



Great Oaks Career Campuses  
Student Handbook  
2023-24 School Year



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>GREAT OAKS PURPOSE AND GOALS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	Care of Equipment.....	4
	Career-Technical /Academic Courses Make-Up Work.....	5
	Emergency Medical Forms .....	5
	Health and Safety .....	5
	Immunizations .....	5
	Injury and Illness .....	5
	Locker Access .....	5
	Loitering.....	6
	Mask/Face Covering .....	6
	Medications .....	6
	Parking Permits .....	7
	Personal, Locker, and Vehicle Searches (Policy 5771) .....	7
	Student Dress and Uniforms (Policy 5511) .....	7
	Student Handbook .....	8
	Student I.D. Cards .....	8
	Student Laptop Program & Network Information User Agreement (Policy 7540.03).....	8
	Student Tool Kits .....	8
	Consideration for All .....	9
<b>III.</b>	<b>STUDENT RESOURCES</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	Awards and Recognition .....	9
	Career Passports .....	9
	Career-Technical Certificates .....	9
	College Credit Opportunities .....	9
	College Credit Plus (CCP).....	9
	Foster Care Youth.....	10
	Free and Reduced-Price Meals.....	10
	Homeless Students (Policy 5111.01) .....	10
	Graduation Requirements .....	11
	Great Oaks Foundation Student Financial Assistance .....	11
	Great Oaks Warranty Program.....	11
	Work Based Learning (WBL) .....	11
	Neediest Kids of All .....	12
	Safe School Hotline .....	12
	School Based Mental Health Programs .....	12
	Student Services Program.....	12
	Substance Abuse Prevention .....	13
	Voter Registration .....	13

<b>IV. SCHOOL OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
A Parent’s Right to Know Professional Qualifications.....	13
Affiliated School Relationship.....	14
Bloodborne Pathogens.....	14
Breakfast and Lunch – Cafeteria.....	14
Early Dismissal.....	14
Emergency Drills.....	14
Grades.....	14
Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity in Educational Programs and Activities – Students (Policy 2260).....	15
Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards (Policy 8431).....	15
School Calendar.....	16
School Day.....	16
Snow Days and Calamity Days.....	16
Student Records/Directory Information (Policy 8330).....	16
Transportation.....	17
Withdrawal/Transfer from School.....	18
<b>V. STUDENT CONDUCT</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Attendance (Policy 5200).....	18
Prohibition of Bullying and Harassment (Policy 5517.01).....	20
Reporting a Complaint by Students or Parents.....	21
Due Process Rights (Policy 5611).....	22
Interrogation of Student.....	22
Student Rights of Expression (Policy 5722).....	23
Weapons (Policy 5772).....	23
Grounds for Suspension, Expulsion, Emergency Removal or Other.....	24
Student Code of Conduct.....	24
Section 1: Suspension for 10 Days with Recommendation for Expulsion.....	24
Section 2: Suspension with Possible Recommendation for Expulsion.....	26
Section 3: Alternate Disciplinary Actions with Possible Suspension.....	29
Section 4: Miscellaneous Code of Conduct Violations.....	31
Section 5: Permanent Exclusion.....	31
Section 6: Expulsion for One Calendar Year.....	32
<b>VI. REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTICES</b> .....	<b>33</b>
Emergency Notification.....	33
Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior (Policy 5517.01).....	33
Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information (Policy 2416).....	33
Selection of Materials and Equipment (Policy 2520).....	34
Public Records (Policy 8310).....	34
Positive Behavior Intervention (Policy 5630.0).....	34
Student Hazing.....	35

**Great Oaks Career Campuses**  
**110 Great Oaks Dr.**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45241**  
**513.771.8840**  
**President/CEO: Harry Snyder**  
**District Website: [www.greatoaks.com](http://www.greatoaks.com)**

Diamond Oaks Career Campus  
6375 Harrison Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45247  
513.574.1300  
Dean of Instruction: Mr. Daniel Rush

Laurel Oaks Career Campus  
300 Oak Dr.  
Wilmington, OH 45177  
800.752.5480 or 937.382.1411  
Dean of Instruction: Mr. Andy McCool

Live Oaks Career Campus  
5956 Buckwheat Rd.  
Milford, OH 45150  
513.575.1900  
Dean of Instruction: Dr. Amy Crouse

Scarlet Oaks Career Campus  
300 Scarlet Oaks Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45241  
513.771.8810  
Dean of Instruction: Mr. Matthew Lindley

#### **GREAT OAKS STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-24**

**The purpose of this handbook is to provide Great Oaks Career Campuses students and parents specific information concerning major policies, procedures, and regulations. While every effort is made to present the information accurately, the information contained in this handbook is continually updated. Questions regarding this handbook should be directed to the campus dean.**

## I. GREAT OAKS PURPOSE AND GOALS

### **PURPOSE:**

We are Great Oaks—the first choice in providing innovative career training to empower individuals and communities.

