

POLICY REGARDING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

In order to assist individuals who may experience sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency during the school's normal operational hours, during school-sponsored athletic practices and athletic events taking place on school grounds, and during school-sponsored events not occurring during the normal operational hours of the school, the Plymouth Public School Board of Education (the "Board") maintains at each school under the Board's jurisdiction, automatic external defibrillators ("AEDs") and school personnel trained in the operation of such automatic external defibrillators and the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. It is the policy of the Board to support the use of these automatic external defibrillators and trained school personnel during medically appropriate circumstances.

Requirements concerning the use and maintenance of AEDs are set forth in the accompanying Administrative Regulations as may be supplemented by or amended by the Administration from time to time.

For purposes of this policy and the accompanying regulations, an AED is a device that:

- 1) is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart;
- 2) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy;
- 3) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and
- 4) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

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| § 19a-175 | Definitions |
| § 52-557b | Good Samaritan Law |
| § 10-212d | Availability of Automatic External Defibrillators in Schools |

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

Department of Public Health § 19a-179-1 et seq.

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REVISED _____

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

I. Definitions:

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) — a device that: (A) is used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart; (B) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make medical diagnosis, and, if necessary, apply therapy; (C) guides the user through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts; and (D) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment in its use.

AED certified person— a person who is certified in the operation of automatic external defibrillators and the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and has a copy of his/her certification on record with the Plymouth Public Schools.

II. Defibrillator Location

1. The Plymouth Public Schools will have defibrillators and at least one AED certified person in each school building under the jurisdiction of the Plymouth Public School Board of Education (the “Board”).
2. The AEDs will be strategically placed and readily accessible to maximize rapid utilization.

III. Responsibility for Operation, Maintenance and Record-Keeping

1. The school nurse at each building in which an AED is installed will check the AED in the building on a regular basis, at least monthly. It will be the nurse's responsibility to verify that the unit is in the proper location, that it has all the appropriate equipment (battery, mask, case, emergency pack), that it is ready for use, and that it has performed its self-diagnostic evaluation. If the nurse notes any problems, or the AED’s self-diagnostic test has identified any problems, the nurse must contact the School Nurse Supervisor or designee immediately to report the problem.
2. After performing an AED check, the nurse shall indicate on the AED service log (Appendix III) that the unit has been inspected and that it was found to be “In-Service” or “Out-of-Service.”
3. The School Nurse or his/her designee shall be responsible for the following:
 - a) AED service checks during the contracted school year;
 - b) the replacement of equipment and supplies for the AED;
 - c) the repair and service of the AED;

- d) all recordkeeping for the equipment during the school year;
- e) training, or scheduling training, for all Board employees who require such training or would like to receive such training;
- f) maintaining a list of AED certified persons;
- g) maintaining all records concerning incidents involving the use of an AED;
- h) maintaining of copies of the certifications signed by the AED certified persons (Appendix IV);
- i) reporting the need for revising the AED policy and administrative regulations to the Superintendent or designee.

IV. Training for AED certified persons

The Board will provide initial training or refresher training to the following classes of individuals on an annual basis:

1. Staff who work in the Health Services Department, including all school nurses and the School Nurse Supervisor;
2. Staff who work in the Athletic Department, including all athletic trainers, head coaches and the Athletic Director;
3. All building administrators; and
4. Other designated faculty and staff at each school.

The training will be provided in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association. An individual completing this training will be considered an AED certified person.

V. Procedures for Use of an AED

1. To the extent practicable, AEDs should be retrieved and used by AED certified persons or other trained emergency medical services personnel. In the event no AED certified person or other trained emergency medical services personnel is available or present, an AED may be used by any individual in order to provide emergency care to an individual who may be in cardiac arrest or who may be experiencing a similar life-threatening emergency.
2. AEDs may only be used in medically appropriate circumstances.
3. In the event of use, the School Nurse shall promptly thereafter complete an AED check and verify that the unit is in the proper location, that it has all the appropriate equipment (battery, mask, case, emergency pack), that it is ready for use, and that it has performed its self-diagnostic evaluation. Any problems with the AED shall immediately be reported to the School Nurse Supervisor.

POLICY REGARDING POSSESSION OF DEADLY WEAPONS OR FIREARMS

- I. Definitions:
- A. **Deadly Weapon** means "any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (6).
 - B. **Firearm** means "any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded from which a shot may be discharged." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (19).
 - C. **Peace Officer** means "a member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a or 29-19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations unit of the office of the State Treasurer, an inspector of motor vehicles in the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, a United States marshal or deputy marshal, any special agent of the federal government authorized to enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code, or a member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created and governed by a memorandum of agreement under section 47-65c who is certified as a police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (9).
 - D. **Real Property** means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the district's elementary and secondary schools, and administrative office buildings. Real property includes, but is not limited to, the following: classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, theaters, gymnasiums, fields and parking lots.
 - E. **School-Sponsored Activity** means "any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by a board of education and includes activities conducted on or off school property." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233a(h).

II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217b, the possession and/or use of a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any school or administrative office building in this district, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, is prohibited, even if the person possessing the deadly weapon or firearm has a permit for such item.

III. Peace Officer Exception

A peace officer engaged in the performance of his or her official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring such item on the real property of any school or administrative office building in this district, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity.

IV. Other Exceptions

Persons in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may possess such item on the real property of any school or administrative office building in this district, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity, if:

- A. The person brings the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any school or administrative office building, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity for use in a program approved by school officials. In such case, the person must give school officials notice of his/her intention to bring such item, and the person must receive prior written permission from school officials.
- B. The person possesses the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any school or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity pursuant to a written agreement with school officials or a written agreement between such person's employer and school officials.
- C. An armed security officer employed by the Board of Education to provide security services pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a engaged in the performance of his or her official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring such item on the real property of any school or administrative office building in this district, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity.

