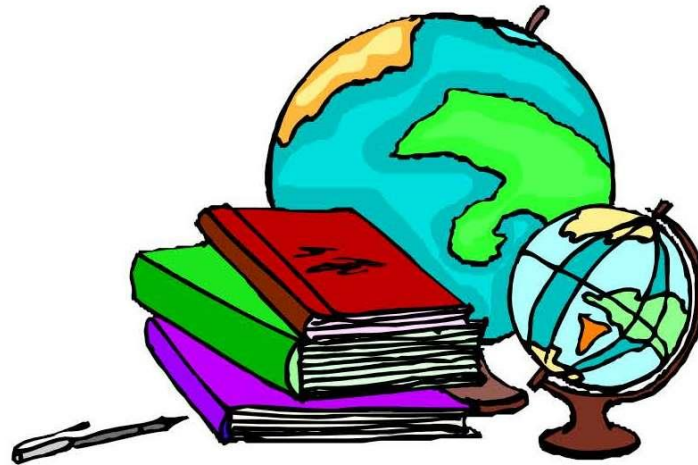


Brockton Public Schools



Middle School Student/Parent Handbook 2021-2022



www.bpsma.org



City of Brockton
BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Michael P. Thomas ♦ Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent
Phone (508) 580-7511 Fax (508) 580-7013
michaelpthomas@bpsma.org

August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Attached is the Middle School Student/Parent Handbook which has been approved by the Brockton School Committee.

Please review this document with your son/daughter. Your knowledge of these codes and policies, as well as your involvement in their implementation, is essential. **For this purpose, we ask you to sign and return this page.**

The Brockton Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.

Both students and parents should be reminded of the school’s use of surveillance cameras. School cameras are operated under the supervision and authority of the Brockton Police Department and access to any recordings is at the discretion of the BPD.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact your school.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Thomas
Superintendent of Schools

**BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

I have thoroughly read and understand the *Middle School Student/Parent Handbook*. I am aware of the rights and responsibilities outlined therein for both parents and students

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student’s Name (printed)

Date

Student’s Signature



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Brockton Public Schools 1:1 Device Loan Agreement

Students in the Brockton Public Schools (“BPS”) are eligible to be issued a laptop and charger, as well as other related technology (“1:1 Devices”). Before being issued any 1:1 Device, the Student and their parent/guardian must read and agree to this 1:1 Device Loan Agreement.

1:1 Devices are loaned to the Student to be used for educational purposes only during the academic school year, and these devices and any data contained thereon remain the property of BPS. Students must not let any other person use their 1:1 Devices. 1:1 Devices are subject to inspection at any time without notice, and inappropriate use may result in the Student losing their eligibility to use these devices. 1:1 Devices must be turned in to BPS immediately upon request, and in any event no later than a Student’s last day of school at BPS.

Students must make every effort to have their 1:1 Devices charged and ready for each school day. Students must protect their 1:1 Devices from extreme hot and cold temperatures, keep food and beverages away from them, and safely transport them to and from school. Students must not deface or destroy any 1:1 Device, or place unauthorized decorations or markings (such as stickers, drawings, etc.) on any 1:1 Device, or leave any 1:1 Device unattended in an unsecure location.

If a 1:1 Device is damaged or not working properly, the Student should bring it to the designated help desk at BPS. Students and/or their parents/guardians must not attempt any repairs on their own or through someone other than a BPS employee. If a laptop is damaged beyond repair and needs to be replaced, BPS will evaluate the damage or loss and/or replacement options on a case by case basis. In cases of fire or criminal acts such as theft or vandalism, parents/guardians should immediately report to the building principal or dean. The principal or dean will assist with filing a police or fire report, which must be filed by the parent/guardian before requesting a replacement 1:1 Device. Students and/or their parents/guardians may be held partially or fully responsible for any damages/loss.

Students must comply with all applicable BPS rules and regulations at all times while using 1:1 Devices, including without limitation the requirements of the student handbook and BPS’s Responsible Use Policy and Internet Acceptable Use Policy IJNDB. No Student may install, use, or permit the installation or use of any unauthorized software on any 1:1 Device. BPS is not responsible for any controversial materials acquired on these devices. Any violation of BPS rules and regulations and/or the terms and conditions of this 1:1 Device Loan Agreement may result in disciplinary or legal action.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this 1:1 Device Loan Agreement, that I agree to abide by its terms and conditions, and that BPS has my permission to loan 1:1 Devices to the Student

Student Name

Grade

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name

Relationship

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



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Media Release for Students

(Parent/Guardian Release --- For School Use)

From time to time schools are asked by the media to interview and/or photograph students as part of coverage of positive school events. To allow that to happen we need to have the permission of the students' parents or guardians. By checking the "**grant**" box and signing your permission on this form, you are indicating that you are agreeing to allow the use of such materials for the 2020-2021 school year. Please sign and return this form to your child's teacher.

I hereby (please check one box)

GRANT Permission

DO NOT GRANT Permission

for the _____ School to publish, copyright, or use all film, photographs, computer-generated imagery and printed and spoken words in which my son/daughter is included, whether taken by staff, students, or others. I further agree that the school can use these photographs, films and words for any exhibitions, displays, web pages and publications, without reservation or compensation, for the 2021-2022 school year.

School Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Student Record Directory Information Opt-Out

State law (603 CMR 23.07) permits the Brockton Public Schools to release the following directory information without the consent of the eligible student or parent: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans.

If you wish to **OPT OUT** of this information sharing and have the school withhold all or part of your student's directory information, **PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW** and return it to your student's school.

By checking the box below, I hereby **OPT OUT** and do not permit the student's personally identifiable directory information to be released as part of its information sharing.

I hereby, OPT-OUT and DO NOT PERMIT the student's personally identifiable directory information to be released as part of its information sharing.

School Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Health Screenings & Physical Examinations

Required Physicals: Preschool/Kindergarten, Grades 4,7, & 9

Vision: Grades K-5, 7,9 with referrals as needed

Hearing: Grades K-3, 4, 7, 9 with referrals as needed

Annual Height/Weight (Body Mass Index): Grades 1,4,7 & 9

Postural Screenings for Scoliosis: If you wish your child to be screened for scoliosis, please contact your school nurse.

Youth Risk Survey

Periodically, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requests our school department to perform random surveys that monitor youth risk behaviors related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among adolescents as well as other health indicators. Public High School students are often surveyed from a scientifically selected random sample of schools across the Commonwealth. The data collected is used to identify critical areas of need for our school. This information assists the district with adjusting learning opportunities for our students as well as implement critical programs that focus on these health issues. Students do have the right to “opt out” and if you do not want your son/daughter to participate in these surveys, you should notify school administration of your wishes, and they will be honored.

Brockton Public Schools Responsible Use Policy

Students

The Brockton Public Schools provides access to technology in order to enhance digital literacy for all students and staff. As educators we must: expose students to available technologies, encourage exploration, promote digital citizenship and ensure students have opportunities to demonstrate technological skill in preparation for life after school.

The Brockton Public Schools will work with families to convey expectations children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, families should be aware that Brockton Public Schools intends to incorporate network use, internet access and email in the grade levels identified below. The Brockton Public Schools utilizes CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) compliant blocking and/or filtering safeguards required by law, and will make every reasonable effort to minimize the chance or exposure to objectionable material on the Internet. These measures, coupled with user education, implementation of this policy and grade-appropriate supervision, the Brockton Public Schools believes that the Internet can be safely used to enhance the delivery of educational services.

- a. *Grades Kindergarten through Three:* Students at these grade levels will not have individual computer network passwords or e-mail accounts. During school time, teachers of students in grades kindergarten through three will guide them toward appropriate materials. Web access at these grade levels will be limited to teacher-directed and teacher-demonstrated use. Students will not be conducting independent research on the Internet, nor will they be sending or receiving electronic mail independently.
- b. *Grades Four and Five:* Students in grades four and five will be given individual network access and passwords. Students at these grade levels will not be issued individual e-mail accounts. Students at these grade levels may have the opportunity to conduct research via the Web in the classroom, and to access electronic mail for a group account, during directly supervised instruction.
- c. *Grades Six through Twelve:* Students in grades six through twelve will be given individual network access passwords and receive individual e-mail accounts. Students at these grade levels will have the opportunity to access the internet and conduct independent, self-directed research, both during classroom instruction and outside of classroom. This will be under the direct or indirect supervision of a teacher or staff member

In order for students to be granted independent access to the internet or individual e-mail accounts, they must agree to and abide by the Guidelines for Student Use. For students under 18, parents must sign the Brockton Public Schools Responsible Use Agreement form before students will be permitted to gain independent access to the internet or individual email accounts. If the Brockton Public Schools does not receive a signed user agreement, students will continue to have the opportunity to access the internet during supervised classroom instruction.

Guidelines for Student Use

Access to BPS’ computer network, including the Internet, is a privilege, not a right. The use of the network must be consistent with, and directly related to, the educational objectives of the Brockton Public Schools. A violation of the terms of this Responsible Use Policy may result in suspension or termination of network access privileges and may also result in other disciplinary action consistent with the disciplinary policies of the Brockton Public Schools. Further action may include criminal prosecution where applicable. The Brockton Public Schools will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials in any investigation relating to misuse of the Brockton Public Schools computer network. **This Policy and Guidelines apply to all District Remote Learning Platforms.**

The Brockton Public Schools is committed to providing ongoing educational support to students around responsible digital citizenship. Before being permitted to access the Brockton Public Schools email system, all students are required to complete the Brockton Student Responsible Use Policy and Guideline Tutorial. Once completed, the student will be given grade-appropriate

access to technologies. With this access, students are expected to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the BPS Responsible Use Policy and Guidelines.

1. Violations of this Responsible Use Policy include, but are not limited to, the following conduct:
 - Cyberbullying, using profane, vulgar, threatening, defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, harassing or otherwise objectionable or criminal language in a public or private message.
 - Sending messages or posting information that would likely result in the loss of a recipient's work or system (e.g., viruses, malicious scripts).
 - Participating in unauthorized activities which would cause congestion of the network or interfere with the work of others such as the use of prohibited file sharing sites.
 - Using the network in a manner that would violate any U.S. or state law. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening material and spreading of computer viruses.
 - Accessing or transmitting materials that are obscene, sexually explicit, or without redeeming educational value.
 - Attempting to harm, modify, or disseminate another user's personal information including passwords.
 - Attempting to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment, including attempts to override, or to encourage others to override, any security established on the network.
 - Using social networking sites, discussion groups, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of online conversation except with prior staff approval and for educational purposes only.
2. The Brockton Public Schools assumes no responsibility for:
 - Any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long distance charges, per minute surcharges and/or equipment or line costs.
 - Any financial obligations arising out of unauthorized use of the system for the purchase of products or services.
 - Any cost, liability or damages caused by a user's violation of these guidelines
3. The Brockton Public Schools makes no guarantee, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection. The Brockton Public Schools shall not be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting while using the network.
4. All messages and information created, sent or retrieved on the network are the property of Brockton Public Schools. The Brockton Public Schools reserves the right to access and monitor all messages and files on the computer system, including web pages accessed, as it deems necessary and appropriate in the ordinary course of its business for purposes including, but not limited to, ensuring proper use of resources, investigating allegations of improper use and conducting routine network maintenance. By participating in the school district's computer network, users are indicating their consent to such monitoring and access. Where appropriate, communications including text and images may be disclosed to law enforcement or other third parties without prior consent of the sender or receiver.
5. Any users caught illegally obtaining software or transferring such software through the network may have their accounts revoked. In such an event, the user's network access will be limited to directly supervised use during classroom instruction. In addition, all users should be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by a fine or imprisonment.
6. Should a user, while using the Brockton Public Schools Technology Network, encounter any material that s/he feels may constitute a threat against the safety of fellow students, staff members or the property of the Brockton Public Schools, that user is obligated to report his/her discovery of such material to a teacher or to his/her principal.
7. Any user who is issued a username and password must ensure that they protect that username and password and refrain from sharing it with anyone. If a user believes their username and password has been compromised or knowingly or unknowingly shared, that user is obligated to share this information with a teacher or his/her principal so that the password and/or user name shall be changed.
8. The Brockton Public Schools reserves the right to seek restitution from any user for costs incurred by the district, including legal fees, due to such user's inappropriate use of electronic resources considered confidential.
9. Any user who chooses to bring their own device (BYOD) and accesses the BPS network through that personal device is expected to adhere to the BPS Responsible Use Policy and Guidelines.