### **GOALS:**

All associates work together to:

1. Prepare and support all learners to successfully enter, compete and advance in their educational and career paths.
2. Create an environment and provide resources that meet the evolving needs of learners, industry and our communities.

NOTE: This handbook is based in part on policies adopted by Great Oaks Board of Directors. Policies are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to this handbook since it was produced in July 2022. Any questions should be directed to a school administrator. For all current policies adopted by the Board of Directors, please reference Great Oaks Board policies on our website at [www.greatoaks.com](http://www.greatoaks.com).

### **GREAT OAKS VALUES**

Honesty, Trust, Respect, Quality, Equity

### **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

Great Oaks Career Campuses provides an equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the district's Compliance Officer: Dr. Donna J. Eakins, Director of Student Services at [eakinsd@greatoaks.com](mailto:eakinsd@greatoaks.com) or Mr. Dan Cox, Director of Building and Assets, [coxd@greatoaks.com](mailto:coxd@greatoaks.com), 513.771.8840. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures in this handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. Dr. Donna J. Eakins can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## II. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Care of Equipment**

Students are required to show appreciation of and respect for property, including all equipment, supplies and furnishings in the school campus complex as well as that of their own and other students' property.

General housekeeping chores are required of all students including disposal of wastepaper and trash into proper receptacles, keeping work areas free of dirt and litter and, in general, keeping the classrooms, labs, restrooms, cafeteria, halls and grounds clean, attractive and safe. Students who destroy property or school furnishings and equipment will be held responsible for its immediate repair or replacement. Parents or legal custodians may be fined up to \$10,000 and costs for malicious destruction of property by students. (ORC 3109.09)

### **Career-Technical Courses/Academic Courses Make-up Work**

Students are responsible for and obligated to make up the work they miss due to absence. All work missed by students must be made up as soon as possible after returning to school. All make-up work must be completed within the quarter missed unless extenuating circumstances (i.e., extended illness) are present requiring special arrangements from administration and instructors. If a course has a time requirement the student will also need to make up the time missed.

Students who are suspended or absent are encouraged upon their return to make arrangements with their instructor(s) as soon as possible to make up the work. Students expelled will not be permitted to make up their work.

### **Emergency Medical Forms**

Emergency Medical forms are filed in the student's file. Each student is required to return the completed Emergency Medical form to the campus no later than the end of the first week of school. Students may be denied career-technical program participation until the form is completed and submitted.

### **Health and Safety**

Correct health and safety practices and procedures are observed on the campus. Proper use of safety equipment and shop safety practices are integral parts of the career-technical program. All accidents must be reported immediately to the main office when they occur.

Great Oaks follows the guidelines of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Students will not be permitted to fully participate in their educational program if they are in violation of safety guidelines.

### **Immunizations**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. For the safety of all students, the Dean may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to Dr. Donna J. Eakins, Director of Student Services, 513.771.8840.

### **Injury and Illness**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the campus nurse. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the campus nurse will follow the school's emergency procedures and attempt to contact the student's parents.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the nurse's office. The campus nurse will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

### **Locker Access**

Personal possessions of students ordinarily used in school activities may be stored in lockers owned and provided by the school. Students are responsible to lock or secure the lockers. The school is not liable for any item which is damaged or stolen.

**Loitering**

Loitering about the campus buildings and parking lots is not permitted. Students who arrive early or stay late must be in a designated area. Any student or employee who observes someone loitering on campus should report them to the office.

**Mask/Face Covering (Policy 8450.01)**

If in the interest of public health, or by public order, the Board may require that students wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception is applicable, students shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code. All student facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming.

**Use of Mask/Face Covering**

Cloth face coverings/masks should:

- a. fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- b. fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;
- c. not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- d. be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Facial masks/coverings generally should not include surgical masks or respirators unless medically indicated (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers) or masks designed to be worn for costume purposes.

Any person may be required to temporarily remove a face mask or covering when instructed to do so for identification or security purposes. Failure to comply with such a request violates this policy and may lead to disciplinary or other action.

**Medications**

Students required to take medication at school must comply with the following procedures:

1. Prescription medication must have written orders from the physician detailing the name of the drug, the dosage and times, and the reason for its use. The school nurse must initial and file the orders in the Student Services office.
2. The parent or legal guardian must provide written permission requesting the school to administer the prescribed and/or non-prescribed medication. An emergency telephone number of the parent or legal guardian must be included in the request.
3. The medication must be taken in the presence of the campus nurse or designated employee.
4. The medication must be in its original container.
5. The medication shall be stored properly and secured in the campus nurse's office.
6. The campus personnel shall notify the parent or legal guardian of any suspected reaction and/or side effects to the medication, which they observe or is reported to them.
7. Accurate records must be kept on all medications administered to students by the campus nurse.
8. New request forms must be submitted for each school year and as necessary for any change in medication.

