

**Student
and
Family
Handbook
2025
2026**



OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Pinewood
Elementary**

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) implements Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) to promote student use of positive behavior. Through this framework, Omaha Public Schools has committed to providing staff with tools and resources to positively engage students and families through implementation of school-wide positive behavior interventions. These practices are designed to support safe and encouraging learning environments.

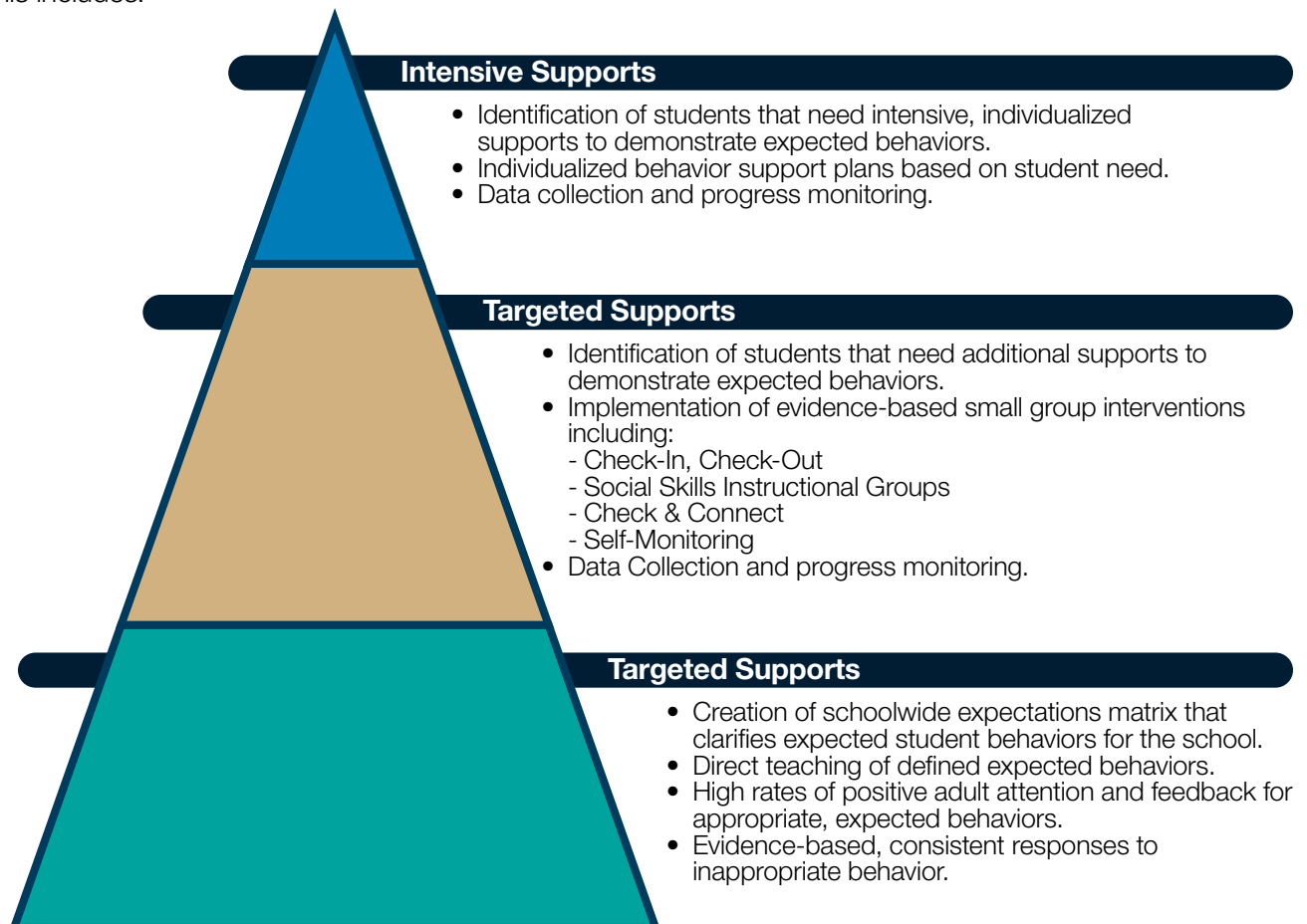
We believe that we cannot “make” students learn or behave. But we can create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

MTSS-B is a research-based, highly effective behavioral framework that is designed for teaching and reinforcing students’ social, emotional, and academic learning skills in order to sustain academic achievement and support the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students. Consistent implementation of MTSS-B leads to:

- Improved school climate;
- Reductions in major disciplinary infractions;
- Improved academic achievement;
- Improved concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation.