The Brockton Public Schools administration reserves the right to amend this policy at any time without prior notice

Philosophy of Code of Conduct at the Middle School

A Code of Conduct develops self-control, protects the rights of the individual to learn, and promotes respect for oneself and for others. In order for a code of conduct to be enforced equitably in the school community, students, parents and faculty must clearly understand the rights and responsibilities of all. It is for this reason that this code of conduct has been prepared. It is hoped that this code will allow students to gain the utmost from the middle school experience and develop to their fullest potential.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to practice good citizenship at all times. Respect for the rights of others is essential. Students should make every effort to channel their behavior into avenues that will benefit all. All students are expected to obey the rules of the school and apply themselves to the established course of studies by showing the proper respect to teachers, staff and students; applying themselves to their studies by always striving to do better, accepting constructive criticism and being on time and in attendance; respecting school property; and behaving themselves in school, on school grounds, on buses and at school functions. Students will

refrain from disruption, demonstration, violence, and other forms of incitement, will leave the school building and/or grounds immediately upon dismissal unless involved in a school activity; and refrain from interfering with other students on the way to and from school.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Brockton Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities, in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 76, § 5.

Equity Officer

The Brockton School Committee has designated Sharon R. Wolder, Chief Officer for Student Support Services, as the school system's equity officer for students, vested with the authority and responsibility of processing all complaints of discrimination brought under the provisions of the statutes listed below. Ms. Wolder has also been designated as the district's Section 504 Coordinator and the Sexual Harassment Officer. Any student who feels that he or she has been harassed or discriminated against because of his or her race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition should contact Ms. Wolder, whose office is located in the Crosby Administration Building at 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, Ma 02301-4376, (508) 894-4341. If the student prefers, he/she may file the complaint with any teacher or counselor, who will then bring the complaint to the attention of the Equity Officer.

If parents are not satisfied with the results of the investigation and the action taken, a formal complaint may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109, (617) -289-0111.

Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

Brockton Public Schools will participate in SBIRT, which is a public health approach to delivering early intervention to anyone who uses alcohol and/or drugs in unhealthy ways. Because school nurses and counselors are uniquely positioned to discuss substance use among young people, it is recommended that schools allow for opportunities for appropriately trained staff to reinforce prevention, screen for substance use, provide counseling and make referrals as necessary to all adolescents, including students in upper elementary and middle school grades. Adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) focuses on prevention, early detection, risk assessment, brief counseling and referral intervention that can be utilized in the school setting. School nurses will use a validated screening tool to detect risk for substance use-related problems and to address them at an early stage in adolescents. If a student's parent/guardian does not want their child to be screened, the parent/guardian should contact the school in writing by October 1 of the academic year to opt-out of the screening.

The Educational Rights of Children and Youth in Homeless Situations

The Brockton Public School district complies with federal and state laws and regulations in the identification and education of children who are in homeless situations. The intent of this policy is to provide each child and youth equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool, as provided to other children and youth. In accordance with requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act, the Superintendent has designated Karen McCarthy as the Homeless Education Liaison.

Student Rights

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the Brockton Public Schools to promote and maintain an educational environment that is free from harassment, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment, whether by another student or by staff, is against the law and will not be tolerated by the Brockton Public Schools.

Sexual harassment is defined as repeated, unwanted, or unwelcome verbalisms or behaviors of a sexist nature related to a person's sex or sexual orientation. In addition, sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's success as a student, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for educational decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or the effect of substantially interfering with an individual's educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

While it is not possible to list all circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct which if unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment depending upon the totality of the circumstances and including the severity of the conduct. Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- offensive sexual flirtations, unwelcome sexual advances or propositions
- continued verbal abuse or innuendo of a sexual nature
- uninvited physical contact such as touching, hugging, patting or pinching
- verbal comments of a sexual nature in front of people who find them offensive
- making obscene gestures or suggestive or insulting sounds

- the demand of sexual favors accompanied by an implied or overt threat concerning an individual's scholastic status or promise of preferential treatment
- leering or stalking
- indecent exposure
- assault or coerced sexual acts
- requests for sexual favors in exchange for actual or promised scholastic benefits

Please note: Because sexual harassment is a violation of Massachusetts General Law, building principals have been instructed to refer certain cases to the School Police and to the District Attorney's office for possible prosecution.

Process

1. Students who believe that they have been subjected to sexual harassment should report the incident to any teacher, counselor or administrator as soon as possible. The incident will be investigated, and appropriate action will be taken. Students will be provided with interim measures to support the student during the course of the investigation.
2. If a student is not satisfied with the results of the investigation and the action taken, the student may file a formal complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109, (617) 289-0111.
3. The Brockton Public Schools announces that any retaliatory action of any kind taken by an employee against any student as a result of that person's seeking redress under these procedures is prohibited and illegal, and shall be regarded as a separate and distinct grievable matter under this procedure.

Complaint Officer

Sharon R. Wolder, Chief Officer for Student Support Services, is the designated complaint officer for students. Ms. Wolder is vested with the authority and responsibility of processing all harassment complaints. Ms. Wolder's office is located in the Crosby Administration Building at 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4376, (508) 894-4341.

Civil Rights and Harassment

Under federal and state law, all students have the right to an education that is free from discrimination. All school programs and activities are open to students without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition. All school procedures and policies are applied in such a way that students are treated equally and fairly.

It is the policy of the Brockton Public Schools to promote and maintain an educational environment that is free from harassment. Harassment is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Brockton Public Schools. Harassment is defined as repeated, unwanted or unwelcome verbalisms or behaviors with overtones related to a person's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition that creates a hostile learning environment for the student. Disciplinary measures in response to civil rights/harassment cases may include, but not be limited to office referral, parental conference/notification, notification of School Police, detention, suspension and/or exclusion, depending on the severity of the case. The Brockton Public Schools' Civil Rights Discrimination Grievance Procedure can be accessed through our website at <https://www.bpsma.org/departments/student-support-services> , or by contacting your school office.

The Brockton School Committee has designated Sharon R. Wolder, Chief Officer for Student Support Services, as the school system's equity officer, vested with the authority and responsibility of processing all complaints of harassment and discrimination. Students who feel that they have been harassed or discriminated against because of race, color, sex, gender-identity, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition should contact Sharon R. Wolder in the Crosby Administration Building at 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA 02301-4376, (508) 894-4341. If the student prefers, a complaint may be filed with any teacher or counselor who will then bring the complaint to the attention of the Equity Officer.

If parents are not satisfied with the results of the investigation and the action taken, a formal complaint may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109, (617) 289-0111.

Equal Opportunity

Students have the right to a full and adequate education that enables them to develop an understanding of themselves and their environment.

Freedom of Expression

Students have the right to express themselves except where such activity causes, or is likely to cause, physical harm or disruption of the educational process, or create a hostile environment for other students or members of the school community.

Self-Government

While no provision is made in the United States Constitution for participation in administering schools, students have the right to provide input concerning issues that affect them in school as long as they follow established channels of communication.

Person and Property

Students have the right to be physically safe and secure in person and property, especially in regard to the following:

1. Physical Safety
Students shall not be subjected to physical harm by other students or school personnel. However, students may be physically restrained to prevent them from inflicting harm on themselves or others.
2. Psychological Well-being
Students shall not be subjected to fear, threat, harassment or persecution. Each student is entitled to be accepted as a person and shall not be subjected to ridicule because of choice of lifestyle or interests.
3. Property
Every effort will be made to protect students' personal property (clothing, money, jewelry, bikes, etc.) from willful damage, theft, burglary, and extortion. A student shall be subjected to personal search by the principal, or designee, when required, if the student presents a known threat to the safety of others or their property, or if the student is believed to possess illegal items. Student property may be confiscated in order to protect the safety of others or their property, to prevent interference with learning by themselves or others, or to remove illegal items from their possession.

Cameras, tape recorders, cellphones and cellphone cameras, radios, headset players, headphones etc., are not to be used in school unless expressly provided for in a student's IEP or 504 Plan. beepers and cell phones must be kept turned off at all times inside the building and must be kept in *lockers or book bags; they may not be visible at any time. The articles may be used outside the building prior to the official start time of school and after the end of the school day.

If this policy is not followed, the item may be confiscated and returned to the parent or after parental contact has been made.

*Student lockers are not guaranteed secure; therefore, personal items left in them are at the discretion of the student and not the responsibility of the school department.

School Justice

Students have the right to be treated fairly under school rules and procedures and to be informed about them. In the event of violation of a rule, the student has the right to the protection of due process.

Due Process Procedures

Eligibility to Participate in School Activities and Events

Extra-curricular activities and events are an important part of the educational experience for our students, but participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right. The variety of clubs, activities and events is extensive, and students are encouraged to become involved in one or more of these opportunities.

Participation in clubs and activities at Brockton Public Schools and attending school-sponsored, school-related events is a privilege afforded to students who remain in good standing. To participate in school activities, events and clubs, students are expected to maintain good attendance and demonstrate good behavior and citizenship during school and at school-sponsored events. Eligibility for participation in activities, events, clubs, awards, scholarships and honorary positions at Brockton Public Schools is limited to students who are currently enrolled in and attending Brockton Public Schools in good standing. Students not meeting these expectations may be excluded at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee. A student's removal from extracurricular activities and attendance at school sponsored events is not subject to the procedural requirements of M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H³/₄ (Principal's Hearing). The removal is not a suspension for the purpose of counting the school days that a student is suspended. Parents will be notified when a student is removed or excluded from extracurricular activities.

Suspensions

The Brockton Public Schools adheres to the Student Discipline Laws and Regulations as set forth in M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H, 37H¹/₂ and 37H³/₄ and 603 CMR 53.00 et seq.

In-School Suspension Procedures

A student may be removed from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for up to ten (10) consecutive school days or up to ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. Students who are placed in in-school suspension shall have the opportunity to earn credits, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the in-school suspension.

A student who is unable to consistently adhere to acceptable classroom standards in a particular class may be removed from the class permanently and assigned to a different class at the discretion of the principal and/or his/her designee.