The intent of the above procedures is to ensure that no medication will be taken without proper authorization. The role of the campus will be one of cooperation with the parent and student. The campus nurse will distribute medication only if necessary and all of the above guidelines have been followed. (Policy 5330)

### **Parking Permits**

Parking permits are available for students not using bus transportation. Permits to drive on a continuing basis must also be approved by the parents. Parking permits must be displayed in accordance with campus procedures. Cars must be parked and locked upon arrival at the campus. No visiting, eating, loitering or going out for lunch in cars is permitted. Students may not display symbols or signs on their vehicles that are abusive, profane, vulgar, obscene or are considered hate speech and which, under the circumstances, disrupt normal school activities and are offensive in the school setting. Abuse of the use of cars and parking privileges may result in loss of their use. The District will not be held liable for damages, theft, or contents of vehicles on the property.

### **Personal, Locker, and Vehicle Searches (Policy 5771)**

Student lockers and lab lockers assigned to the student are the property of the Great Oaks Career Campuses (Great Oaks). School officials may conduct random searches of student lockers and their content at any time. Canines may be used for such random searches.

In addition to random searches of lockers and their content, school officials may conduct searches of lockers and any school property assigned to students if there is reasonable cause to believe that the school property or area being searched contains an item or items that constitutes or is evidence of a violation of law or school rules or may be a threat to the safety or security of the student, others, or property. General housekeeping inspection of school property assigned to students and their contents may also be conducted with advance notice to students, and searches of school property assigned to students and their contents may be conducted when there is an emergency situation or imminent threat to the safety of persons or property. Canines may be used for such searches.

A student's person, personal property or automobile may be searched at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that the student has on his or her person or the student's personal property or automobile contains an item or items that constitutes or is evidence of a violation of law or school rules or may be a threat to the safety or security of the student, others, or property. Canines may be used for such searches.

In addition to canine searches, as indicated above, canines may be used, at any time and without notice, to "sniff" any school property areas or automobiles on school property.

### **Student Dress and Uniforms (Policy 5511)**

The prime responsibility for a student's dress rests with the parent and student. All students shall be neat and clean and shall dress in a manner that is not unduly distracting to others or that interferes with or disrupts the educational process.

Students are to dress in a manner that would satisfy and be acceptable to future employers. This purpose of the dress code is to "dress for success" and come to school properly prepared to participate in the educational process. The dress code includes, but is not limited to hair, clothing, buttons, badges, insignia, words, pictures, jewelry, or other items or symbols or expression ("student dress").

#### **A. Dress Guidelines**

***Each Great Oaks Career Campus has more specific guidelines regarding student dress and program uniforms.***

The following are dress guidelines students are expected to follow:

1. All clothing must be in good taste, clean and in good condition.
2. All students shall wear footwear.



3. Skirts shorter than four inches above the knee are considered inappropriate for school and are not permitted.
4. Shorts, muscle shirts, strapless or thin strapped tops/dresses, tank tops and mesh dresses/blouse are not permitted.
5. Pants must be worn at the waist. Any clothing which exposes the midriff, abdomen, cleavage, undergarments or private parts (intentionally or accidentally) is prohibited.
6. Hats or other head coverings are not permitted, except in lab areas where it is necessary for safety purposes.
7. Wearing sunglasses inside the school building is prohibited.
8. Clothing or jewelry which represents a potential danger or safety hazard is not permitted.
9. Any article of clothing, including accessories such as bags and purses, which depict drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sexual innuendos, or gang/cult related symbols/gestures which, under the circumstances, disrupt normal school activities and are offensive in the school setting are prohibited. This includes confederate flag emblems, swastikas, and any other hate-related symbols.

#### **B. Lab Attire**

The general rule for program attire is “industry standard.” All programs have a dress code. Students are expected to fully comply with program and safety attire.

Uniform colors and styles will be determined by instructors and program affiliation. The instructor will also determine when uniforms will be worn. It is recommended that students buy at least two sets of uniforms, in order to maintain a clean and neat appearance and promote good personal hygiene. In some labs, jewelry represents a safety hazard and must be removed. Hair must also be worn in such a manner as to assure the student’s safety.

Program participation may be limited when appropriate lab and safety attire are not worn.

#### **Student Handbook**

All students have access to the Student Handbook on the district website, [www.greatoaks.com](http://www.greatoaks.com), containing the student code of conduct, district and campus information.

#### **Student I.D. Cards**

A picture I.D. card is provided for each student at the beginning of the school year. The student shall be responsible for his/her own I.D. card and the cost of securing a replacement if lost. A student’s I.D. shall be visibly displayed at all times when they are on school property.