V. Consequences

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- A. Unless subject to one of the exceptions listed above, any person who possesses a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of an elementary or secondary school in this district, or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, whether or not the person is lawfully permitted to carry such deadly weapon or firearm, will be reported to the local police authorities once school officials become aware of its possession.
- B. A student who possesses and/or uses any deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of an elementary or secondary school in this district, or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with Board of Education Student Discipline Policy.
- C. The Board of Education reserves the right to forbid anyone caught possessing a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of its school buildings or administrative office buildings, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, from using any and all school facilities.

Legal References:

- Connecticut General Statutes § 10-233a
- § 10-244a
- § 29-28(e)
- § 53a-3
- § 53a-217b

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POLICY REGARDING GREEN CLEANING PROGRAMS

It is the policy of the Plymouth Board of Education (the "Board") to implement a green cleaning program in which the Board procures and properly uses environmentally preferable cleaning products in school buildings and facilities. Pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A) of section 10-231g of the Connecticut General Statutes, any disinfectant, disinfecting cleaner, sanitizer or any other antimicrobial product approved by federal law may be used by the Board.

The Board shall provide the staff of each school and, upon request, the parents and guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a written statement of the school district's green cleaning program. Such notice shall include (1) the types and names of environmentally preferable cleaning products being applied in schools, (2) the location of the application of such cleaning products in the school buildings and facilities, (3) the schedule of when such cleaning products are applied in the school buildings and facilities, (4) the statement, "No parent, guardian, teacher or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect." and (5) the name of the school administrator, or a designee, who may be contacted for further information. Such notice shall be provided to the parents or guardians of any child who transfers to a school during the school year and to staff hired during the school year.

The Board shall make such notice, as well as the report submitted to the Department of Education pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes (*i.e.*, required report on condition of facilities, action taken to implement the Board's long-term school building program, indoor air quality and green cleaning program), available on its web site and the web site of each school under such board's jurisdiction. If no such web site exists, the Board shall make such notice otherwise publicly available.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

- § 10-220(a) Duties of board of education.
- § 10-231g Green cleaning program at schools: Definitions. Implementation. Notice.

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NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, alienage, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law is prohibited, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics, as well as the district website. It is also the policy of the Board of Education to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, alienage, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

For the purposes of this policy, “gender identity or expression” means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

For the purposes of this policy, “veteran” means any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in, the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. “Qualifying condition” means (A) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (B) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (C) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c), (d).

For the purposes of this policy, “race” is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. “Protective hairstyles” includes, but is not limited to, wigs, head wraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

Any individual wishing to file a complaint regarding discrimination or harassment may obtain a copy of the Board’s complaint procedures and complaint form that are included in the Board’s Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination.

Community/Board Operation

These regulations accompany Board Policy P-1004 for Community/Non-Discrimination Policy and are available online at <https://www.plymouth.k12.ct.us/> or upon request from the main office of any district school.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on reasons such as gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or pregnancy, such complaints will be handled in accordance with other appropriate policies (e.g., Policy P-4018, Sex Discrimination/Harassment in the Workplace ; Policy P-5029, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students); Policy P-4017, Section 504/ADA (Personnel), and Policy P-5021, Section 504/ADA (Students).

Individuals also may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office
U.S. Department of Education
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109- 3921
(617-289-0111)
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Employees may also file a complaint regarding employment discrimination or harassment with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
475 Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
(800-669-4000)

Individuals may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103-1835
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

Anyone who has questions or concerns about this policy, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations based on religion, and/or who would like a copy of the Board’s complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment, may contact:

Beth Melillo: Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel
860-314-8003 - melillob@plymouth.k12.ct.us

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender/sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation may contact the Board's Title IX Coordinator:

Beth Melillo: Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel
860-314-8003 - melillob@plymouth.k12.ct.us

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability, may contact the Board's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

Beth Melillo: Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel
860-314-8003 - melillob@plymouth.k12.ct.us

Legal References:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794
Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, "Gender Identity or Expression"
defined
Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51, Definitions
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights
Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act, Connecticut General Statutes
§ 46a-60
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81a, Sexual orientation discrimination:
Definitions
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81c, Sexual orientation discrimination:
Employment
Public Act No. 21-79, "An Act Redefining 'Veteran' and Establishing a
Qualifying Review Board"

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS (COMMUNITY MEMBERS)

It is the policy of the Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status is forbidden, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to the control of the Board. Students, Board employees and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

It is the express policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected characteristics such as race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on reasons such as gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or pregnancy, such complaints will be handled in accordance with other appropriate policies (e.g., Policy P-4018, Sex Discrimination/Harassment in the Workplace ; Policy P-5029, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students); Policy P-4017, Section 504/ADA (Personnel), and Policy P-5021, Section 504/ADA (Students).

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The district will investigate such complaints promptly and equitably, and will take corrective action when allegations are verified.

The district will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, or veteran status. Any such reprisals or retaliation will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, and other corrective actions as appropriate.

The school district will periodically provide staff development for district administrators and periodically distribute this policy and implementing administrative regulations to staff and students in an effort to maintain an environment free of harassment and discrimination.

Complaint Procedure

As soon as an individual feels that he or she has been subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or

expression, or veteran status he/she should make a written complaint to the Superintendent, or designee.