Notice of In-School Suspension

The principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student with an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal or his/her designee determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension. If the in-school suspension exceeds ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year, the student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the principal or his/her designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension.

On the day of the suspension, the principal or his/her designee shall send written notice (by hand-delivery, certified mail, first class mail or email) to the student and parent including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting if the meeting has not already occurred. The notice shall be in English and the primary language of the home if another language is identified in the home language survey, or by other means, as appropriate.

Parent Meeting

The principal or his designee shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the principal or his/her designee is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

No Right to Appeal

The decision of the Principal or his/her designee is the final decision for in-school suspensions not exceeding ten (10) days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year.

Out of School Suspension Procedures Under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H^{3/4}

There are two types of out-of-school suspensions, Short-Term Suspensions and Long-Term Suspensions under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H^{3/4}. The principal or his/her designee shall determine the extent of the rights to be afforded the student at a disciplinary hearing based on the anticipated consequences for the disciplinary offense. If the consequence may be long-term suspension from school, the principal or his/her designee shall afford the student, additional rights as described below, in addition to those rights afforded to students who may face a short-term suspension from school. All students facing out-of-school suspension shall have the right to oral and written notice, as described below.

Notice for Any Out-of-School Suspension

Prior to suspending a student, the Principal or his/her designee will provide the student and the Parent oral and written notice of the possible suspension, an opportunity for the student to have a hearing and the opportunity of the Parent(s) to participate in the hearing. The notice will be in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English as identified in the home language survey, or by other means of communication where appropriate. The notice will set forth in plain language:

- (a) the disciplinary offense;
- (b) the basis for the charge;
- (c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- (d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the principal or his designee concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent to attend the hearing;
- (e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- (f) the right of the student and the student's parent to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;
- (g) if the student may be placed on long-term suspension following the hearing with the principal:
 1. the rights set forth in 603 CMR 53.08(3)(b); and
 2. the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent.

The principal or his/her designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. Prior to conducting a hearing without the parent present, the principal or his/her designee will document reasonable efforts to include the parent. The principal or his/her designee is presumed to have made reasonable efforts if the principal or his/her designee has sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.

Written notice to the parent may be made by hand delivery, first-class mail, certified mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and parent.

Emergency Removal of Student

Under certain emergency circumstances, it may not be practical for the principal or his/her designee to provide prior oral and written notice before removing a student from school. The principal or his/her designee may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the principal's (or his/her designee's) judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. The principal or his/her designee will immediately notify the superintendent in writing of the removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger presented by the student. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the principal shall:

- (a) Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, the potential consequences, including potential length of suspension, the opportunity for a hearing including the date/time/location of the hearing, the right to interpreter services, and other rights permitted for students who may be placed on long-term suspension as set forth in 603 CMR. 53.08(3)(b);
- (b) Provide written notice to the student and parent, including the information described in 603 CMR 53.06(2);
- (c) Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the principal or his/her designee that complies with 603 CMR 53.08(2) or 53.08(3), as applicable, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the principal, student, and parent.
- (d) Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements of 603 CMR 53.08(2)(c) and 53.08(2)(d) or 603 CMR 53.08(3)(c) and 53.08(3)(d), as applicable.

A principal will not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation.

Short-Term Suspension Procedures under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H³/₄

A Short-Term Suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive school days or less. The principal, or his/her designee, may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a short-term suspension in school. Any student facing a potential short-term suspension is entitled to a hearing with the Principal or his/her designee with the following process:

Principal Hearing - Short-Term Suspension

- (a) The purpose of the hearing with the principal or his/her designee is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction. At a minimum, the principal or his/her designee shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student also shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts that the principal or his/her designee should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate as alternatives to suspension. The principal or his/her designee shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.
- (b) Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the principal or his/her designee shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, what remedy or consequence will be imposed.
- (c) The principal or his/her designee shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal, as provided in 603 CMR 53.13(1). The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.
- (d) If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

No Right to Appeal

The decision of the Principal or his/her designee is the final decision for short-term out-of-school suspensions not exceeding ten (10) days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year.

Long-Term Suspension Procedures under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H³/₄

A Long-Term Suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year. The principal or his/her designee, may, in his or her discretion, may allow a student to serve a long-term suspension in school. Except for students who are charged with a disciplinary offense set forth in M.G.L. § 71, § 37H, or in M.G.L. § 71, § 37H¹/₂, no student may be placed on long-term suspension for one or more disciplinary offenses for more than ninety (90) school days in a school year beginning with the first day that the student is removed from school. No long-term suspension under M.G.L. ch. 71, §

37H ¾ shall extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed. Any student facing a potential long-term suspension is entitled to a hearing with the Principal or his/her designee with the following process

Principal Hearing - Long-Term Suspension

- (a) The purpose of the hearing with the principal or his/her designee is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction. At a minimum, the principal or his/her designee shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student also shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate as alternatives to suspension. The principal or his/her designee shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.
- (b) In addition to the rights afforded a student in a short-term suspension hearing, the student shall have the following additional rights:
 1. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not; the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense;
 2. The right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so;
 3. The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
 4. The right to request that the hearing be recorded by the principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made, and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.
- (c) The principal or his/her designee shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.
- (d) Based on the evidence, the principal or his/her designee shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension, what remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension. The principal or his/her designee shall send the written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent. If the principal or his/her designee decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:
 1. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
 2. Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the principal;
 3. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
 4. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school;
 5. Inform the student of the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent or designee, but only if the principal has imposed a long-term suspension. Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English as determined by the home language survey, or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information stated in plain language:
 - a) the process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days; and that the long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the superintendent decides to reverse the principal's determination on appeal.
- (e) If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the suspension takes effect.

Superintendent's Appeal Hearing under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H¾

1. A student who is placed on long-term suspension following a hearing with the principal shall have the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent.
2. The student or parent shall file a notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days. If the appeal is not timely filed, the superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.
3. The superintendent shall hold the hearing within three (3) school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent

- requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, in which case the superintendent shall grant the extension.
4. The superintendent shall make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing. The superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and superintendent to participate. The superintendent shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.
 5. The superintendent shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence shall be. The superintendent shall arrange for an audio recording of the hearing, a copy of which shall be provided to the student or parent upon request.
 6. The superintendent shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made of the hearing and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.
 7. The student shall have all the rights afforded the student at the principal's hearing for long-term suspension.
 8. The superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing which meets the requirements of 603 CMR 53.08(3) (c) 1 through 5. If the superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the principal's decision.
 9. The decision of the superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district, with regard to the suspension.

A parent conference (re-entry meeting) with the Principal or his/her designee is strongly encouraged before students who are suspended return to school. This conference will be used to promote the engagement of the parents or guardians in discussions of the student's misconduct and to assist the student in re-engaging with the school community.

Exclusion/Expulsion under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H

In accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H, a student may be excluded or expelled from school under the following circumstances:

- a. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun, a knife, or their facsimile, or anything used in the commission of assault and battery; or a controlled substance as defined in § 94 C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.
- b. Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide, or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.
- c. Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at a hearing before the principal. After said hearing, a principal may, in his/her discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).
- d. Any student who has been expelled (removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than 90 school days, indefinitely, or permanently) from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the superintendent of his/her appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.
- e. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student in an education service plan.
- f. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this section shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal.
- g. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this statute for more than ten (10) consecutive days shall have the opportunity to receive education services and made academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

Felony Complaint or Conviction Under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H½

Pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H½, the following procedures shall be implemented for students charged with or convicted of a felony:

- a. Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said principal or headmaster if said principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of this right to appeal and the reasons for such suspension taking effect. Upon expulsion of such student, no school or school district shall be required to provide educational services to the student shall also receive written notification of this right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

- b. The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town, or regional school district with regard to the suspension.
- c. Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such felony or felony delinquency, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a detrimental effect of the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.
- d. The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent, in writing, of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town, or regional school district with regard to the expulsion.
- e. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this section shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal.
- f. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this statute for more than ten (10) consecutive days shall have the opportunity to receive education services and made academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

Education Services and Academic Progress under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H, 37H½ and 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal from the classroom or school. The principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English as determined by the home language survey, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

PLEASE NOTE: IN SOME CASES, THE PRINCIPAL HAS THE PREROGATIVE, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OR DESIGNEE, TO ASSIGN STUDENTS TO AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL SETTING

Massachusetts Regulations on Physical Restraint of Students

The Massachusetts Legislature has enacted new regulations regarding the physical restraint of students. The regulations are found at 603 CMR 46.00 et seq. A copy of the Brockton Public Schools' procedure will be available at the main office of your school.

Use of Time Out Room

Building staff may utilize a time-out room in cases where students exhibit behaviors that are unsafe to themselves or others. Procedures governing the use of time-out rooms are available upon request. They include a log for documentation purposes and require parental notification. The District's use of time-outs is consistent with 603 CMR 46.00 et seq.

Citizenship

Citizenship Books, a written record of a student's behavior within the school environment, are located in the Main Office in the school. Citizenship grades will be determined by a review of the Citizenship Book. Excessive entries may result in a student receiving an F in Citizenship. Behavior that warrants a suspension from school, either in-house or out may result in an F in Citizenship.

No Idling Policy

Brockton School Committee Policy EEAF prohibits drivers from idling their vehicle for more than 5 minutes outside a school or school-supported event. The "No Idling" policy is in accordance with M.G.L., § 90, 16A and 310 CMR, 7:11, the Commonwealth's idling reduction law, which seeks to reduce the health and environmental effects of vehicle exhaust and decrease our use of fuel by reducing unnecessary idling

Smoking

"The Education Reform Act of 1993, Section 49, Subsection 37H expressly prohibits the use of any tobacco products within school buildings, school facilities, school grounds, school buses by any individual, including school personnel." This includes any form of "Vaping" and/or the use of e-cigarettes or JUULs, which are strictly prohibited. Possession of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other form of tobacco), tobacco related paraphernalia (cigarette lighters, pipes, papers and cigarette holders), or vaping products (vapor liquid or vaporizers/e-cigarettes of any kind) on school property will result in the confiscation of the tobacco related item by the Administration or Faculty and these items will not be returned.

School Policies and Procedures

It is the intention of these policies to promote an orderly and efficient educational process and to provide a school environment suitable for healthy growth and development of all students. Further, it is the purpose of these policies to protect the freedom of student expression to the fullest extent and to insure the rights of all members of the school community.

Before School

To avoid unsupervised wandering throughout the building, the responsibility of the student is as follows:

1. Enter the building at the designated time and report directly to the assigned locker and room.
2. Remain in this assigned area unless given permission to do otherwise by a teacher.

To and From School

A. The Student Code of Conduct applies to behavior while a student is on his way to or returning home from school.

After School

To insure student safety and well-being, the responsibility of the student is as follows:

1. Remain in assigned room until activity begins and at that time report to activity area.
2. Use the facilities as prescribed by the faculty sponsor when participating in school-sponsored activities.
3. Adhere to all school policies concerning behavior while in the school area
4. Leave the building immediately and directly upon completion of activity.