#### **Student Laptop Program and Network Information User Agreement (Policy 7540.03)**

The Student Laptop Program at Great Oaks is designed to help students succeed academically and prepare them to be college and career ready. During the school year, students will have full use of district-owned laptops assigned to them for use in their career technical and academic courses. Students are offered access to the district computer network and the Internet. All students must obtain parent/guardian permission and sign the Computer Network Information User Agreement. This form stipulates the appropriate use of the computer access and Internet. Violation of the User Agreement form may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.

#### **Student Tool Kits**

Students are responsible for securing their tools. Each student is assigned a locker in the laboratory to secure tool kits and personal possessions. The district will not be held liable for the damage or

disappearance of students' tools, uniforms, or other personal property. Students are responsible for providing a lock for their lab locker and toolbox.

### **Consideration for All**

The use of words (written or verbal), symbols or gestures that are abusive, profane, vulgar, obscene or are considered hate speech and which, under the circumstances, disrupt normal school activities and are offensive in the school setting are prohibited. The symbols may not appear on school-related online accounts, virtual classroom accounts (including zoom backgrounds), vehicles, lockers, or equipment while on campus and/or while engaged in a school activity.

## **III. STUDENT RESOURCES**

### **Awards and Recognition**

There will be numerous opportunities for students to gain recognition and to receive honors and awards. Many of these are through career technical student organizations, National Technical Honor Society, Honor Roll, perfect attendance, and Student Ambassadors. Teachers and counselors have more information on this.

### **Career Passports**

The Career Passport is a credentialing tool that documents the specific occupational skills, academic skills, and employability skills of students who participate in a secondary or post-secondary program in Ohio. It contains a cover letter from the President/CEO of Great Oaks, a personal data sheet highlighting the graduate's education and employment history, activities, awards, and special recognitions, community service, etc. A competency profile of the skills mastered in the career pathway is included.

The Career Passport provides employers with an accurate, reliable tool for evaluating job applicants. It enhances the individual career planning process for students and assists them in marketing themselves to prospective employers. It increases the accountability to the community by documenting each student's mastery of specific competencies that business and industry has said their employees must have to be successful.

### **Career-Technical Certificates**

#### **A. Certificate of Career-Technical Preparation**

This certificate is for students that have successfully completed all courses in their career-technical program. For a 2- year program, it is all career tech courses for both years. For a 1- year program it is for all courses for 1-year program.

#### **B. Certificate of Participation**

This certificate is for students that do not successfully complete all courses in their career technical program.

### **College Credit Opportunities**

Great Oaks students are able to earn college credit through College Credit Plus, Career-Technical Assurance Guides (**CTAG**) and Articulation Agreements. Career-technical instructors and counselors can help guide the student through this process.

#### **A. College Credit Plus (CCP)- (Policy 2271)**

All Great Oaks Career Campuses offer the opportunity for qualifying students to participate in College Credit Plus. College Credit Plus is simultaneously earning college and high school credit,

in the academic areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and some career-technical programs. Students who earn these credits will receive a transcript from our partnering postsecondary school. By law these credits will be accepted by any public college or university in the State of Ohio.

#### **B. Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAG)**

Many Great Oaks career and technical courses have been approved for college credit. These courses are designated as a **CTAG** course and if successfully completed are eligible for college credit at an Ohio public college or university, in an approved post-secondary pathway. Some of the **CTAG** credits are combined with successful completion of an industry credential and/or passage of WebXams which are end of courses assessments for our career-technical courses. More information on **CTAG** is available at: <https://transfercredit.ohio.gov/>.

#### **C. Articulation Agreements**

Great Oaks has articulation agreements with area colleges and apprenticeship programs. Great Oaks articulation agreements are formal agreements between Great Oaks and the specific entity of postsecondary-level learning which details how learning completed at Great Oaks will be accepted and applied by another toward its courses/certificates/degree programs.

#### **Foster Care Youth**

Students who meet the Federal definition of "in foster care", including those who are awaiting foster care placement, will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as all other students of the District. For additional information see Policy 5111.03.

#### **Free and Reduced-Price Meals- Breakfast and Lunch – Cafeteria**

Great Oaks participates in the USDA's National School Lunch Program. More information about the National School Lunch Program is at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/nation-school-lunch-program-nslp>. Each campus cafeteria offers breakfast and lunch each day. Free and Reduced applications are available on the campus's websites, through the Payschools Central App as well as a hardcopy in Student Services. School counselors can assist with this process as necessary.

Great Oaks uses the PaySchools Central Quick App for student lunch accounts. Directions on how to register to use this system are on the Great Oaks Career Campuses' website. All cafeteria transactions are cashless. Money may be added to your PaySchools Central App electronically or cash may be taken to your Campus Registrar and added prior to mealtime. With a negative account balance, students will be unable to purchase ala carte items.