Omaha Public Schools is committed to supporting students through behavior interventions and alternatives to exclusionary practices that require removal from the educational setting where the safety of the student and/or others is not of immediate concern.

MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports, and in our schools, this includes:



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

In addition to MTSS-B, Omaha Public Schools continues to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) development through curriculum, strategies, and resources. SEL is defined by the Collaborative of Academic Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) as the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

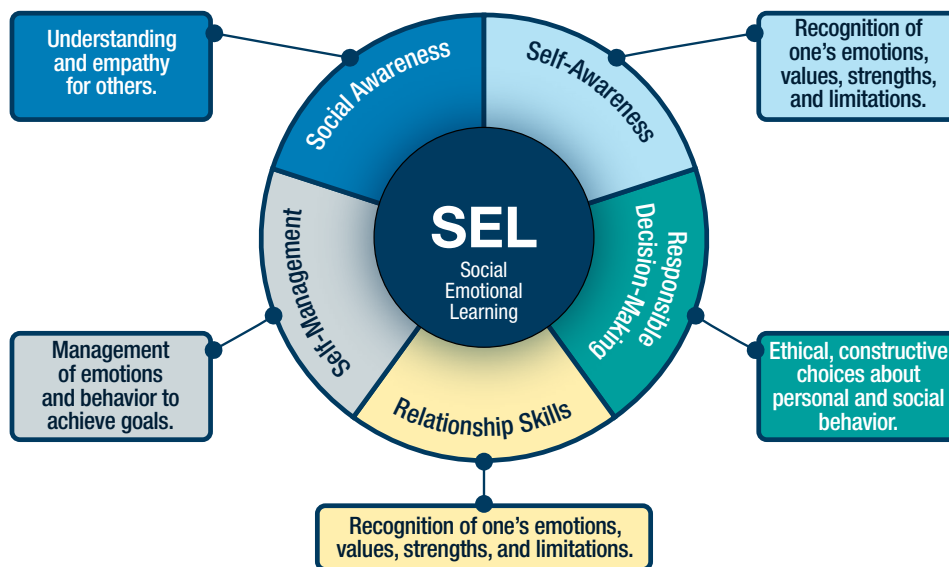
Within the Omaha Public Schools, our goal is to focus on CASEL's five SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

SEL promotes knowledge, skills, and attitudes that support lifelong success and advance educational equity and excellence.

How do MTSS-B and SEL Align in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs?

MTSS-B and SEL are frameworks that work together to provide an ethic of care for students and promote success in students' academics, behavior, attendance, and overall well-being. Combined they create positive learning environments where students and staff are equipped with resources and skills for successful school communities.



If you would like more information about how MTSS-B and SEL are implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



Pinewood Elementary

6717 North 63 Street / Omaha, Nebraska 68152-2210
531-299-1940 / Fax 531-299-1959 / www.ops.org/pinewood

This handbook is prepared to serve as a guide to Pinewood Elementary families. In it you will find the policies and procedures that are followed at Pinewood. We hope that you will find this handbook a convenient reference during the school year.



Mission Statement

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life.

Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

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Welcome To Pinewood Elementary

Dear Pinewood Family:

Welcome to Pinewood Elementary! We hope your student will have a most rewarding and successful year at our school. We will put forth our best effort to provide a happy and caring environment in which children can learn effectively. Great emphasis will be placed on academic, emotional and social growth with opportunities for enrichment in all grade levels.

Students will participate in a variety of learning activities, which will help them to develop academically, physically, emotionally and socially. We will also put emphasis on meeting, understanding, and getting along with people who have different cultural backgrounds.

We encourage families to provide the support for our educational endeavors by working to foster a positive attitude within each child, providing encouragement and support at home, participating in school activities, and maintaining open communications with the school faculty.

Families, please take time to review this handbook with your student(s). This handbook has been prepared to help you become better acquainted with your school and to help you know the rules and guidelines all students are responsible for knowing and observing. Feel free to call or visit us at Pinewood Elementary. Your student will experience much success when we all work together. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kristi Reinsch
Principal

General Information

Cell Phone Use

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones to school. Cell phones are not necessary during the school day and can be a distraction to the learning environment. If there is a need for a student to carry a cell phone, the student must have permission from the parents to bring/carry a cell phone at school. *The student will then need to check the phone in with the teacher when he/she arrives and pick it up at the end of the school day.* If a student brings a cell phone to school and does not check it in with the teacher, the phone will be confiscated by a school staff member and held for the student's parent to pick up.