If the complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will take appropriate steps, such as retaining an independent investigator, to cause the matter to be investigated in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation. If either the Superintendent or any other party to the complaint is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, within (30) calendar days of receiving the findings, such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Board Chair, who will take appropriate steps, such as retaining an independent investigator different from the investigator who investigated the complaint, to cause the matter to be reviewed in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation.

The individual and any respondent (if applicable) will be provided a copy of the Board's policy and regulation and made aware of the individual's rights under this policy and regulation. In the event the Superintendent or designee receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on gender/sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or pregnancy, the Superintendent or designee shall follow the procedures identified in the appropriate Board policies (e.g., Policy P-4018, Sex Discrimination/Harassment in the Workplace ; Policy P-5029, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students); Policy P-4017, Section 504/ADA (Personnel), and Policy P-5021, Section 504/ADA (Students), where applicable, rather than the complaint procedures provided in this policy.

The complaint should state the:

- A. Name of the complainant,
- B. Date of the complaint,
- C. Date(s) of the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- D. Name(s) of the harasser(s) or discriminator(s),
- E. Location where such harassment/discrimination occurred,
- F. Names of any witness(es) to the harassment/discrimination,
- G. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment/discrimination; and
- H. Proposed remedy.

Any individual who makes an oral complaint of harassment or discrimination will be provided a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If an individual is unable to make a written complaint, the staff member receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing or assist the individual with completing the written complaint form.

All complaints received by staff members are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging harassment or discrimination under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate the complaint. During the course of the investigation, the

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investigator shall interview or consult with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the alleged harasser/discriminator (“respondent”) and any witnesses to the conduct. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and/or other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible, as determined by the investigator.

Upon receipt of a written complaint of discrimination or harassment, the investigator should:

1. Offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) within ten (10) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant believes has relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant may have;
2. Provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board’s non-discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
3. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
4. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis for the complaint, including conducting interviews with individuals with information and review of documents relevant to the complaint;
5. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;
6. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant and respondent (if any) (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within thirty (30) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent’s office. The complainant and respondent (if any) shall be notified of any extension of the investigation timeline. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the district will remedy the discrimination or harassment, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law;

7. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent (if any) will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary (see subparagraph 6);
8. Whenever allegations are verified, ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken (including, but not limited to, disciplinary action) aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination or harassment. Corrective action should include steps to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;
9. If either party to the complaint is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of the investigation, such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the findings. Upon review of a written request from the party requesting an appeal, the Superintendent shall review the investigative results of the investigator and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with a designated investigator (if applicable), complainant, and respondent (if any) and meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling a designated investigator's conclusions or findings (if applicable). The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the complainant and respondent (if any) of the proposed actions within fifteen (15) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) following the receipt of the written request for review.

A complainant alleging discrimination or harassment may file a formal complaint with the Boston Office, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921 (TELEPHONE NUMBER: 617-289-0111).

A complainant may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (TELEPHONE NUMBER: 860-541-3400).

An employee alleging discrimination or harassment related to their employment may also file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, 475 Government Center, Boston, MA 02203 (TELEPHONE NUMBER: 800-669-4000).

Anyone who has questions or concerns about these regulations, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations based on religion, may contact:

Beth Melillo: Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel
860-314-8003 - melillob@plymouth.k12.ct.us

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of gender/sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation may contact the Board's Title IX Coordinator:

Beth Melillo: Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel
860-314-8003 - melillob@plymouth.k12.ct.us

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability, may contact the Board's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

Beth Melillo: Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel
860-314-8003 - melillob@plymouth.k12.ct.us

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**POLICY REGARDING PESTICIDE APPLICATION
ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

It is the policy of the Plymouth Board of Education to implement an integrated pest management plan to reduce the amounts of pesticides applied in any building, or the grounds of any Plymouth public school, by using all available pest control techniques including judicious use of pesticides, when warranted, to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level, while decreasing the use of pesticides.

The decision to apply pesticide in any building, or the grounds of any Plymouth public school is dependent on results of periodic monitoring for pest populations to determine if a pest problem exists that exceeds acceptable threshold levels.

No application of pesticide shall be made in any building, or the grounds of any Plymouth public school during regular school hours or during planned activities at any school, except as provided by Connecticut statute or regulation.

Parents or guardians of children in any school and/or staff members in any school may register for prior notice of pesticide application at their school. Each school shall maintain a registry of persons requesting such notice, and shall provide notice to registered individuals in accordance with applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions.

The Superintendent may direct that an emergency application of a lawn care pesticide be made without prior notice to parents or guardians of children in any school and/or staff members in the event of a threat to human health, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions.

The Superintendent may direct that an emergency application of a pesticide be made during regular school hours or during planned activities at school without prior notice to parents or guardians of children and/or staff members in any school in the event of an immediate threat to human health, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions.

There shall be no application of any lawn care pesticide on the grounds of any school with students in grade eight (8) or lower, except on an emergency basis, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

§10-231a

§10-231b

§10-231d

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING PESTICIDE APPLICATION
ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

A. Definitions:

1. **Pesticide**: means a fungicide used on plants, an insecticide, a herbicide or a rodenticide, but does not mean a sanitizer, disinfectant, antimicrobial agent or a pesticide bait.
2. **Lawn Care Pesticide**: means a pesticide registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and labeled pursuant to the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for use in lawn, garden and ornamental sites or areas. "Lawn care pesticide" does not include (A) a microbial pesticide or biochemical pesticide that is registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, (B) a horticultural soap or oil that is registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and does not contain any synthetic pesticide or synergist, or (C) a pesticide classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as an exempt material pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 152.25, as amended from time to time.
3. **Integrated Pest Management**: means use of all available pest control techniques including judicious use of pesticides, when warranted, to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level, while decreasing the use of pesticides.
4. **Restricted Use Pesticide**: means any pesticide or pesticide use classified as restricted by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or by the Connecticut Commissioner of Environmental Protection.
5. **Microbial Pesticide**: means a pesticide that consists of a microorganism as the active ingredient.
6. **Biochemical Pesticide**: means a naturally occurring substance that controls pests by nontoxic mechanisms.