Students that have applied and been approved to the free or reduced-price meals may receive one breakfast and one lunch meal daily. A breakfast includes grain, meat/meat alternates, fruit, milk. A lunch meal includes grain, meat/meat alternates, vegetable, fruit and milk. Ala carte purchases will continue to be purchased as usual.

#### **Homeless Students (Policy 5111.01)**

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the district. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information contact Dr. Donna J. Eakins, Director of Student Services, 513.771.8840, [eakinsd@greatoaks.com](mailto:eakinsd@greatoaks.com).

## **Graduation Requirements**

All students receive their high school diploma from their affiliated school and must meet the graduation requirements of their school. All official transcript requests are through the affiliated school.

## **Great Oaks Foundation Student Financial Assistance**

The Great Oaks Education Foundation helps students overcome the obstacles to graduation, employment and continuing education. The foundation provides funds to each campus to address these obstacles. If in need, students should meet with their counselor for support.

The Great Oaks Education Foundation also provides scholarship opportunities to graduates on a competitive basis. All scholarships are endowed scholarships that have been established by generous donors. Information and applications are available on the Great Oaks Education Foundation website.

## **Great Oaks Warranty Program**

Great Oaks is confident that its graduates have acquired the best possible career technical education. To demonstrate this confidence, Great Oaks will warranty all Great Oaks' graduates who qualify for the Certificate of Career-Technical Preparation and who are employed through the campus placement program. This warranty issued to employers who hire Great Oaks graduates will guarantee free additional education if the graduate's certified competencies are found lacking during their first year after graduation.

## **Work Based Learning (WBL)**

WBL is an opportunity for students to acquire occupational awareness, knowledge and skills for life success. Students receive instruction both at school and on the job through a cooperative arrangement between the school and the employer. Instruction includes required academic courses along with related career and technical instruction. This experience must be planned and supervised by both the school and employer to ensure that each stakeholder contributes to the student's education and employability.

WBL aligns to graduation requirements and can help students earn the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal. WBL provides an opportunity for the student to make a transition from school-trained skills to job skill application under the guidance of the instructor and the employer.

Ohio WBL has six categories:

Off-Site Placement or Internship	Entrepreneurship
Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship	School-based Enterprise
Remote or Virtual Placement	Simulated Work Environment

For more detailed descriptions of Ohio Work-Based Learning: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Work-Based-Learning>

### **A. Off-Site Placement or Internship and Remote or Virtual Placement**

An internship is a temporary position with an emphasis on on-the-job training rather than merely employment, and it can be paid or unpaid. Companies usually have a specific project that is a good fit

for interns. An intern is someone who:

- Is probably in school and usually wants to explore short-term options for their career pathway
- May be paid or unpaid
- May work or study elsewhere after the internship

## **B. Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship**

The Youth Pre-Apprenticeship program is a collaborative partnership between a school and registered apprenticeship sponsor that provides students with exposure to the work environment.

Currently only three Great Oaks career programs have registered pre-apprenticeship agreements with Apprentice Ohio:

- Commercial Residential Electricity
- Engineering Technology and Robotics
- Construction Technology

## **C. Entrepreneurship**

In an entrepreneurship experience, the student operates his or her own business or service, including oversight of all operational and risk- management decisions.

## **D. School-based Enterprise**

In a school-based enterprise, students work cooperatively to operate a business or service, with facilities, resources and equipment most often provided by the school.

## **E. Simulated Work Environment**

In a simulated work experience, the student works cooperatively with a business mentor to perform work in a simulated environment. The student performs tasks and demonstrates skills necessary for success in a particular industry, as determined by the business mentor with input and additional guidance from the instructor or educational supervisor.

Additional information about WBL opportunities, participation requirements, roles, and responsibilities can be obtained from the career tech program instructor and the WBL handbook.

## **Neediest Kids of All**

Qualified students may apply for N.K.O.A. funds for basic necessities, such as clothing, shoes, food, glasses, hearing aids, etc. if they are not eligible as a recipient through other programs of existing social agencies.

## **Safe School Hotline 844-SAFEROH (844-723-3764)**

Any student or parent can anonymously report anything that is suspicious or endangering them, their friends, or school. Calls or texts to 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764) are answered by analysts in the Ohio Homeland Security's Threat Assessment and Prevention (TAP) Unit. When action is needed, the TAP Unit immediately forwards information to local school officials, local law enforcement agencies and others, if necessary.

## **School Based Mental Health Programs**

Each Great Oaks campus provides mental health counseling through school based mental health partners. More information is available from school counselors.