Clothing, Student Dress

Pinewood is an air-conditioned building. Students are to dress in an appropriate manner for school. Parent cooperation is appreciated to ensure that student dress is safe and suitable for all school activities. Examples of inappropriate dress that is not allowed at Pinewood include: tank tops; shirts with advertisements for tobacco, alcohol, or drugs or inappropriate wording; "net" tops; short or crop tops; bare shoulders; bare midriffs; halter tops; and saggy pants. Shorts and skirts must hang below the fingertips. Revealing clothing distracts from learning and can lead to comments by other students. Any attire that causes a disruption to the school environment is not allowed.

Hats, scarves, bandanas and any optional headgear may not be worn indoors.

Comfortable and safe shoes are to be worn during the school day. Tennis shoes are required for physical education classes. Students who choose to bring alternate shoes for recess/P.E. are responsible for changing them quickly and taking care of their shoes. "Flip-flops" and platform sandals are discouraged due to safety reasons. These types of footwear may cause students to slip, trip, stub toes, or sprain ankles in school or on the playground.

Field Trips And Visits

Occasionally classes visit places of interest in Omaha and nearby areas. These field trips coincide with current class studies. Students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior on all field trips.

Your student will bring a permission card home informing you of the trip his/her class is taking. It is important for you to sign this card and send it back to school with him/her. If he/she does not bring a card back from you, he/she cannot go with the class on their trip. The Board of Education requires written parental permission. "Parental Permission and Release of Liability" must be signed and returned to school before a student may leave the school for a field trip or school activity.

Personal Items

Students are directed not to bring unnecessary items to school without the express approval of their teacher for a class/school project. The school district's insurance does not cover personal items owned by students, so lost or damaged personal items cannot be replaced by the school. Unnecessary items would include but are not limited to toys, games, yoyos, cameras, iPods, beepers, cars, skateboards, athletic equipment, electronic games, cell phones, notebook computers, headphones, candy and trading cards. If the items are lost, stolen, or damaged by other students or visitors, the school will not be responsible for repairing or replacing the items. If the personal items of this nature are brought to school, a school staff member will confiscate them and hold them for the student's parent to pick up. If the confiscated item is lost, stolen, or damaged while in the school's possession, the school will not be responsible for the replacement or repair of such item.

To prevent loss, it is wise to mark tennis shoes, boots, hats, coats, scarves, mittens, and like articles of clothing with the child's name. If your child loses an article, the child should check the school's **Lost and Found Box**.

Pinewood Elementary Mission

Pinewood School is a team of staff, students, parents and community working together to teach students to become high achievers, life-long learners, and responsible citizens.

To fulfill this purpose, the members of the Pinewood staff believe:

- All students can learn.
- Students must take responsibility for their own learning, words, and actions.
- Every teacher will strive to meet each student's individual needs.
- The curriculum offered must challenge students to reach their highest potential.
- We are a community of learners who are problem solvers.

Pinewood Elementary Daily Schedule

6:30 a.m.	Kids Club Opens
8:00 a.m.	Principal and Secretary on duty
8:30 a.m.	Staff on duty
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Program starts
8:50 a.m.	Start of the school day/Tardy bell
4:05 p.m.	Dismissal for Pre-Kindergarten thru 5th Grade
4:20 p.m.	Staff off duty
4:30 p.m.	Principal and Secretary off duty
6:00 p.m.	Kids Club Closes

Students should time their arrival so that they do not arrive before 8:30 a.m. **The school cannot assume responsibility for the supervision and safety of students arriving prior to 8:30 a.m.** No students will be allowed to enter the building prior to 8:30 a.m. unless they are participating in Kids Club. Students need to be picked up from school as close to 4:05 p.m. as possible. **Supervision is not available after 4:20 p.m. unless students are in Kids Club.**

Seesaw

Pinewood uses Seesaw as a school-wide communication app. Please ensure we have updated cell phone/email information so you get important school and classroom information.

Take Home Thursday Folders

Every Thursday will be “Take Home Thursday”. This means any papers the teachers or the school needs to send home will come to you on Thursday. Be sure to check your child’s backpack for important news.

Traffic Safety

Students may not cross through the parking lots by themselves.

Playground Safety Guidelines

Playground balls and equipment are provided for recess. Students are not to bring their own sports equipment or balls to school. There will be no supervision of the playground before or after school. Students will observe the “Hands Off Rule” on the playground. The rule is simple – “students will not play games that require pushing, hitting, or tackling.”

At recess time, if a student is using inappropriate actions, the supervising staff member will instruct the child to take a “time-out”.

Pinewood Panther Expectations

General Guidelines

- Weapons or anything that can be used as a weapon (i.e. chains, pocket knife) are not permitted on school grounds
- Walk on sidewalk.
- Students may not re-enter the building after dismissal unless accompanied by a teacher or staff member.
- Playground equipment is OFF LIMITS between the hours of 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:45-4:20 p.m. unless supervised by a parent.