Emergency Move to an Alternate Site

In rare circumstances of an emergency nature, such as loss of heat, water, etc., a school may be required to move students from the home school to a pre-arranged alternate site without prior notification to the parent/guardian. In the event of such an occurrence, the school will send home with the student a notice explaining the emergency.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students have the privilege of participating in school-sponsored activities. They have the responsibility to adhere to rules, standards and qualifications set forth in order to participate in those extra-curricular activities. At the discretion of the principal, students who have chronic school offenses, who commit serious acts against the code of conduct or for other reasons, in addition to the discipline penalty, may also lose the privilege of participating in extracurricular events such as dances, field trips or other activities. Students must have a passing grade in Citizenship to participate in school-sponsored activities.

Athletics

Students have the privilege of participating on school sponsored athletic teams at the discretion of the principal. Eligibility Requirements for Athletic Participation

1. All middle school athletes must provide a current physical exam (issued within the past 13 months) and satisfy the concussion policy requirements.
2. All middle school athletes must earn a passing grade in three of the four major subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Science), and in citizenship during the last marking period preceding the contest.
3. Academic eligibility for all students shall be considered official when the report cards for that marking period have been issued to the entire student body

4. All sixth-grade students from Brockton are eligible for the fall season. Transfers and eighth graders must conform to #1. All subsequent seasons for students in Grades 6-8 (including transfer students) must conform to #1.
5. A student must be under fifteen years of age. He/she may compete during the remainder of the school year provided that his/her fifteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year. Exception to this is if both schools mutually agree prior to competition.
6. No student will be dismissed to a parent/guardian after completion of the contest unless a written letter was submitted to the Building Principal stating as such on the morning of the contest. The Principal will then notify the coach in writing.
7. Athletes who wish to participate in a contest or practice must attend school on the day of the activity.
8. Students who have more than six unexcused absences in the preceding term may be ineligible to participate in athletics.

Lockers

Students should be aware that school lockers are school property and subject to periodic inspection. There should be no expectation of privacy on the part of students in regard to lockers.

(Please be aware that in an ongoing effort to keep Brockton Schools drug-free, police dogs may be used to search for drugs, paraphernalia, and other contraband in lockers, parking lots, storage areas, and selected locations.)

On School Grounds

In order to insure student safety and well-being, students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. School rules pertaining to proper behavior are in effect on school grounds at all times.

On the Bus

It is a privilege to ride a school bus. **If students are not well behaved and not courteous, or if they endanger the health and safety of other pupils, this privilege shall be taken away from them, either temporarily or permanently.**

Since riding the school bus is a privilege and not a right, the following is expected:

1. The student code of conduct applies to behavior on the school bus.
2. The students shall remain back from the roadway and behave in an orderly manner while waiting for the bus.
3. Upon entering the bus, students must go directly to a seat and remain seated until told to leave. They shall obey the directions of the bus driver at all times. Disorderly conduct, shouting or throwing things on the bus will not be tolerated.
4. The students shall keep their arms, heads, hands, and legs inside the bus. They shall not throw anything out of the window. They shall not litter or deface the bus. They must keep aisles clear. If seat belts are available, they must be worn.
5. The emergency door is to be used for emergencies only.
6. The students shall not ride any buses other than the one to which they have been assigned.
7. After a series of warnings, the student can be permanently suspended from bus privileges.

Dress Code

Students should be dressed so that it does not interfere with their health, safety and welfare or is not distracting to the educational process:

- **HATS, BANDANAS, ROLLER BLADE SNEAKERS, COATS AND OUTER GARMENTS are not to be worn in the building at any time. They are to be placed in assigned lockers. Sweatshirts and shirts with hoods may be worn but students are not permitted to wear the hoods up or covering their heads or faces at school or on school property.**
- Cutoffs, halter-tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, pajamas, spandex clothing or any garment that reveals the midriff are not allowed. Tank top straps must be 2 inches wide.
- Skirts and shorts must measure to at least mid-thigh length. Nothing shorter is allowed. Shorts that are cut off should be reasonably hemmed. (Physical Education teachers and coaches will advise students on the proper dress for their activities.)
- Pants must be worn at or above the waist and undergarments must not be showing.
- Leggings must have appropriate coverage with a shirt or sweatshirt.
- Jeans or any other pants with rips cannot expose skin above the knee. Rips above the knee need to have fabric underneath.
- Transparent and/or low-cut blouses and shirts are not permitted.
- Flip flops are not permitted.

Any student in violation of the dress code may call a parent for appropriate clothing or sign out sweatpants and a T-shirt from the Principal's office.

In keeping with the preceding expectations, students are prohibited from wearing or displaying the following:

- Clothing which has language or designs which are explicitly violent, obscene, sexually suggestive or offensive to individuals or groups or that advertise alcohol or illegal materials.
- Memorial t-shirts are not permitted.
- Clothing, pins, insignias, colors, or emblems that identify them as a member of a gang.

- Clothing, pins, insignias, colors, or emblems that identify them as a member of a gang

Exceptions to the dress code may be made by the School administration

Fragrance Sensitivity Awareness

Perfume, cologne, and scented body sprays and lotion are common irritants that can adversely affect the health of certain individuals. Exposure to fragrance can trigger asthma, migraine headaches, and other severe health ailments in people who are sensitive to chemicals. BPS is committed to the health and safety of all students and staff. Minimizing the use of fragrances within our schools is a crucial step in creating and maintaining a healthy environment for everyone. Therefore, we kindly ask that you refrain from wearing strong smelling fragrances at school.

Physical Education Class Dress/Uniform Guidelines

Safety is a primary concern, and for that reason all Brockton Public Schools students are to be dressed appropriately for physical education class; clothing should be appropriate for the activity and non-restrictive. Footwear will be non-skid sneakers. No jewelry of any kind will be allowed on a student's body during physical education classes.

Concussion Policy

The Brockton Public Schools is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students. The following concussion policy is in compliance with MIAA policy and with the Commonwealth of M.G.L. § 111: Head Injuries and Concussion in Extracurricular Athletic Activities.

The Principal or Athletic Director shall be the person responsible for the implementation of these policies and protocols at his/her school.

As specified in the law, the Brockton Public Schools shall require annual training in the prevention and recognition of sports-related head injuries, including second impact syndrome, and keep documentation of said training on file for the following persons:

- Coaches
- Certified athletic trainers
- Volunteers
- School physicians
- School nurses
- Athletic directors
- Anyone leading an on-field activity (i.e. directors of band, cheerleading, JROTC, dancers, majorettes, color guard, etc.)
- Parents of a student who participates in an extracurricular activity
- Students who participate in an extracurricular activity

Parents and students will be required to sign a form certifying that they have read the concussion fact sheet in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Coaches, trainers and volunteers will use techniques and skills that minimize sports-related head injuries and share that information with student athletes.

Documentation of an annual physical examination of students participating in extracurricular athletic activities consistent with 105 CMR 200.000 is kept in the student's health record, which will be kept on file in the school nurse's office.

The pre-participation information required by the Department of Public Health concerning head injuries and concussions is included in the Brockton Public Schools parent consent form required of each athlete and kept on file with the trainer and the coach.

The Brockton Public Schools Concussion Policy shall be published in all Student-Parent Handbooks and on the district website, www.bpsma.org.

Evaluation Guidelines

- Any time a concussion is suspected to have occurred on school grounds or in the course of school-sponsored activity, the student will be removed from participation and will not be allowed to return the same day.
- Parents will be notified so the parent may take the student to a medical provider for appropriate medical evaluation and treatment. All head injuries and suspected concussions will be reported to the school nurse, and for high school athletes, to the certified athletic trainer on staff.
- Any time a head injury is suspected to have occurred, the coach, trainer or program director will notify the school nurse.
- The school nurse will notify the academic teachers of the affected student and provide a form with guidelines for concussion

accommodation plans.

- Evaluation and clearance by a medical provider will be required.
- Student-athletes will not return to play without the note from the medical provider and only after completion of the Return to Play Protocol followed by the athletic trainer.
- The Return to Play Protocol is a stepwise progression consistent with guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (see <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/index.html>).

All staff, coaches, volunteers, trainers, etc. who are involved with Brockton Public Schools students are responsible for following the procedures and protocols associated with this policy.

Promotion and Retention of Middle School Students

Philosophy

It is the responsibility of the educators to establish realistic and attainable standards of expectations for students to achieve in order to move to the next grade. This promotion policy is intended to be empathetic, flexible, and responsible to those students in our society who face a myriad of roadblocks hampering them in their quest for an education.

Requirements for Promotion

At the completion of the school year or summer school, a pupil must have passed three (3) of the major subjects (English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science) to move to the next grade.

A pupil must have passed at least three (3) of the following special subjects to move to the next grade:

Art	Reading	Physical Education
Computers	Foreign Language	Music
Health	Technology Education	

In order to be promoted to high school, a pupil must have passed both English and Mathematics, and one of the major subjects: Science or Social Science, in order to be promoted to Grade 9.

Advanced students must maintain a B- average and have scored proficient or above on the most recent MCAS test administration in order to be selected for Honors courses at Brockton High School. If summer school is required for a student, the principal or guidance counselor will contact the parent.

Homework Policy

Homework is defined as written or non-written tasks assigned by a teacher to be completed outside the classroom. These assignments should complement class work and be relevant to the curriculum. Homework is a natural extension of the school day and an important part of a child's educational experience. It encourages self-discipline, pride in one's work, positive self-esteem, and an interest in learning. Homework reinforces the Brockton home/school connection. Well-implemented homework activities will improve the learning process, aid in the mastery of skills, stimulate interest, and assist students to become lifelong learners.

Homework assignments may range from independent student work to group projects. Assignments should increase in complexity with the maturity of the students. The time to be devoted to homework each day should be consistent for each school at each grade, with the time requirement increasing by grade level. Homework should begin with a few minutes in kindergarten to a maximum of ninety minutes per day, four days a week, in grade six. At the secondary level, the complexity of assignments and the time required to accomplish them will increase again, to a maximum of two hours per day in grades seven and eight.

Assignments should take into consideration the variables among students such as differences in health, ability, and educational resources at home. Outside resources needed to complete homework assignments should, for the most part, be limited to those available in most homes, school libraries, or the public libraries, and should be required only after students have had instruction in the use of such materials. Homework in the Brockton Public Schools will not be used as a form of punishment under any circumstances. Pleasure reading is a strong component of academic success and should be encouraged above and beyond regular homework assignments.

GRADE	EXPECTED RANGES FOR HOMEWORK			
6	90-120 minutes a day	18-24 minutes a day per subject (on average)	4 times	a week
7	90-120 minutes a day	18-24 minutes a day per subject (on average)	4 times	a week
8	90-120 minutes a day	18-24 minutes a day per subject (on average)	4 times	a week

Student Responsibilities

- Develop the habit of recording directions for homework and asking questions for clarification.
- Complete homework assignments accurately, neatly, and on time.
- Complete assignments missed because of absence within a reasonable time.

Parent Responsibilities

- Sign and return the parent’s signature page after reviewing the homework policy.
- Respond to the school’s request for support of stated expectations for homework for a given year.
- Expect daily assignments beginning with grade two and insist that students complete them regularly.
- Review progress on long-term assignments periodically.
- Provide a suitable study atmosphere for students that is quiet, well-lighted and supervised periodically.
- Maintain the home/school connection through calls and conferences.
- Show interest in the homework being done and assist when needed.
- Insure that the product is the child’s own work.
- Take part in the child’s learning by providing enriching experiences outside the school day.
- Encourage pleasure reading above and beyond specific homework assignments.