## **Student Services Program**

One of the primary goals of Great Oaks is to assist students in making satisfactory progress through their career-technical pathway. The Student Services Program provides a continuous support system in preparation for the next step in our student's career path. This includes a successful entry into the world of work, college and/or military. School counselors are available at each Great Oaks campus to provide this support.

### **Substance Abuse Prevention**

Chemical dependence, or substance abuse, is recognized as a disease. The school's role is one of intervention, not treatment. The role of Great Oaks is to provide the necessary support to the student to assist him/her in the successful completion of the educational program. (Policy 5530 Drug Prevention)

### **Voter Registration**

The Great Oaks Career Campuses participate in the Ohio Secretary of State's voter registration program "Grads Vote Ohio." Any student meeting Ohio's voter eligibility requirements may register to vote by obtaining registration forms from a teacher in the Social Studies department. Forms mailed to the County Board of Elections must be postmarked no later than 30 days prior to an election in order to be eligible to vote in that election.

## **IV. SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

### **A Parent's Right to Know Professional Qualifications**

Parent or guardians of a student at Great Oaks Career Campuses have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct their child. Federal law allows them to ask for certain information about their child's classroom teachers and requires Great Oaks to give this information in a timely manner if asked for it.

Specifically, parents have the right to ask for the following information about each of their child's classroom teachers:

1. Whether the Ohio Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
2. Whether the Ohio Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
3. The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has earned advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of those degrees.
4. Whether any aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

For general information about a child's teacher, parents may ask the school's dean.

For detailed information, a formal request must be made in writing to the Mr. Kevin Abt, Director of Human Resources, Great Oaks Career Campuses, 110 Great Oaks Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241.

### **Affiliated School Relationship**

Students attending a Great Oaks Career Campus graduate from their affiliated school. Students are encouraged to participate in activities at a student's affiliated school as well as the career campus. To stay informed, students should check the bulletin boards daily, campus website daily, Great Oaks email, and listen to daily announcements. Opportunities to order class rings, caps and gowns, etc., will be provided for students through the Student Services offices.

### **Bloodborne Pathogens**

All staff and students practice universal precautions for infection control because all direct/indirect contact with human blood and body fluids may be infectious for HIV, HBV and/or other bloodborne pathogens.\*

\*Bloodborne pathogens - pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and in some body fluids can cause disease in humans. These include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

To reduce the risk to staff/students by minimizing or eliminating staff exposure incidents to bloodborne pathogens, the Board directs the President/CEO or designee to develop and implement an Exposure Control Plan.

### **Breakfast and Lunch – Cafeteria**

Great Oaks offers full meals for both breakfast and lunch as well as many ala carte items. Students may pack a lunch should they choose not to eat the meals offered in the cafeteria. No food or beverages are to be consumed or carried from the cafeteria. Students are responsible for removing their tray and litter from the tables when they finish and placing them in the proper receptacles. Delivery of food from outside of the school during the school day must have prior campus administration approval.

Students may charge up to 3 meals when sufficient funds are not available on their account. Only reimbursable meals may be charged – ala carte items, additional entrees, drinks, etc. may not be charged. All charges must be paid the next day. A low-cost courtesy meal will be provided for those students who have reached their allowable charging limit. Students with a negative balance on their account will not be able to purchase ala carte items. All meal charges are the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Any charges that have incurred before or during the application process are also the parent/guardian's responsibility. Free and reduced applications are available online, through PaySchools Central app as well as available in the school office and Student Services. Additional information can be found on p10 of this handbook.

### **Early Dismissals**

No student may leave school prior to dismissal time without a parent or guardian either submitting a signed written request or coming to the School Office personally to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written permission note signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

### **Emergency Drills**

Procedures have been developed for the safety of all people in the buildings. In the event of an emergency, students should remain under control, be alert, and follow directions established.

### **Grades**

Student progress reports will be made every nine weeks to parents and affiliated schools. Students will be graded on the level of skill proficiency that they develop.

- A - Superior = 4 points
- B - Above Average = 3 points
- C - Average = 2 points
- D - Below Average = 1 point
- F - Failing = No points/No credit

The District grading scale is:

A = 100% - 90%  
B = 89% - 80%  
C = 79% - 70%

D = 69% - 60%  
F = 59% - 0%

Percentage grades are used to determine the letter grade used on report cards. Percentage grades of each grading period are averaged to get semester and final grades. The credits earned through successful completion of the student's courses are recommended to the affiliate schools for credit.

Grades are determined by each instructor, on the instructional activities and the quality of work received from the student.

Due to extenuating circumstances, a student may be given an incomplete. Incompletes must be made up through special arrangements with the approval from campus administrator.

Quarterly report cards are sent to the affiliated schools and mailed to parents. The report gives the student and parents the opportunity to review the student's progress for that quarter of the school year.

ProgressBook is used for grades, students and parents are encouraged to check the student's progress in their courses regularly. More information on how to access ProgressBook is available from the Student Services secretary at each campus.