B. Integrated Pest Management Plan:

1. The district's integrated pest management plan shall be consistent with the model pest control management plan developed by the Connecticut Commissioner of Environmental Protection pursuant to Section 22a-661 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
2. At the beginning of each school year, the district shall provide the staff of each school with written guidelines on how the integrated pest management plan is to be implemented and shall provide the parents or guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a statement that shall include a summary of the integrated pest

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management plan for the school. Such a statement shall be provided to the parents or guardian of any child who transfers to a school during the school year. Such a statement shall (1) indicate that the staff, parents or guardians may register for notice of pesticide applications at the school, and (2) describe the emergency notification procedures provided for in this section. Notice of any modification to the integrated pest management plan shall be sent to any person who registers for notice under this section.

C. Notice of Pesticide Application to Those Who Request Such Notice:

1. Parents or guardians of children in any school and/or staff members in any school may register for prior notice of pesticide application at their school.
2. Each school shall maintain a registry of persons requesting such notice.
3. Parents or guardians of children in any school and/or staff members in any school who register for prior notice of pesticide application at their school shall be provided notice, by any means practicable, of each scheduled pesticide application at their school on or before the day that any application of pesticide is to take place.
4. The notice shall include the following information:
 - a. The name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied;
 - b. The target pest;
 - c. The location of the application on school property;
 - d. The date of the application; and
 - e. The name of the school administrator, or designee, who may be contacted for further information.

D. Notice of Pesticide Application by Electronic Means:

1. Prior to providing for any application of pesticide within any building or on the grounds of any school, in addition to the notice requirements in Section C, above, the district shall provide for notice of such application not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to such application by posting the notice required in Section C, above, either on or through: (a) The home page of the Internet web site for the school where such application will occur, or, if the school does not have a web site, on the homepage of the district's Internet web site, and (b) the primary social media account of such school or the district. For purposes of these administrative regulations and Section 10-231d of the Connecticut General Statutes, "social

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media" means an electronic medium where users may create and view user-generated content, such as uploaded or downloaded videos or still photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts or instant messages.

2. The district shall indicate on its home page how parents may register for prior notice of pesticide applications, as described in Section C, above.
3. Not later than March 15 of each year, each school or the district shall send through its e-mail notification or alert system or service the notice required by Section C, above, for applications made since January 1 of that year and a listing of such notices for applications made during the March 15 through December 31 timeframe from the preceding calendar year.
4. The district shall additionally print such e-mail notification required by this section in the applicable parent handbook or manual, although the reprinting of such handbook or manual shall not be required to provide such notification.
5. Nothing in these administrative regulations shall require the development or use of an Internet web site, social media account or e-mail notification or alert system by a school or the district that is not already in use or existence prior to October 1, 2015.

E. Emergency Pesticide Application:

1. In the event of a threat to human health, the Superintendent may direct that an emergency application of a lawn care pesticide be made without prior notice to parents or guardians of children in any school and/or staff members.
2. In the event of an immediate threat to human health, the Superintendent may direct that an emergency application of a pesticide be made, during regular school hours or during planned activities at school, without prior notice to parents or guardians of children in any school and/or staff members. Such application may only be made if (a) it is necessary to make the application during such period, and (b) such emergency application does not involve a restricted use pesticide.
3. In the event of such an emergency application, no child may enter the area of such application until it is safe to do so according to the provisions on the pesticide label.
4. In the event of such an emergency application, the provision set forth below in Section G regarding authorized pesticide applicators shall not apply if the Superintendent determines that it is impractical to obtain the services of any such applicator, provided that the application does not involve a restricted use pesticide.

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F. Record of Pesticide Application:

1. A copy of the record of each pesticide application at a school shall be maintained at the school for a period of five (5) years, which record shall include the information required by Section 22a-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as it may be amended from time to time.

G. Authorized Pesticide Applicator:

1. No person, other than a pesticide applicator with supervisory certification under Section 22a-54 of the Connecticut General Statutes or a pesticide applicator with operational certification under Section 22a-54 under the direct supervision of a supervisory pesticide applicator, may apply pesticide within any building or on the grounds of any school within the district.

H. Prohibition on Use of Lawn Care Pesticides at District Schools with Students through Grade 8:

There shall be no application of any lawn care pesticide on the grounds of any school with students in grade eight (8) or lower, except on an emergency basis, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions and the conditions set forth above.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

§ 10-231a
§ 10-231b
§ 10-231d
§ 22a-47
§ 22a-54
§ 22a-66a
§ 22a-66l

United States Code:

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136 et seq.

Code of Federal Regulations:

40 C.F.R. § 152.25

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SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY

The Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) will develop and implement an all-hazards district security and safety plan with a school-specific annex for each school within the district or a school security and safety plan for each school within the district to bolster their existing emergency preparedness, response capability and school safety and security measures and to best meet all-hazards threats.

Security and safety plans will be based on the school security and safety plan standards developed by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and will adhere to the requirements of state law.

Security and safety plans should be kept securely and will only be provided to the Board, school staff and administration, members of the school security and safety committees, members of state and local law enforcement, first responders, local municipal officials or other persons authorized by the Board or the Superintendent (e.g., consultants, contractors). Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b) (19), the plan will not be available to the public.