Schoolwide

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak, listen, and act with kindness • Listen to adults and follow directions the first time • Accept redirection politely • Keep hands, feet, body, and objects to self/under control • Respect property and others • Give Me Five
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress appropriately • Take care of school materials and property • Use appropriate hand signals • Keep voice at appropriate volume level • Sit safely • Keep area clean and litter free • Wait your turn
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be polite and positive • Smile and greet appropriately
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Pinewood clean • When you see a mess, pick it up • Be prepared with work and materials • Ask for help when needed

Classrooms

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate language/actions • Include others
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete work on time and make it your best
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in class activities • Keep a positive attitude towards yourself and others
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use time wisely

Lunchroom

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See schoolwide expectations
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate hand signals • Clean up after yourself • Stack trays neatly • Wash tables well
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use good table manners • Say please and thank you
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get what you need while in line • Recycle and throw trash in bins • Stay seated • Remain silent beyond the red line

Restrooms

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the privacy of others • Keep feet on the floor • Keep bathroom neat and clean
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place trash in trash can • Wash hands with soap and water • Return to class promptly
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See schoolwide expectations
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush toilet • Keep water and soap in sink • Report problems to an adult

Hallway

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet, body, and objects to self • Be aware of others' space
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk silently in a straight line • Open and close lockers quietly
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in line
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face forward when walking • Walk directly to destination • Stay to the right side

Playground

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include others • Enter the building quietly • Use equipment/materials as you are taught
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line up at teacher signal • Be active and have fun
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show good sportsmanship • Encourage others • Help others
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared with shoes, coats, hats, boots, etc. • Take turns • Follow playground expectations • Return equipment to where it belongs

Van/Bus

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to, from, and on the bus
Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay seated • Take care of self • Face forward • Keep bus neat and clean
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smile and greet appropriately • Say please and thank you • Be a positive role model
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be on time • Leave others and bus property alone • Get on and off bus/van in a quiet, orderly manner

NOTE: Students who ride the van/bus but wish to walk home or go to a friend's house after school ***must show written parent permission to the office, teacher and/or principal.***

When students are meeting expectations, they earn Positive Paw Pats and other reinforcements. Our goal is to frequently teach, practice and acknowledge expected behavior to make our school welcoming and productive.

If a student's behavior interferes with the teaching/learning activity to such an extent that the teacher cannot continue to teach in a satisfactory manner, the following actions may be utilized:

- Time out to Safe Seat in classroom
- Time out in another classroom
- PAC room (Positive Action Center) – visiting students review expectations and work on social skills
- Phone call to parent/guardian
- Seriously disruptive behavior will be referred to the principal immediately
- There will be appropriate consequences for disruption of the school environment



Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Omaha Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, *Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.*

In General

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - Back to School Night
 - School Open House
 - Title I Annual Parent Meeting
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Reading Night
 - Math Night
 - STEAM/STEM Night
 - Family Game Night
 - PTA/PTO – meetings & activities
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.
 - The student handbook
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Standardized Tests results
 - Progress reports & report card
- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand
 - The student handbook
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Standardized Tests results
 - Progress reports & report card
- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
 - Summer Reading Program
 - College and Career Academies and Pathways Night with The Empowerment Network

Parent Right To Know Clause

At the beginning of the school year, any District that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher and his/her qualifications, including certification and endorsements. Parents can also request information about paraprofessionals working with their children.

School-Parent Compact 2025-2026

Pinewood Elementary

This Title I School-Parent Compact has been jointly developed with parents and outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. At the annual parent-teacher conferences, the compact shall be discussed as it relates to individual's child's achievement.

Administrator/Teacher:

It is important that students achieve. We will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to enable children to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards.
2. Regularly communicate with parents on their child's progress.
3. Demonstrate professional behavior and positive attitude.

Parent/Caring Adult:

I want my child to achieve; therefore I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

1. Communicate and work with teachers and school staff on an ongoing basis to be involved and support my child's learning.
2. Support your child's learning — volunteer in their classroom; participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their education, guide positive use of extracurricular time.
3. Make sure my child is at school every day and on time, unless he/she is ill.
4. Provide a quiet place and time to do schoolwork and encourage my child to complete schoolwork.

Student:

I know my education is important to me. It is important that I work to the best of my ability. I agree to do the following:

1. Be at school everyday and on time unless I am sick.
2. Come to school each day prepared with supplies and an attitude to learn.
3. Be responsible for my own behavior.
4. Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
5. Return completed schoolwork on time.
6. Read at home.

Omaha Public Schools 2025-2026 District Calendar

Omaha Public Schools District Handbook

Omaha Public Schools Code of Conduct