### **Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity in Educational Programs and Activities –Students (Policy 2260)**

The Great Oaks Career Campuses (Great Oaks) provides equal educational opportunities for student admission and participation in services, programs, and activities sponsored by Great Oaks. It is the policy of Great Oaks not to discriminate, in violation of federal or state law, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, age, or disability in admission to, access to, or receiving benefits from any service, program, or activity sponsored by the district. (Policy 2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Opportunity)

Inquiries or complaints regarding compliance with this policy or the nondiscrimination requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 should be directed to the Great Oaks Director of Student Services, Dr. Donna J. Eakins ([eakinsd@greatoaks.com](mailto:eakinsd@greatoaks.com)) or Director of Building and Assets, Mr. Dan Cox ([cox@greatoaks.com](mailto:cox@greatoaks.com)) Great Oaks Career Campuses, 110 Great Oaks Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241, 513.771.8840

Complaints involving alleged harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, age, or disability should be reported using the procedures developed pursuant to Policy 5517. In addition, a complainant has a right to file a formal complaint with the Office for Civil Rights.

### **Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards (Policy 8431)**

The school is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all federal and state laws and regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the school district's Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy and asbestos management plan is available for inspection at Great Oaks District Office upon request.



## **School Calendar**

All Great Oaks students should follow their campus school calendar in regards to school holidays, winter and spring breaks in-services. Transportation from the affiliated schools is provided for Great Oaks every day classes are in session. School calendars have been sent to each affiliated school transportation department.

## **School Day**

Diamond Oaks	-	7:50 AM - 2:18 PM
Laurel Oaks	-	8:05 AM - 2:30 PM
Live Oaks	-	7:50 AM - 2:18 PM
Scarlet Oaks	-	7:50 AM - 2:18 PM

## **Snow Days and Calamity Days**

All students should follow their affiliated school's decision on snow closing and delays. When snow or other events happen, Great Oaks Career Campuses will switch to a Blended Learning for the day instead of closing our schools when the majority of affiliated schools for the campus make that decision. Information about snow closings and delays will be on all local TV stations, many radio stations and on the Great Oaks website at [www.greatoaks.com](http://www.greatoaks.com). Great Oaks will also use a telephone communication tool to inform students of closings or delays.

## **Student Records/Directory Information (Policy 8330)**

### **A. Student Records**

Parents and students who are eighteen (18) years of age or attending an institution of post-secondary education are permitted to inspect and review the education records of the student by contacting the appropriate building dean. Parents or eligible students are permitted to seek the correction of inaccurate records through a request to amend the records or a hearing. They are also permitted to place a statement in the educational record of the student as a result of such a hearing if they wish to comment upon the information. Under the "Family Education and Privacy Act of 1974", 18- year old students have the right to review their school records. The following guidelines apply to record review:

1. Individuals must make the request in writing to their school counselor. The request will become part of the records.
2. A school official must be present at the review of the records.
3. A copy of any records can be made. (A fee may be charged.)
4. Individuals have the right to ask for correction or deletion of any information in the records.
5. Individuals must give written permission for the school to release information to outside individuals or institutions.

The school district follows the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regarding all student records. Parents who do not want directory information for their child released to colleges, universities, and military recruiters should contact the campus guidance office and complete the Student Records Release Form.

### **B. Directory Information**

Each year the President/CEO shall provide public notice to students and their parents of the District's intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received.

The Board designates school-assigned e-mail accounts as "directory information" for the limited purpose of facilitating students' registration for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes. School-assigned e-mail accounts shall not be released as directory information beyond this/these limited purpose(s) and to any person or entity but the specific online educational service provider and internal users of the District's Education Technology.

Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes.

Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board within thirty (30) days after receipt of the President/CEO's annual public notice.

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board shall release the names, addresses, District-assigned e-mail addresses (if available), and telephone listings of secondary students to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or an institution of higher education who requests such information. A secondary school student or parent of the student may request in writing that the student's name, address, District-assigned e-mail addresses (if available), and telephone listing not be released without prior consent of the parent(s)/eligible student. The recruiting officer is to sign a form indicating that "any information received by the recruiting officer shall be used solely for the purpose of informing students about military service and shall not be released to any person other than individuals within the recruiting services of the Armed Forces." The President/CEO is authorized to charge mailing fees for providing this information to a recruiting officer.

Whenever consent of the parent(s)/eligible student is required for the inspection and/or release of a student's health or education records or for the release of "directory information," either parent may provide such consent unless agreed to otherwise in writing by both parents or specifically stated by court order. If the student is under the guardianship of an institution, the President/CEO shall appoint a person who has no conflicting interest to provide such written consent.

The Board may disclose "directory information," on former students without student or parental consent, unless the parent or eligible student previously submitted a request that such information not be disclosed without their prior written consent.