Legal References:

State Law:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-210 (b) (19)
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222k
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222m
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222n
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-231
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 28-7

State Standards:

Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, *School Security and Safety Plan Standards*.

Federal Guidance:

Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans*, June 2013

SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

I. Security and Safety Committee

The Board of Education (the “Board”), through the Superintendent, shall establish a school security and safety committee at each school under the jurisdiction of the Board.

* The school security and safety committee is responsible for assisting in the development of the security and safety plan and in administering the plan.

The school security and safety committee shall include in its membership a local police officer, a local first responder, a teacher employed at the school, a building administrator employed at the school, a mental health professional, a parent or guardian of a student at the school and any other person the Board deems necessary. Subject matter experts, including but not limited to the local public works director, food services director, the Superintendent of Schools, additional law enforcement members or first responders and representatives of the municipality or others shall be invited to participate as needed.

The committee will meet at least annually to review and update the school’s security and safety plan as necessary. In determining whether the security and safety plan requires updating, the committee will take into account the results of the security and vulnerability assessment of the school, as described in Section IV below. The security and safety committee shall also be notified of any instances of disturbing or threatening behavior that may not meet the definition of bullying and shall report such information, as necessary, to the district safe school climate coordinator.

Any information provided under this regulation shall be provided in accordance with the confidentiality restrictions imposed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) and the district’s Confidentiality and Access to Student Information policy and regulations. Specifically, any parent/guardian serving as a member of the school security and safety committee shall not have access to any information reported to the committee or participate in any activities which may compromise the confidentiality of any student.

II. Security and Safety Plan

Each school security and safety plan will be created using the format prescribed by the Connecticut State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The Board will submit the finalized school security and safety plan for each school to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Regional Coordinator. On or before November 1st of each school year, the Board will submit to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Regional Coordinators one of the following: (1) those pages of the district’s plans that been updated; (2) the form provided by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security that the district’s plans have not changed, along with an updated signature page; or (3) a revised plan if a current plan has undergone a major revision. Additionally, each plan will be filed as an annex to the municipality’s Local Emergency Operations Plan, filed annually with DESPP/DEMHS pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 28-7. A reference kit that meets the requirements of DESPP/DEMHS will be created in

conjunction with the security and safety plan, which will be available to first responders in the event of a safety or security emergency.

III. Training and Orientation for School Employees

Each school employee at the school shall receive an orientation on the district security and safety plan, including the school-specific annexes relevant to that employee, or the school's security and safety plan. Additionally, each school employee at the school shall receive violence prevention training in a manner described in the security and safety plan. The training will be conducted in cooperation with the school safety and security committee and may include other municipal or emergency officials and services. The goal of the orientation and training is to provide the school community and municipal officials with an understanding of the need for unified planning, preparedness and response.

IV. Assessments

At least every two years, the Board shall conduct a security and vulnerability assessment for each school in the district. Each school's security and safety committee shall be advised of the results of the assessment for the committee's school and such results shall be considered by the committee in updating and revising the security and safety plans.

Local law enforcement and other public safety officials including the local emergency management director, fire marshal, building inspector and emergency medical services representative shall each evaluate, score and provide feedback on a representative sample of fire drills and crisis response drills at each school in the district. By July 1st of each year, the Board shall submit a report to the Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security Regional Coordinator regarding types, frequency and feedback related to the fire drills and crisis response drills.

Legal References:

State Law:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-210 (b)(19)
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222k
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222m
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222n
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-231
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 28-7

State Standards:

Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, *School Security and Safety Plan Standards*.

Federal Guidance:

Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans*, June 2013

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING SEXUAL OFFENDERS

Pursuant to state law, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is obligated to notify school superintendents whenever a sexual offender is released into the community or whenever a registered sexual offender changes his or her address.

In addition, school district personnel shall cross-reference the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's sexual offender registry prior to hiring any new employee and prior to permitting a volunteer to work with students in any capacity. Registration as a sexual offender constitutes grounds for denial of employment and/or volunteer opportunities in the Plymouth Public Schools.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide training to appropriate staff members regarding the methods for accessing the sexual offender registry information posted on the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the provisions of these regulations.

Legal references:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-258 Availability of registration information. Immunity.

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PROHIBITION AGAINST SMOKING

The Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) prohibits smoking, including smoking using an electronic nicotine delivery system (e.g., e-cigarettes), electronic cannabis delivery system, or vapor product, within any of its schools, including in any area of a school building, including but not limited to any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for, and utilized by the Board for the provision of routine or regular preschool, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children, or on the grounds of such school, or at any school-sponsored activity.

The following definitions shall apply to this policy:

“Any area” shall mean the interior of a school building and the outside area within twenty-five feet of any doorway, operable window or air intake vent of a school building.

“Cannabis” shall mean marijuana, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 21a-240.

“Electronic cannabis delivery system” shall mean an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of cannabis to a person inhaling the device and includes, but is not limited to, a vaporizer, electronic pipe, electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device.

“Electronic nicotine delivery system” shall mean an electronic device used in the delivery of nicotine to a person inhaling from the device and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device, including, but not limited to, electronic cigarette liquid or synthetic nicotine.

“School-sponsored activity” shall mean any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board and includes activities conducted on or off school property.

“Smoke” or “smoking” shall mean the burning of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other similar device, whether containing, wholly or in part, tobacco, cannabis or hemp.