School Attendance Policy

In the past few years, schools and students have been made more accountable for academic performance. Schools and districts must now produce annual school report cards documenting academic progress and attendance of students. Attendance has a direct bearing on how well a student performs academically. It is obvious that if students are not in school, they are missing valuable instruction. With that increased accountability in mind, the Brockton Public School has instituted the following middle school attendance policy. For the vast majority of our students who attend school regularly, the policy will have no adverse effect.

- Students will automatically fail all subjects upon the sixth absence in a marking term. (If the student would have passed except for attendance, he/she receives a 59 for averaging with other marking terms.)
- Students who arrive to school after 11:30 am will be marked as ABSENT.
- Students who are dismissed before 11:30 am will be marked as ABSENT.
- The principal may waive the automatic failure on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation for the absences. Requests for waivers must occur before the end of the marking term in question.

Proper documentation

1. For illness
 - a. A call to school on the day of the absence,
 - b. A note from the parent upon the child’s return,
 - c. A doctor’s note (if the student was taken to a doctor)
 - d. In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician’s statement certifying such absences to be justified.
 - e. In the event of a pandemic, such as COVID-19, other credible evidence may, at the discretion of the building administrator or his/her designee, be accepted in lieu of a doctor’s note in support of a waiver of unexcused absence from school.
2. Death or serious family illness
 - a. A call to school on the day of the absence,
 - b. A note from the parent detailing the reason for the absence
3. Other situations
 - a. Whatever the principal deems necessary to excuse the absence
 - All missed work must be made up within five school days upon the student’s return to school.
 - A waiver shall be given for vacations only once during a student’s middle school tenure and such waiver shall not exceed five school days. A note must be given to the principal at least one month in advance. No vacation waivers will be issued during the MCAS testing period to any student involved in the MCAS program. No waivers will be given during final exam week. No credit shall be given unless all work is completed satisfactorily by any student accepting a waiver.

Attendance at Evening School Functions

Students who do not have an excused absence from school during the day are not eligible to attend school functions in the afternoon or evening.

Absence

Absent students are expected to bring a note from their parent or guardian upon day of return from absence(s). The note should state day(s), date(s), and reason for absence in addition to the signature of the parent or guardian. Students who are absent 5 consecutive days or more must present a doctor’s certificate or be examined by the school physician or school nurse before readmission to school.

If a student has at least five (5) days in which he/she has missed two (2) or more periods unexcused in a school year, or if a student has missed five (5) or more school days unexcused in a school year, the school principal or his/her designee shall make reasonable effort to meet with the parent or guardian of the student to develop action steps for the student's attendance. These action steps shall be developed jointly and agreed upon by the school principal or his/her designee, the student and the student's parent or guardian and with input from other relevant school personnel and officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing and nonprofit agencies.

Tardiness

Students who arrive for school after 8:05 a.m. will be considered tardy and are expected to have a note or bring a note the following day signed by the parent or guardian as to the reasons for tardiness. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated and will result in detention/suspension. The principal will require a meeting with a parent or guardian for excessive tardiness.

Dismissal

No student is to be dismissed early unless a written note signed by the parent or guardian is brought to the office stating date, time, and reason for dismissal. The parent or guardian has the responsibility of making this request and picking up the child from school. The principal or his designee may allow exceptions. Once a student arrives on school grounds, they may not leave without being dismissed by a parent. Failure to abide by this proviso may result in disciplinary action.

PLEASE NOTE: Adults who are not listed on a, emergency form MAY NOT dismiss a student from school without a photo ID AND prior verbal/written permission from the parent/guardian

Hazing

It is the policy of the Brockton Public Schools to promote and maintain an educational environment that is free from any form of hazing practices. Hazing is against the law and will not be tolerated by the Brockton Public Schools.

Section 269 of the M.G.L. includes the following three sections relative to the prohibition on hazing:

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such person or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to oneself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes,

pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

It is the policy of the School Committee to prohibit any and all forms of bullying in all schools in compliance with M.G.L. c.71, §37O. The School Committee is committed to providing an educational environment which is free from bullying and cyberbullying. Bullying/cyberbullying is the unwelcome, written, electronic, verbal or physical act or gesture where a student feels intimidated, coerced, harassed, or threatened by a student or staff member. Parents/ guardians who feel that their child is the victim of bullying/cyberbullying, or the students themselves, may contact any member of the school staff who will immediately report the incident to the school leadership team. The designated member of the leadership team will conduct an investigation and will communicate with the parents/guardians of the target(s) and perpetrator(s) throughout the process. At the conclusion of the investigation process at the school level, the investigation form will be sent to the school system's Equity Officer. The Chief Officer for Student Support Services is the designated Equity Officer for cases involving students.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as "the repeated use by one or more students or a member of a school staff, including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to oneself or of damage to one's property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyberbullying."

Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is defined as "bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying."

Bullying shall be prohibited

(i) on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a school district or school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school district or school and (ii) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Nothing contained herein shall require schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or programs.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited. Students who wish to report bullying or other activities that concern them to school administrators and School Police may do so using TipSoft SMS, a text- and web-based anonymous tip line. Middle school

students can text 274637, type in their school's keyword and type in their message. The system can also be accessed through the district website, at <https://www.bpsma.org/parents-community/bullying-information/tipsoft-sms>. Making false allegations, providing discriminatory statements, and making defamatory statements is prohibited and engaging in such activity will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

The Brockton Public School District understands that members of certain student groups, such as students with disabilities, students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, and homeless students may be more vulnerable to becoming targets of bullying, harassment, or teasing. The Brockton Public Schools will take specific steps to create a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and provide all students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment or teasing.

Threats

Making any threats verbally, written, through a third party, through any Social Media platform, text messages, or with gestures will result in a due process hearing with a possibility of long term suspension or other disciplinary consequences

Search of persons/property

To safeguard the property and lives of our students, staff and administration, to help prevent the possession, sale and use of illegal drugs on the school premises, and to support the school's prohibition of possessing weapons on the school premises, the Brockton Public Schools reserves the right to search the person and/or property of students and visitors. Therefore, any person entering the premises of our school will be deemed to have conceded to a reasonable search of their person and effects. School administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on the school property of lockers, desks, vehicles and personal belongings such as purses, book bags, wallets and satchels for these purposes.

Cell phone/electronic device searches

The search of cell phones or electronic devices for pictures, text messages, video, audio, uploaded and downloaded online materials, pertinent to a specific investigation regarding a violation of Brockton Public Schools policy or procedure is permissible if the search is reasonable in its inception and justified in its scope. Acceptable searches may include, but are not limited to:

- Video and pictures of assaults and fighting
- Evidence of harassment/intimidation/bullying
- Graffiti/destruction of property
- Possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances, illegal drugs, or alcohol
- Identification of ownership of stolen or lost devices

If a search of an electronic device is found to contain evidence pertinent to an investigation, the school administration has the sole discretion to hold on to the device, contact the police, or give the device to law enforcement officials.

Use of Surveillance Cameras

The Brockton Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment. The district uses surveillance cameras when necessary in school buildings, buses, and/or on school grounds. The purpose of the surveillance cameras within the school district is to promote discipline, health, welfare and safety of staff and students, as well as that of the general public. Surveillance cameras are only utilized in public areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Students observed by video surveillance in acts which break school district policy, procedures, or code of conduct guidelines will be subject to the consequences or sanctions imposed for violating those policies, procedures or code of conduct guidelines, which may include criminal charges. Surveillance cameras are monitored by district staff and local law enforcement. Viewing of any surveillance camera footage or recordings by anyone other than district staff is only allowed with the expressed consent of the Brockton Police Department.

Code of Conduct Provisions for Students with Disabilities

Procedures for suspension(s) not exceeding 10 school days

- Any student with a disability may be suspended for up to ten (10) school days during a school year. Disciplinary decisions are the same as for students without disabilities and in accordance with the due process procedures in this handbook.
- The school provides additional procedural safeguards for students with disabilities prior to any suspension beyond 10 consecutive days or more than 10 cumulative days (if there is a pattern of suspension) in any school year.

Procedures for suspension(s) exceeding 10 school days

- If your child is suspended for more than 10 school days in a school year, this removal may be considered a “change of placement”. A change of placement invokes certain procedural protections under federal special education law and Section 504.
- Federal law defines a “change of placement” as:
 - Removal for more than 10 consecutive school days; OR
 - A series of removals that constitute a pattern 1) because the series of removals total more than 10 cumulative days in a school year; 2) because the student’s behavior is substantially similar to that in previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals; and 3) because of such additional factors as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another. Please note that determination of whether a pattern of removals is a “change of placement” is made by the District.
- Prior to any removal that constitutes a change in placement, the school must convene a meeting to determine whether or not the behavior that forms the basis of the disciplinary action is manifestation of your child’s disability. Parents have a right to participate in this meeting. At the meeting, all relevant information will be considered including the IEP or Section 504 Plan, teacher observations, and evaluations reports.
- At a manifestation determination meeting, the team will consider two questions:
 - Did the student’s disability cause or have a direct and substantial relationship to the conduct in question?
 - Was the conduct a direct result of the district’s failure to implement the IEP/Section 504 Plan?
- If the manifestation determination decision is that the conduct in question was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to your child’s disability OR a direct result of the district’s failure to implement the IEP/Section 504 Plan, then your child may not be removed from the current educational placement (unless under the special circumstances or parents agree). The Team will review the IEP or Section 504 Plan and any behavioral intervention plans and may amend those plans as appropriate. The Team will complete a functional behavior assessment and behavior intervention plan if it has not already done so.
- If the manifestation determination decision is that the conduct in question was NOT caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to your child’s disability OR was NOT the direct result of the district’s failure to implement the IEP/Section 504 Plan, then the school may suspend or otherwise discipline your child according to the school’s code of conduct. The Team may, as appropriate, complete a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention plan and modification, to address the behavior so that it does not recur. For students with IEPs, during the period of time of removal from school that exceeds 10 school days, the school district must provide educational services that allow your child to continue to make educational progress. For students with Section 504 Plans, there is no automatic right to receive educational services beyond the 10th school day of suspension under federal law, however, state law does provide all students with the rights to receive educational services during periods of suspensions lasting longer than ten days.

Special circumstances for exclusion

Special circumstances exist if your child: 1) possesses, uses, sells or solicits illegal drugs on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event; 2) carries a weapon to school or a school-sponsored event; or, 3) inflicts serious bodily harm upon another person at school or a school-sponsored event. Under these circumstances, the principal may place your child in an interim alternate educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days. Your child may remain in this IAES for a period of time not to exceed 45 school days. Thereafter, your child will return to the previously agreed-upon placement unless a hearing officer has ordered another placement, or you and the school agree to another placement. For students with Section 504 Plans, there is no automatic right to receive educational services beyond the 10th school day of suspension under federal law, however, state law does provide all students with the rights to receive educational services during periods of suspensions lasting longer than ten days.

School personnel will provide Parent’s Notice of Procedural Safeguards (Special Education) or Notice of Parent and Student Rights under Section 504 for students with disabilities prior to any suspension constituting a change in placement. These notices will provide an explanation of the process should there be disagreement regarding the manifestation determination or any placement decision. Parent, guardian and/or student may petition Bureau of Special Education Appeals for a hearing or the Office of Civil Rights (Section 504).

