative entertainment such as books on tape or digital books with headphones, or use of personal video devices with headphones.



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