“Vapor product” shall mean any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may or may not include nicotine or cannabis and is inhaled by the user of such product.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233a(h)
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-342
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-342a
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 21a-415
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-344b
June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-1
Pro-Children Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 115 Stat. 1174, 20 U.S.C. § 7183

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USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-239, the Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) may permit the use of any school facility for nonprofit educational or community purposes whether or not school is in session. The Board may also grant the temporary use of any school facility for public, educational or other purposes, including the holding of political discussion, at such time the facility is not in use for school purposes. In addition, the Board shall grant such use for any purpose of voting under the provisions of Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes whether or not school is in session. In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 7905, the Board shall not deny equal access to or a fair opportunity to meet, or otherwise discriminate, against any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America (or any other youth group listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the United States Code) that wishes to conduct a meeting using school facilities pursuant to this policy. Such uses shall be governed by the following rules and procedures, and shall be subject to such restrictions as the Superintendent or his/her designee considers expedient.

Consistent with this policy, the Superintendent shall develop and promulgate Administrative Regulations and associated forms governing use of school buildings and facilities by community and other groups. Since the primary purpose of school facilities is for educational activities, such activities will have priority over all other requested uses.

A. Application Procedures

Applications for use of facilities shall be submitted to the following individuals, in accordance with the Administrative Regulations:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Application Submitted To</u>
For use of school buildings	Business Office Administrative Assistant
For use of athletic fields and facilities	Business Office Administrative Assistant
For use of other school facilities	Business Office Administrative Assistant

Groups requesting use of school buildings and facilities must identify the specific facilities desired, and approval will be for those specific facilities only. All school equipment on the premises shall remain in the charge and control of the building principal or responsible administrator, and shall not be used without the express written permission of the administrator.

Principals and other responsible administrators shall submit copies of each building use form with a notation of whether such uses have been approved. Approval

of school facilities by the principal or other responsible party may be revoked at any time by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

B. Eligible Organizations and Priority of Use

Administrators responsible for approving/disapproving requests for use of school district facilities will use the following guidelines regarding priority of usage of such facilities:

Order of priority:

1. School-sponsored programs and activities.
2. Activities of school-related organizations (*e.g.*, PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees and similar organizations).
3. Town department or agency activities.
4. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than school-related organizations covered by category #2 above.
5. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town.
6. Out-of-town organizations.

C. Restrictions on Use of School Facilities

The following restrictions shall apply to the use of school facilities:

1. Illegal activities will not be tolerated.
2. Use or possession of tobacco, vapor products, alcoholic beverages or unauthorized controlled substances shall not be permitted on school property.
3. Refreshments may not be prepared, served or consumed without the prior approval of the responsible administrator. Notwithstanding, only those beverages permitted by state law may be sold during the school day. The responsible administrator may permit other beverages to be sold at the location of events occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend as long as they are not sold from a vending machine or at a school store. Upon approval by the administrator, refreshments may be prepared, served and consumed only in areas designated by the responsible administrator.

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4. Obscene advertising, decorations or materials shall not be permitted on school property.
5. Advertising, decorations or other materials that promote the use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, vapor products, or alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted.
6. Activities that are disruptive to the school environment are not permitted.

Any violation of this Policy or any applicable Administrative Regulations may result in permanent revocation of the privilege to use school facilities against the organization and/or individuals involved.

D. Usage Types

- Standard Use: routine meetings, programs, classes, etc.
- Major Use (requires a surcharge): one or more of the following characteristics -
 1. Creates significant wear and tear.
 2. Funds are raised through admission charges (including "voluntary" contributions), sale of merchandise, raffles, door prizes, etc.
 3. Event uses vendors' or exhibitors' booths.
 4. Event at any school that requires two major facility areas (gym, cafeteria, auditorium), or ten or more classrooms.
 5. Event that involves more than 500 participants or attendees.

E. Fees and Other Costs

Users of school facilities shall be responsible for the fees and costs set out in a fee schedule established by the Superintendent with the approval of the Board of Education. The following guidelines shall be incorporated into such fee schedule:

* Identified categories are examples; groups not listed will be classified by the Superintendent or designee.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1. School-sponsored programs and activities.	No rental fee or associated costs.
2. Activities of school-related organizations (e.g., PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees and similar organizations).	No rental fee or associated costs.

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| 3. Town department or agency activities. | No rental fee and necessary associated costs. |
| 4. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than school-related organizations covered by category #2 above (e.g., Boy & Girl Scouts, Little League, PAL, Babe Ruth League, Plymouth Recreation Leagues, United Way, Rotary Lions, etc.) | No rental fee and necessary associated costs. |
| 5. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town. | Rental fee and associated costs. |
| 6. Out-of-town organizations. | Rental fee and associated costs. |

Associated Costs: include, but shall not be limited to, fees for the services of any custodial personnel, food service personnel, security personnel or other personnel deemed by the responsible administrator to be necessary in connection with the use of a school district facility. Such costs shall be at the rates set forth in the fee schedule. Rental fees and/or associated costs otherwise applicable may be waived by the Superintendent or his/her designee if such waiver is deemed by the Superintendent or his/her designee to be in the best interest of the school system and/or the Town.

Special Conditions: Regardless of users' category, the Superintendent may impose special conditions or may deny permission when it is judged that the requested use may produce undue wear and tear on facilities, would cause disruption to the regular school program, be detrimental to the public image of the school system, impact negatively on the scheduled maintenance or cleaning of the schools or otherwise not be in the interest of the school system or the Town.

When a Category 1-4 group makes major use of facilities for fundraising programs involving commercial, entrepreneurial, profit-making organizations or activities, the Superintendent or his designee may require basic rental fees and/or a contribution to the school's student activity fund as determined by the Superintendent-If additional custodial services are needed, then the usual custodial charges will be assessed.