Procedural requirements applied to students not yet determined to be eligible for Special Education or a 504 Plan

1. If, prior to the disciplinary action, a district had knowledge that the student may be a student with a disability, then the district makes all protections available to the student until and unless the student is subsequently determined not to be eligible. The district may be considered to have prior knowledge if:
 - a. The parent had expressed concern in writing; or
 - b. The parent had requested an evaluation; or
 - c. Specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student. The district may not be considered to have had prior knowledge if the parent has not consented to evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student has resulted in a determination of ineligibility.

2. If the district had no reason to consider the student disabled, and the parent requests an evaluation subsequent to the disciplinary action, the district must have procedures consistent with federal requirements to conduct an expedited evaluation to determine eligibility.
3. If the student is found eligible for an IEP or 504 Plan, then one receives all procedural protections subsequent to the finding of eligibility.

Penalties for Violations of School Rules

Students are subject to the Code of Conduct in school, on school property, on the way to and from school, on field trips, at athletic contests, at PAC/PTA and school-sponsored events, and on school- provided transportation. Students are also subject to the Code of Conduct during Remote Learning times.

The Brockton Public Schools adheres to the regulations regarding student code of conduct and access to education that are embodied in Chapter 222 of the Acts of 2012, and made effective July 1, 2014.

BPS policies and procedures regarding student conduct

- Require the use of discretion and professional judgment;
- Respect the rights of students and families to due process, including the right to notice, opportunity to be heard before consequences are imposed, and fairness, including consideration of the unique circumstances presented;
- Consider the use of alternatives to suspension;
- Allow students the opportunity to make academic progress during time of suspension;

Overall, BPS practice regarding student code of conduct seeks to provide a supportive school environment in which students have opportunities to mature and develop into responsible citizens, while respecting the need to maintain a safe and orderly school community.

The following is a list of the more common Middle School offenses and the appropriate actions which may be taken by school officials in accordance with the due process procedures described in this handbook. The Code of Conduct is based on a system of progressive discipline. This means that an administrator has the discretion to significantly increase penalties in the cases of second and third offenses. In determining the severity of the penalty or suspension, the appropriate administrator must use his/her discretion and consider all relevant facts and mitigating circumstances, including but not limited to:

- previous disciplinary record
- severity of disruption to the educational process
- degree of danger to self and/or others
- the degree to which the student is willing to change his/her inappropriate behavior.

The Principal may increase the consequences as appropriate.

Please note: in some cases, after a disciplinary hearing, the principal has the prerogative to refer students to the pupil personnel director for placement in an alternative school setting. Students who are suspended for 10-days for violating school rules and the rights of others may be requested to serve their suspension in the Counseling and Intervention Center at the Keith School, where the student will have the opportunity to make academic progress.

Accessing Inappropriate Material on the Internet/Violations of Internet Acceptable Use Policy and/or Responsible Use Policy and Guidelines

Internet use is a privilege not a right, which may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct. Any student who downloads and displays inappropriate material will be subject to disciplinary action.

Penalty

Office referral, detention or suspension, depending on the situation, parental notification, and possible loss of computer privileges.

Alcohol

A student will not knowingly possess, use, transmit, transport, hold for others or be under the influence of alcohol.

1. On the school grounds during and immediately before or after school hours;
2. On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group; or
3. Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.

Penalty

First Offense: suspension of 1-5 days, mandatory parental conference, mandatory participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation program, and notification to School Police

Subsequent Offenses: suspension of 5-10 days, mandatory parental conference, mandatory participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation program, and notification to School Police.

Arson

Setting fire to or substantially damaging any school building or property.

Penalty

Short-term or long-term suspension, referral to School Police and the Brockton Fire Department. Should arson result in issuance of felony charges as to the student, the student may be subject to long-term suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H½.

Assault/Battery (On Staff)

Penalty

Short-term or long-term, parental notification, notification to School Police, and possible referral to an alternative education setting. Additionally, long-term suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H

Back Talk, Disrespect, or Insolence to Staff

Students are responsible for showing respect for the authority of teachers. Students must use only acceptable and courteous language.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension, long-term suspension depending on the circumstances

Being in the Building Prior to or After School

A. Unauthorized Entry

Students are not allowed in the building before or after school hours without permission from a teacher, staff member, or administrator.

B. Trespassing

The wrongful entry on school property: Students who enter the school building or are on any school grounds while on suspension are trespassing. Such student is in violation of the law (M.G.L. 26S, s. 123, 272, § 39.) The appropriate legal authorities will be notified.

Penalty

Detention, short-term or long-term suspension, depending on the circumstances

Bullying/Cyberbullying

All forms of bullying and cyberbullying by Brockton Middle School students or school staff members are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying or cyberbullying in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline. This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated vehicles; while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct creates a hostile environment or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or orderly operation of the school. Any student who retaliates against another student reporting bullying or extortion or for assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing may be subject to disciplinary action including detention, in-school suspension, short-term suspension or long-term suspension.

Cell Phones

Students may use not cell phones inside the building at any time. Phones and all functions must be kept turned off at all times inside the building. Phones may be used outside the building prior to the official start of school and after the end of the school day. They must be kept in lockers, book bags or purses; they may not be visible on the student's person at any time. A student who fails to follow this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or any type of electronic devices. Students who carry these items do so at their own risk.

Videotaping, taking pictures of, and recording students and staff while in school is NOT ALLOWED.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension, depending on the circumstances

Cafeteria Offense

Any violation of cafeteria procedures will result in disciplinary action.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension, depending on the circumstances and frequency

Cheating

Using unfair means to achieve academic success

Penalty

First offense: after school, teacher/student conference, possible academic consequence, parental notification

Second and subsequent offenses: office referral/detention, parental notification, possible academic consequence, short-term suspension or long-term suspension.

Consistent Abuse of School Rules (Chronic School Offender)

Multiple offenses

Penalty

Parental conference/notification, detention, short –term suspension, long-term suspension, parental conference upon return from suspension, possible exclusion from school functions and activities.

Controlled Substances (Drugs)

Any student who is found in possession or under the influence of a controlled substance including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and inhalants is in violation of both the law and school regulations.

Penalty

- Students may be subject to long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H,
- Students who are subject to short-term suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion may be referred to the Counseling and Intervention Center at the Keith School as a condition of readmission to their respective school or may be subject to other conditions for readmission.
- Students 17 years of age and older who are found with packaged narcotics may be referred to law enforcement for selling/distributing drugs within a school zone
- Students may be subject to drug screening and a follow-up analysis indicating decreased drug usage, paid for at their parents' expense, as a condition for readmission to their respective schools
- Students may be required to participate in a mandatory rehabilitation program at their parents' expense as a condition for readmission to their respective schools

Cutting Classes

Penalty

First and subsequent offenses: office referral, parental notification, detention, suspension

Dismissal from Detention Room

Poor behavior in detention will not be tolerated. Students must behave appropriately.

Penalty

Additional detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on circumstances

Dismissal Policy

Early dismissal from school impacts your child's learning; therefore, no student is to be dismissed early unless a written note, signed by the parent or guardian, is brought to the office stating the date, time and reason for the dismissal. The parent or guardian has the responsibility of making this request and picking up the child from school. The principal or his/her designee may allow exceptions.

Please note: Dismissals will not be permitted 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day. Adults dismissing children must present a photo ID and be listed on the emergency form. A written note, signed by the parent or guardian should be sent to the office stating the date, time, and reason for the dismissal.

Disruption (Classroom)

Actions which disrupt the educational process are never acceptable. Students, who continually talk, make noises, throw objects, deface or mar classroom materials, and who are disobedient will be subject to disciplinary action.

Penalty

Teacher detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the circumstances and frequency

Disruption (School Wide)

A student will not engage in conduct, nor urge other students to engage in conduct, by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct for the purpose of causing the substantial and material disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process or function of the school. Any student intentionally causing such disruption may be suspended and reported to legal authorities.

The following illustrate some of the offenses:

- 1) Occupying any school building, school grounds or parts thereof with intent to deprive others of its use;
- 2) Blocking the entrance or exit of any school building or corridor or room therein with intent to deprive others of lawful access to or from, or use of, the building, room, or corridor;
- 3) Making a bomb threat or a substantial threat to the safety of a school building or school function. (Student will be required to attend outside-of-school counseling and/or anger management classes.)
- 4) A physical act that prevents the convening or continued functioning of any school, class or activity, or of any lawful meeting or assembly on the school campus;
- 5) Except under the direct instruction of the principal, blocking normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school grounds; and

- 6) Continuously and intentionally making noise or acting in any manner so as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct a class. (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 272, § 40)
- 7) Blatant disregard for reasonable requests or directives

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the circumstances. The school also reserves the right to issue long-term suspension or expulsion under M.G.L. ch. 71, secs. 37H and 37H ½ as appropriate should conduct result in assault on staff or issuance of felony charges.

Electronic Devices

Pagers, CD players, headphones, iPhones, iPads, MP3 players, tape recorders, radios, cell phones, cameras, video games and other digital communication devices may not be used in the school building during normal school hours. These devices must be turned off and not be visible at any time. If this policy is not followed, the item may be confiscated and returned to the parent after contact has been made. In addition, the student will be subject to disciplinary action. **Laser pointers, e-cigarettes or JUULs are not allowed at any time. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or any type of electronic devices. Students who carry these items do so at their own risk.**

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension, depending on the circumstances

Endangering: Unauthorized use of Matches, Flammables, Extinguishers, Etc.

Penalty

Parental conference/notification, detention, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and/or referral to the Brockton Fire Department.

Excessive Roughness

Students must respect each other's rights, safety and personal space. Those who engage in excessive roughness will be subject to discipline.

Penalty

Detention short-term suspension or long-term suspension, depending on circumstances.

Extortion

Extortion is the act of obtaining money or other property from a person by use of force, coercion, or threats of bodily harm. In order to protect students from possible extortion, any passing of money, for whatever reason, between students will be considered a violation of this rule, and may result in suspension at the discretion of the principal.

Penalty

Short-term suspension, long-term suspension, notification of School Police.

Please note: If a student is approached by another student and asked for money or other property under threat of physical harm, the student should report the incident immediately to the nearest teacher, counselor, staff member, or administrator.

Failure to Follow Bus Regulations

See section on bus regulations, pages 20 & 21.

Penalty

First and subsequent offenses: office referral, parental notification, possible loss of bus privileges, short-term suspension or long-term suspension.

Failure to Report for Disciplinary Action

Penalty

Additional detention time leading up to suspension and parental notification.

Failure to Return Forms/Notes

During the course of the year, all students will be required to return various forms/notes (report cards, warning blanks, signed tests, absence notes, etc.) Failure to do so within a reasonable time will result in disciplinary action.

Penalty

Teacher detention up to suspension depending on the circumstances.

False Fire Alarm

Any student who causes or attempts to cause a false fire alarm or who engages a fire extinguisher will face disciplinary action.

Penalty

Short-term suspension, long-term suspension, referral to School Police and the Brockton Fire Department.

Fighting

Students involved in or instigating fighting, wrestling, or punching are subject to **Penalty**. All students involved in a fight will be subject to discipline.

Penalty

Short-term suspension, long-term suspension, depending on the nature and severity of the circumstances.

Fireworks (Possession)

The laws of the state prohibit fireworks entering the state for individual use. Possession of fireworks is prohibited.

Penalty

Confiscation, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, notification of School Police.

Forgery (Parent or Staff Signature)

Forgery is the act of signing another name falsely in order to deceive.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension, long-term suspension depending on the circumstance, possible notification of School Police.

Gambling

Penalty

First and subsequent offenses: office referral, detention, parental notification, short-term suspension, long-term suspension.

Gang Activity

Any gang-related activities.

Penalty

Short-term suspension, long-term suspension, referral to School Police

Gum Chewing or Eating Candy

All food and snacks are to be consumed in the cafeteria.

Penalty

Penalties begin at teacher detention and lead to office referral-detention parental notification

Harassment/Civil Rights Discrimination

Harassment of other students will not be allowed.

Penalty

Disciplinary measures in response to harassment or civil rights discrimination may include but not be limited to office referral, parental conference/notification, possible notification of School Police, detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the severity of the harassment. Students who are suspended for up to 10 days for violating school rules and the rights of others may be requested to serve their suspension in the Counseling and Intervention Center at the Keith School, where the student will be have the opportunity to make academic progress.

Hate Crimes

Violating the civil rights of others by making racial or religious slurs or wearing pins, clothing, or displaying symbols commonly associated with racial or religious slurs will not be allowed. This includes inappropriate markings on books, clothing, or exposed skin.

Penalty

Short-term suspension, long-term suspension, parental notification, notification to School Police, possible referral to an alternative education setting for further evaluation. Should the conduct result in issuance of felony charges, the District reserves the right to issue further disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H½.

Hazing

See pages 21 & 22.

Penalty

Short-term suspension, long-term suspension.

Mistreatment of another Student

A. Abuse

Penalty

Office referral, parental conference/notification, detention, short-term suspension, long-term suspension.

B. Assault

Penalty

First and subsequent offenses: Office referral, notification to School Police, short term or long-term suspension

Non-Compliance

Students who knowingly disobey staff members and/or administrators or who refuse to follow disciplinary procedures will face further disciplinary action

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension, depending on circumstances.

Opening Outside Door/Admitting People into the Building

Students who open an outside door without permission from an authorized person for the purpose of admitting someone make themselves liable for suspension. Following the official start time, anyone entering the building must do so through the authorized doors only.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the circumstances.

Over the Counter Products

All medicines, including over-the-counter products, should be administered in school only by the School Nurse. Any student who possesses, distributes, or uses over-the-counter substances may be subject to school discipline.

Penalty

First and subsequent offenses: office referral, parental notification, confiscation, detention short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the circumstances.

Profanity/Vulgarity

Vulgar language, swearing, racial epithets, or derogatory remarks will not be tolerated. This includes verbal expression, written notes, and obscene gestures.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the circumstances.

Reporting to any Class or Study Unprepared

Penalty

Teacher detention, parental notification by teacher.

Sexting

Sexting: the possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfers or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person possessing, taking, disseminating or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this Code of Conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Penalty

Short term or long-term suspension; Possible Referral to School Police

Smoking or use of Tobacco

See page 16.

Penalty

Detention up to a 3-day suspension, notification to parent.

Tardiness (To Class)

Students are expected to arrive to class on time.

Penalty

First and second offense: make up time and work missed after school with teacher, parental notification by teacher

Third and subsequent offenses: office referral – detention

Tardiness (To School)

The school doors open at 7:40 A.M. and students are expected to be in their homerooms by 8:05 A.M. Attendance is taken and messages are read during the morning homeroom period; therefore, being on time is very important. **Habitual tardiness may result in suspension.**

Penalty

First and second offenses: warning

Third and fourth offenses: detention, parental notification

Fifth offense: parental conference, possible referral to School Attendance Officer

Theft

The taking of personal or school property by any student without permission is prohibited.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on circumstances, possible referral to School Police

Throwing Objects

Because of the danger of causing injury to another person, either on purpose or accidentally, any student reported for throwing any object is liable for disciplinary action.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension, depending on circumstances.

Truancy

Truancy is an unwarranted absence from school with or without parental permission.

Penalty

First and subsequent offenses: detention, parental conference/notification, notification to Supervisor of Attendance, possible in-school suspension.

Unauthorized Leaving of the Building

Leaving the school building without administrative knowledge and permission.

Penalty

Office referral, detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the situation, parental conference/notification

Unauthorized use of Rest Room

No student is permitted in the boys' or girls' room without a pass from a staff member unless it is during school-approved times.

Penalty

Detention, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on the circumstances and frequency

Use of Lockers at Unauthorized Times

Students should use lockers only at the authorized times.

Penalty

Teacher detention, up to office referral, detention, and parental notification

Vandalism, Defacing Desks, Walls, Etc.

The marking of walls, desks, books, graffiti, and the damaging or destruction of property is vandalism.

Penalty

Cleanup, parental notification, detention, notification of School Police, restitution, short-term suspension or long-term suspension depending on circumstances, severity and frequency.

Violation of Dress Code

See pages 17 & 18

Penalty

Notification of parents and corrective action.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments (Real or Simulated)

Students found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to a gun or knife, on school premises or at a school related event, may be subject to suspension or expulsion in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H. In these instances, parents and school police will also be notified.

Students found to be in possession of non-dangerous weapons or dangerous instruments (real or simulated) may be subject to office referral, parental notification, confiscation, notification of School Police, short-term suspension and/or long-term suspension.

Examples of weapons include but are not limited to guns, ammunition, knives, razors, switchblades, screwdrivers, chains, bricks, rocks, ropes, lighters, matches, water guns, incendiary devices, lasers, shod foot, etc.

All principals are to immediately notify the Executive Director of Middle Schools of serious offenses, including all weapon offenses.

PLEASE NOTE: The School Department reserves the right to:

1. Mandate Behavior Contracts for habitual offenders;

2. transfer students to an alternative program or to another school after due process is provided according to the Student Code of Conduct; and/or
3. M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H½ allows the principal of a secondary school to suspend a student who has been charged with a felony or is the subject of a felony delinquency complaint. This statute also allows the principal to expel a student who has been convicted, adjudicated, or admitted guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency, if the principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The Brockton School Committee policy is to uphold and enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relating to the unlawful possession and unlawful distribution of controlled substances and alcoholic beverages.

The School Drug/Alcohol Policy established for the Brockton Public Schools is based upon the concept that the role of the school is basically educational and rehabilitative. Consequently, the major concerns of the school with regard to drug and alcohol use and abuse are the welfare of the individual student and the general welfare of the school population; however, in order to safeguard individual and general welfare and safety, the school may at times initiate medical, psychological, social and legal safeguards in the case of drug and alcohol abuse.

It should be noted that under Massachusetts Law, counterfeit substances are to be treated the same as an actual drug or contraband.

A. Search for Contraband Materials

1. Search of Lockers

According to an opinion by the Attorney General, under the circumstances of a clear and present danger to individual and general well-being and/or to the maintenance of discipline and order in the school, the principal and designee shall have the right and duty to inspect students' lockers and the contents therein without prior judicial authorization or police participation. Courts have generally held that the school principal has a reasonable right of inspection of school property and premises including student lockers and desks. **(Please be aware that in an ongoing effort to keep Brockton Public Schools drug-free, police dogs may be used to search for drugs, paraphernalia, and other contraband in lockers, parking lots, storage areas, and selected locations.)**

2. Search of Students

School administrative staff members who have reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is in possession of contraband materials may search that student's individual person or any belongings on his/her person in the presence of a witness. The administrator may search clothing, pockets, wallets, purses, etc. The police shall make such search only where this is proper legal justification.

B. Rights of Questioned Students

Parents will be notified in any interview/interrogation situation by a police officer which carries an implication of possible allegation of guilt or the furnishing of information leading to an indictment. The designated official of the school will maintain an informal record of the interview showing the time, place, persons, and summary of discussion and findings.

C. Readmission to School: Policies and Procedures

1. Policy

a. Right to Readmission

Students suspended from school have the right to be readmitted unless they have been permanently excluded from school in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H or M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H½.

b. Conditions for readmission may include:

1. There should be evidence that the student and the family have taken steps to seek solutions for the problems that were the basis for the suspension.
2. The terms of the student's readmission should be evaluated with regard to continued treatment, counseling, medical care, and other rehabilitative efforts.
3. The school staff has an obligation to work closely with the medical/psychiatric professionals, social workers, probation consultants, and other agencies that have been working with the student.
4. Readmissions should be predicated primarily on the basis that
 - a) Readmission constitutes a positive benefit to the student.
 - b) Readmission will not adversely affect the school population.

D. Parental Involvement

Where medical or psychiatric treatment of the pupil is indicated, the primary responsibility for making such arrangements and carrying them out shall lie with the parents. However, the school is ready to assist the parent, at any stage, in securing whatever care is indicated.

E. Confidentiality

Teachers must make it clear to pupils who confide in them information about their personal drug or alcohol problems that it is the duty of the teacher to report this information to the school principal or designee, but only in order to further the goal of promoting the pupils' personal welfare and the security of the school.

This policy will remove any doubts as to whether or not the teacher will maintain confidentiality in regard to this information.

In all instances where the principal or designee has received information of drug/alcohol involvement on the part of pupils, steps should be taken to advise the pupil that his parents must be notified and consulted about further actions that are appropriate in the particular situation.

It should be recognized that the Massachusetts laws do not accord any privilege to the confidential communications that are made between pupils and members of the faculty or the school administration. These school personnel can be subpoenaed into court and required to reveal information that has been confided to them.

Internet Use

Internet Access: Acceptable Use Policy

The purpose of these guidelines regarding network access, email and Internet usage is to make certain that all who use these resources, both students and faculty, do so in an appropriate manner. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for abuse of this privilege. Violations of this policy may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

The primary purpose of the Internet connection is educational. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. All data stored or transmitted on any district electronic device or transmitted from any device on the district network may be monitored, retrieved, downloaded, printed, copied at any time and without notice, as staff and students have no right to privacy with regard to such data. This information may be disclosed to others, including law enforcement agencies.

Users are not permitted to

- harass, insult, threaten, bully or attack others from home or school computers
- send or display offensive or false materials, messages or pictures
- use obscene language
- use the network to perform any illegal or unethical act
- violate copyright laws or plagiarize
- use another's password or access another's folders, files or documents
 - employ the network for commercial purposes
 - damage computers, computer systems or computer networks

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

The Brockton Public Schools complies with FCC regulations as specified in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA-P.L. 106-554) by providing filtering on all computers that students use.

The Middle School reserves the right to suspend computer use for any student. Violations may also result in other disciplinary or legal action as appropriate.

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to all Remote Learning Platforms.

Student Record Regulations

Student Record

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that provides two basic rights to parents with regard to student records.

1. The right to inspect and review their child's education records
2. The right to prevent unauthorized persons from seeing the same records

The Commonwealth's student record regulations are designed to ensure parents and students the right to confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records, and to assist school authorities in carrying out their responsibilities under state and federal law. To request records, please send a written request to your child's school and/or to the Student Support Services department.