E. Responsibility for Damage to Property or Loss of Property

In order to use school district facilities, any organization or individual requesting such use must agree to assume responsibility for any damage to and/or theft or loss of any school district property arising out of the use of the facilities.

F. Health and Safety Protocols

In order to use school district facilities, any organization or individual requesting such use must agree to abide by all health and safety protocols in place by the school district at the time of use, including but not limited to protocols relating to cleaning of the facilities, signage, and health screenings of individuals requesting access to the facilities.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-239
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-215f
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221q
Conn. Gen. Stat. Title 9

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7905
Patriotic and National Organizations, 36 U.S.C. § 1010 et seq.

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POLICY REGARDING VISITORS AND OBSERVATIONS IN SCHOOLS

The Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) encourages visits by citizens, taxpayers, and parents to all school buildings. In order to promote a safe and productive educational environment for all students and staff, the Board requires all visitors to receive prior approval from the school Principal or designee before being permitted to visit any school building. The Board, through the administration, reserves the right to limit visits in accordance with administrative regulations.

The Board further desires to work collaboratively with parents with an educational nexus with the district, its educational programs or the student being observed, to observe their students in their current classrooms or observe proposed educational placements in the Board’s schools. The Board, through the administration, reserves the right to limit observations of current and proposed educational placements in accordance with administrative regulations and the Board’s Guidelines for Independent Educational Evaluations.

Upon arrival, all visitors and observers must comply with any and all applicable building security procedures, including but not limited to utilizing security buzzers for access, complying with requests for photo identification, reporting directly to and signing in and out at the visitors’ reception area of the school office, prominently displaying visitors’ badges or other identification required for visitors to the school buildings, limiting access to those areas of the buildings and grounds for which the visitors/observers have authorized access, and complying with directives of school officials at all times. All visitors and observers permitted into school buildings or on school grounds must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including but not limited to any health screening protocols.

Legal References:

“Guidelines Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense and In-School Observations,” Connecticut State Department of Education (Mar. 28, 2018).

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
REGARDING VISITORS AND OBSERVATIONS IN SCHOOLS**

1. Any person wishing to visit a school building, and/or observe any student program, must obtain prior approval from the building Principal or responsible administrator of the respective school building or program.
2. A visitor to any school building or program must be able to articulate a legitimate reason for the proposed visit and/or observation. Where the visitation involves direct contact with district students, or observation of an identified student or student program, the visitor must have a sufficient educational nexus with the district, its educational programs or the student to support such request.
3. All visits must be reasonable in length and conducted in a manner designed to minimize disruption to the district's educational programs.
4. When a parent/guardian makes a request to observe an identified student or student program, the request will be reviewed with the student's parent/guardian to determine the purpose of the observation, specific questions being addressed, the location(s) of the observation, and the date, time and length of the observation.
5. When determining whether to approve a request to visit and/or observe individual students or student programs, the building Principal or responsible administrator shall consider the following factors:
 - a. the frequency of visits;
 - b. the duration of the visit;
 - c. the number of visitors involved;
 - d. the effect of the visit on a particular class or activity;
 - e. the age of the students;
 - f. the nature of the class or program;
 - g. the potential for disclosure of confidential personally identifiable student information;
 - h. whether the visitor/observer has a legitimate educational interest in visiting the school;
 - i. whether the visitor/observer has professional ethical obligations not to disclose any personally identifiable student information;
 - j. any safety risk to students and school staff; and
 - k. compliance with the Board's Guidelines for Independent Educational Evaluations, if applicable.
6. The building Principal or responsible administrator has the discretion to limit, or refuse, requests for visits and/or observations of student programs in light of the above criteria. When a requested observation is refused, the building Principal or responsible administrator will provide the parent/guardian with the reason for the decision and will

work to develop alternative ways for the parent/guardian to obtain the information the parent/guardian seeks.

7. If a building Principal or responsible administrator approves a request to visit a school building and/or observe a student program, arrangements must be made in advance to ensure that the visit will not disrupt educational programs. The length and scope of any visit shall be determined by the building Principal or responsible administrator in accordance with these regulations and accompanying Board policy. The building Principal or responsible administrator shall determine a reasonable amount of time for observations of individual students or student programs.
8. Upon arrival, all visitors must comply with any and all applicable building security procedures, including but not limited to utilizing security buzzers for access, complying with requests for photo identification, reporting directly to and signing in and out at the visitors' reception area of the school office, prominently displaying visitors' badges or other identification required for visitors to the school buildings, limiting access to those areas of the buildings and grounds for which the visitors have authorized access, and complying with directives of school officials at all times.
9. The district has an obligation to maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable student information. All visitors and observers must restrict their visits and observations to the purpose identified in the request to visit or observe and are strictly prohibited from observing or collecting information on other students within the school. If the visitor/observer views, accesses or otherwise obtains personally identifiable student information concerning another student, the visitor/observer must notify the building Principal or responsible administrator as soon as possible.
10. All visitors and observers permitted inside school buildings or on school grounds must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including but not limited to any health screening protocols.
11. A refusal to comply with any of the Board's policy provisions and/or regulations concerning visitors shall constitute grounds for denial of the visitor's privileges, as determined appropriate by the building Principal or designee. Such refusal may also result in a referral to law enforcement personnel, as determined appropriate by the building Principal or designee.

Legal References:

"Guidelines Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense and In-School Observations," Connecticut State Department of Education (Mar. 28, 2018).