A student's record is any information that is kept about the student in school (examples: grades, test scores, attendance). It is important for parents to keep the school apprised of any change in their student's information, whether it be address, phone number, etc. ... The student record is made up of the "transcript" (name, address, courses taken, credits, and grades) and the "temporary record" (progress reports, test scores, class rank, extracurricular activities and any other relevant education information). Please be advised that the temporary student record shall be reviewed by the principal or designee at the end of each academic school year, at which

time misleading, outdated, or irrelevant information contained therein shall be destroyed. Parents and/or eligible students who wish to obtain a copy of their temporary student record prior to such destruction shall make sure request to the school principal in writing prior to the end of the academic school year at issue. Note: this policy applies to student records generated during remote learning.

For students 14 years old or older, the rights below belong to the students and their parents or guardian. For students 18 years old or older, the rights below belong to the students alone if they request in writing that only they, and not their parents or guardians, should have these rights. For students under 14 the rights below belong only to their parents or guardians.

- a) Seeing a student's records - Parents/guardians have the right to see and have copies made of all materials in the record within two weekdays of the request. The school may not charge more than the cost of the copies. As required by M.G.L. ch. 71, § 34H, a non-custodial parent may have access to the student record in accordance with the law and Department of Education Regulations. The school district will follow the law and the attachments recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Education to standardize the process by which public schools provide student records to parents who do not have physical custody of their children ("non-custodial parents"). The implementation of this policy will hopefully encourage parents to be involved in and informed about the education of their children, while protecting the rights and safety of all parties.
- b) Privacy of a student's records - Certified staff members who work directly with a student may see a student's records when it is necessary to perform their duties. With very few exceptions, no one else may see these records without the written permission of a student/parent or guardian.
- c) Destroying a student's records - The school system must keep a student's transcript for at least 60 years after the student leaves the school system. Temporary records must be destroyed within five years after the student leaves the system. Before any records are destroyed, the student/parent or guardian must be given notice and an opportunity to get a copy.
- d) Amending a Student's Record and Appealing it - A student/parent or guardian may add any relevant written material to the student's record. If there is information in the record which the student/parent or guardian feels is inaccurate, misleading, or irrelevant and the student wants it removed, the student may ask the Principal to remove it. If the request is denied, or if the student has any other objections to the school records, there is an appeals process. Information about the appeals process will be supplied by the guidance office.
- e) Notice is given that, under Massachusetts law, Brockton schools will allow access to student records to authorized school personnel of the school to which a student seeks admission or intends to transfer. (603 CMR 23.00)

Special Education Student Records Policy

State regulations have been adopted regarding the retention and destruction of student records, including special education records. It is the policy of the Brockton Public Schools to comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations regarding student records. Special education records are considered by state regulation to be part of a student's temporary record. The temporary record contains the majority of the information maintained by the school about the student. The information may include such things as standardized test results, class rank, Individualized Educational Programs (IEP's), student progress reports, assessment/evaluation reports, extracurricular activities, and comments by teachers, counselors and other school staff. By state regulation, the temporary record must be kept by the school district for a period not exceeding seven (7) years after the student graduates, transfers or withdraws from the district. Before the records are destroyed, the parent and student will be notified and have an opportunity to receive a copy of any information before its destruction.

Comprehensive Sexuality and Health Curriculum

This curriculum is abstinence based and focuses on relationships, and emotional and physical changes young people experience, decision-making skills, and the health risks involved with teen sexuality. A team of school health professionals presents the health curriculum. This team includes the health educator, school nurse and adjustment counselor. Under Massachusetts law and the School Committee policy, you may exempt your child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues. To apply for an exemption, you must send the principal a letter requesting an exemption for your child. No student who is exempted from this portion of the curriculum will be penalized. We will provide an alternate assignment to students who are exempted. If you would like to review these materials at the school, you are welcome to do so. Please call the principal to arrange a convenient time.

Release of Information to Other Schools/Organizations

State laws/regulations permit Brockton Public Schools to release student names and addresses without consent, to schools and organizations such as regional vocational schools, county agricultural schools and post-secondary schools, colleges and universities. If a student or that student's parent/guardian does not want such information to be released, the parent/guardian should contact the school in writing by October 1 of the academic year.

Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

Brockton Public Schools will participate in SBIRT, which is a public health approach to delivering early intervention to anyone who uses alcohol and/or drugs in unhealthy ways. Because school nurses and counselors are uniquely positioned to discuss substance use among young people, it is recommended that schools allow for opportunities for appropriately trained staff to reinforce prevention,

screen for substance use, provide counseling and make referrals as necessary to all adolescents, including students in upper elementary and middle school grades. Adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) focuses on prevention, early detection, risk assessment, brief counseling and referral intervention that can be utilized in the school setting. School nurses will use a validated screening tool to detect risk for substance use-related problems and to address them at an early stage in adolescents. If a student's parent/guardian does not want their child to be screened, the parent/guardian should contact the school in writing by October 1 of the academic year to opt-out of the screening.

EPA Warnings & Notification

Brockton Public Schools Public Notice

ATTENTION: Principals, Parents, Teachers, Students and Building Occupants

REFERENCE: Asbestos Inspections and Management Plans Compliance with The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

EPA Warnings & Notification **AHERA 40 CFR 763.1 11**

The Brockton School Department as a local education agency (LEA), has posted in the primary administrative and custodial offices and in the faculty common rooms of each school under its authority, a completed copy of a Notice to School Employees which indicates that the school has been inspected and has friable asbestos containing materials in it. This posted notice shall remain in place indefinitely in all schools that have friable asbestos containing material.

AHERA regulations, to wit, 40 CFR Part 763, "to protect users of school buildings from unwitting exposure to concentrations of airborne asbestos which occurs when friable asbestos containing materials are damaged or disturbed. Compliance with this rule will both ensure that these materials are identified, and that the school users are notified of their presence so that they can prevent or reduce release of asbestos."

All Brockton Public Schools were inspected for friable and non-friable asbestos containing materials in late 1988, in response to the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (400 CFR 763m AHERA, 1987). As a result of information obtained from the inspections of each school, a Management Plan was developed in February of 1989 to manage the asbestos in the school in a manner that protects human health and the environment. This plan contains the locations, by room or building area, of all friable and non-friable asbestos containing materials, sample results and an estimate of the percent of asbestos content.

In each school a Management Plan is available for public inspection in the Principal's Office and at the Office of the Director of Facilities for the Brockton Public Schools for the Brockton Public Schools. Copies of the Management Plan are available upon written request, with a nominal fee for the cost of reproduction of the document(s).

Inclement Weather Procedures

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STAFF MEMBERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, DELAYED OPENINGS, AND EARLY SCHOOL DISMISSAL UNDER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS:

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, local and Boston media makes announcements regarding school cancellations. The **NO SCHOOL** announcements for the Brockton Public Schools are made locally by radio station **WATD (95.9 FM)**, by Boston radio station **WBZ (1030 AM)** and by **Boston Television Channels 4, 5 and 7**. **Cancellations are also posted on our website: www.bpsma.org** and are reported to parents via phone notifications.

If the Brockton Public Schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, all school facilities will be closed on that day. All Community School, neighborhood school and adult evening classes will also be cancelled. There may be occasions when the superintendent may decide to close pre-kindergarten only.

Depending upon the severity of the weather conditions and how they impact on the health and safety of students in the Brockton Public Schools, it may be necessary to delay the start of the school day or to dismiss students before their customary dismissal times. These options would be implemented only under certain conditions. As usual, parents should use their own judgment whether or not to send their children to school in severe weather.

Delayed School Openings

The Brockton Public Schools reserves the right to delay the opening of school to deal with unusual conditions that may exist on a particular school morning. The district may opt to delay school by one hour, 90 minutes or 120 minutes. Delays would affect only the opening of school with dismissals taking place at regularly scheduled times. All Smart Start Extended Day morning programs will open at 8:00 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. Afternoon sessions will be held as normally scheduled. When delays are announced, the

opening of school will occur one hour, 90 minutes or 120 minutes later than normal according to the following schedule (dismissal time will not be affected):

	1-hour Delay start	90-Minute Delay Start	2-Hour Delay Start
Brockton High School	8:20 AM	8:50 AM	9:20 AM
Huntington Therapeutic Day School	8:10 AM	8:40 AM	9:10 AM
Gilmore School	8:35 AM	9:05 AM	9:35 AM
Champion High School	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Frederick Douglass Academy	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Middle Schools	9:05 AM	9:35 AM	10:05 AM
Davis K-8 School	9:15 AM	9:45 AM	10:15 AM
Raymond School	9:15 AM	9:45 AM	10:15 AM
Barrett Russell ECC	9:10 AM	AM Session Cancelled	
Kindergarten & Elementary Schools	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Edison Academy	According to Principal		

School transportation pickups will occur accordingly. The school breakfast programs will not operate. School lunches will be served at their regular times.

The same media that make school cancellation announcements will announce the delay.

Parents are not to send or drop off their children early on days when a delayed opening has been announced.

Early School Dismissal

In the event that severe weather conditions develop after the start of the school day, it may become necessary to release students before the scheduled dismissal time. The decision to release early will be made in the interest of the health and safety of the students and will be announced by the same media that make school cancellation announcements no later than 10:00 a.m. Early dismissals will take place according to the early dismissal schedule for in-service days unless unusual conditions dictate otherwise. The customary schedule for in-service early dismissals is as follows:

Barrett Russell ECC	10:40 AM
Huntington Therapeutic Day School	11:00 AM
Brockton High School	11:00 AM
Champion High School	11:00 AM
Frederick Douglass Academy	11:00 AM
Davis K-8 School	11:30 AM
Raymond School	11:30 AM
Middle Schools	11:30 AM
Kindergarten & Elementary Schools	12:15 PM
Gilmore School	12:25 PM
No Pre-K Afternoon Session	

WHEN SCHOOL IS CANCELLED, ALL IN-SCHOOL AND OUTSIDE-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES WILL BE CANCELLED.



Brockton Public Schools

2021-2022 Academic Calendar



Teachers Report	Wednesday	September 1, 2021
First Day of School for Students	Thursday	September 2, 2021
First Day of PreK & Kindergarten	Monday	September 13, 2021

Schools are closed on the following HOLIDAYS and VACATION PERIODS

LABOR DAY WEEKEND	Friday - Monday	September 3 - 6, 2021
COLUMBUS DAY	Monday	October 11, 2021
ELECTION DAY	Tuesday	November 2, 2021
VETERANS' DAY	Thursday	November 11, 2021
THANKSGIVING RECESS	Wednesday-Friday	November 24-26, 2021
WINTER RECESS	Thursday – Friday	December 23, 2021 - December 31, 2021
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	Monday	January 17, 2022
FEBRUARY RECESS	Monday-Friday	February 21 -25, 2022
SPRING RECESS	Monday-Friday	April 18 - 22, 2022
MEMORIAL DAY	Monday	May 30, 2022
BHS GRADUATION EXERCISES	Saturday	June 4, 2022
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL*	Monday	June 27, 2022

*This calendar complies with student learning time regulations 603 CMR 27.00 by scheduling 185 school days for all students. If there are no school cancellations, the 185 scheduled days will be adjusted to 180 school days and the last day of school will be June 21, 2022.

NOTES