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**SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS, STUDENT INTERNS AND
OTHER NON-EMPLOYEES**

The Plymouth Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of school volunteers at all levels of schooling. Volunteers can enhance collaboration between the school and community, broaden the school’s educational environment and ultimately enrich students’ school experience. The Board further acknowledges that it may, from time to time, be asked to provide learning experiences for student interns within the school environments, whose experiences are not part of the teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a of the Connecticut General Statutes. In recognition of the benefit of having volunteers, interns and other such non-employees providing services within the schools, the Board supports the involvement of these individuals in accordance with suitable regulations and safeguards to be developed by the Administration.

Volunteers, interns and other such non-employees working within the schools (“volunteers”) must work under the supervision of Plymouth Public Schools (“District”) staff. Volunteers are held to the same standards of conduct as school staff and must observe all Board policies, including policies on the confidentiality of student information.

Volunteers may be required to submit to state and federal criminal record checks and a record check of the Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. No person who is required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on DCF registry, may volunteer in District.

All volunteers must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including but not limited to any health screening protocols.

No employee of the District shall serve as a volunteer in any capacity, except as may be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee based on the specific situation.

Persons interested in volunteering their services should contact the school principal.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-4g	Parental and community involvement in schools; model program; school-based teams.
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220	Duties of boards of education.
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-235	Indemnification of teachers, board members, employees and certain volunteers and students in damages suits; expenses of litigation.
Connecticut General Statutes § 54-250 <u>et seq.</u>	Registration of sexual offenders.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS AND OTHER NON-EMPLOYEES

Screening Procedure

The following procedure has been established for screening volunteers, interns and other non-employees (“volunteers”) within the Plymouth Public Schools (the “District”). For the purpose of this procedure, volunteers are defined as those individuals who volunteer their time to assist in schools for the benefit of the student body with the express knowledge, consent and direction of a District employee. Student interns are defined as individuals currently enrolled in a post-secondary program for which an authorized internship is required or for which the student may be granted credit as part of an approved course of study; however, student interns are not students who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a of the Connecticut General Statutes. As with other volunteers, all student interns must be approved in advance by the building administrator or his/her designee and must be under the direction of a Board employee.

This procedure identifies those situations in which an individual may be required to submit to state and federal criminal record checks and a record check of the Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) Child Abuse and Neglect Registry within 10 days of application and/or request to volunteer within the District. All results must be received by the Superintendent before the volunteer may commence his or her services. Volunteers required to submit to such checks shall be subject to such checks at least every five (5) years, or more frequently in the discretion of the District. The results of such checks shall be maintained by the Superintendent for a period of five (5) years. No person who is required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may volunteer in the District.

Screening Procedure Definitions

The District has identified two classifications of volunteers: Group I and Group II.

Group I

Volunteers will be classified in Group I when they assist school staff members with school activities in the presence of a District employee. Background checks will not be required of Group I volunteers. Group I volunteers are those who assist school staff members with school activities such as those listed below:

- a. assisting in a classroom, cafeteria, or library when a staff member is present; or
- b. accompanying a class on a field trip during the school day with a staff member; or
- c. helping in the school office during regular school hours; or
- d. assisting in the cafeteria or library during regular school hours; or
- e. assisting during extracurricular events (*e.g.*, dances, fairs, open houses, sporting events).

Group II

Volunteers will be classified in Group II when they provide services to students when not in the direct presence of a District employee. Group II volunteers will be required to complete a consent form regarding the release of information concerning any prior or pending criminal offenses, and such volunteers will be required to submit to a record check of the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. Group II volunteers are those who engage in activities such as those listed below:

- a. accompanying a class on a field trip in which the plans include that students be divided into small groups supervised solely by the volunteer chaperone for any length of time; or
- b. chaperoning an overnight field trip; or
- c. working in direct contact with students without the direct presence of a District employee; or
- d. working as a student intern; or
- e. coaching.

Upon receipt of DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Registry results indicating that the volunteer is involved in an abuse or neglect investigation or that the volunteer is listed as a perpetrator of abuse or neglect on the DCF registry, the Superintendent or his or her designee will notify the volunteer of the results of the DCF registry check and will provide an opportunity for the volunteer to respond to the results of the DCF registry check. No person who is required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may be approved to volunteer within the District.

When a criminal record check of a volunteer reveals a criminal conviction, whether disclosed or undisclosed on the volunteer's consent form, the Superintendent will make a case-by-case determination as to whether to allow the individual to volunteer in the District. Prior to any such decision by the Superintendent or designee, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the volunteer and shall provide an opportunity for the volunteer to respond. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the falsification or omission of any information on a volunteer consent form, including, but not limited to, information concerning criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, may be grounds for the Superintendent or designee to prohibit the individual from becoming a volunteer.

Prior Approval Required

All school volunteers (including student interns or other non-employees working in the schools) must be approved in advance by the building principal or other administrative designee. The school district, acting through the appropriate building administrator or his/her designee, reserves the right to discontinue or disallow the services of any volunteer at any time at the discretion of the administration.

Sign-in Procedure

All volunteers must report to the school office upon arrival to sign in and must report to the office prior to departure to sign out. A sign-in/sign-out log will be maintained in each school office. Volunteers must indicate the purpose of their visit and include any other information (*i.e.*, destination, proof of identification, etc.) as may be required by the log. Additionally, volunteers will be provided with identification badges, which must be displayed during each visit. All volunteers must comply with all school health and safety protocols in place at the time, including but not limited to any health screening protocols.

Legal Reference:

- Connecticut General Statutes § 10-4g Parental and community involvement in schools; model program; school-based teams.
- Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220 Duties of boards of education.
- Connecticut General Statutes § 10-235 Indemnification of teachers, board members, employees and certain volunteers and students in damages suits; expenses of litigation.
- Connecticut General Statutes § 54-250 et seq. Registration of sexual offenders.

ADOPTED - 9/14/2022
REVISED _____