The Board shall not permit the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).

### **Transportation**

Where bus transportation is provided, students are encouraged to ride the bus. School bus services are offered through the cooperation of the affiliated schools. Great Oaks offers daily shuttles from each career campus.

The shuttles are:

Diamond Oaks to Scarlet Oaks  
Laurel Oaks to Live Oaks  
Laurel Oaks to Scarlet Oaks  
Live Oaks to Scarlet Oaks

Live Oaks to Laurel Oaks  
Scarlet Oaks to Diamond Oaks  
Scarlet Oaks to Live Oaks

### **Withdrawal/Transfer from School**

No student under the age of 18 is allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents and in compliance with state law. A student who otherwise withdraws from school shall be reported to the juvenile judge of the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if s/he is under the age of eighteen (18).

Parents must notify the Dean about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records, including disciplinary records of suspension and expulsion, will be transferred to the new school within 14 days of the parents' notice or request.

## **V. STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **Attendance (Policy 5200)**

Attendance is vital to the student's success at Great Oaks! The student is establishing an attendance record that will be carried over to the next step in their career. Whether the next step is college, working in their career, military or a combination of these, establishing a good attendance record is a necessary factor in the student's success. Attendance is required of all students enrolled in school during the days and hours that the school is in session.

The campus requires notification and cause for any absence from school or required school activities from the parent. The student's parent/guardian is required to contact the school office prior to 9:00 AM on the day of the absence. The campus has the right to verify and investigate the cause of any and all absences of any student.

#### **Attendance Definitions**

- A. Excused Absences:** Absences will be excused only under the following circumstances.
- a. **Personal illness:** The parent or guardian of a student may write an excuse for a student experiencing illness for up to sixty (60) hours. After sixty (60) hours, a doctor's excuse must be provided, signed by the doctor and indicating the reason for the student's inability to attend school. Any absence greater than sixty (60) hours in a school year due to illness that is not accompanied by a doctor's excuse as described above will be unexcused. A doctor's excuse must be provided to the school within forty-eight (48) hours, (i.e. two (2) business days), of the student's return to school or the absence will be unexcused.
  - b. **Appointment with a health care provider**
  - c. **Illness or injury in the family:** Independent verification by a physician explaining the nature and severity of the illness or injury to the family member requiring the student to be absent will be required within forty-eight (48) hours, (i.e. two (2) business days), of the student's return to school.
  - d. **Quarantine of the home:** Absences will only be excused for the length of quarantine as determined by health officials. Verification from relevant health officials explaining the nature and length of the quarantine must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours, (i.e. two (2) business days), of the student's return to school.
  - e. **Death in the family:** Three (3) days excused absence will be permitted, unless a parent or guardian offers a reasonable explanation that more school absences are necessary. The parent or guardian may provide a note to the school to advise the school of the absence; however, under certain circumstances, the school may require additional documentation to confirm the student's absence was legitimate (i.e. funeral service documentation, etc.).
  - f. **Observance or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday**

**B. Unexcused Absences:** Absences by consent of the parent or with the parent's knowledge for a reason not acceptable to the school or absences that are not followed by written documentation from the parent or doctor. The school administration will make the final determination as to whether an absence is excused, but in general, unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- a. missing the school bus
- b. experiencing transportation problems at home or on the way to school
- c. remaining at home to complete school assignments
- d. missing school without legitimate illness
- e. oversleeping
- f. working at a job during the school day without proper job placement paperwork completed
- g. babysitting
- h. any form of recreation
- i. personal business that can be done after school or on the weekends
- j. non-school sponsored sports or non-school events
- k. pictures or portraits
- l. hunting season

**C. Habitually Truant:** A student who is absent  
30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse  
42 or more hours in one month without a legitimate excuse  
72 or more hours in one year without a legitimate excuse

**For students determined to be habitually truant:**

1. Written notice will be provided to the parent/guardian
2. Student will be assigned to an absence intervention team
3. If the child fails to make progress after 61 days on the personalized absence intervention plan, the district will file a complaint in juvenile court
4. Counseling will be provided
5. The student's parent or guardian will be asked to attend parental involvement programs or truancy prevention mediation programs
6. As applicable, the registrar of motor vehicles will be notified
7. Children's Services will be notified as deemed necessary

**D. Excessive Absences:**

When a student of compulsory school age is absent from school with combined nonmedical excused absences and unexcused absences in excess of thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, that student is considered "excessively absent" from school. The district or school the attendance officer shall notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absences, in writing, within seven (7) school days after the date of the absence that triggered the notice requirement. At the same time written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken.

The following "medical excuses" will not count toward a student's excessive absence hours: (1) personal illness; (2) illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child; (3) quarantine of the home; (4) health care provider appointments (doctor, dentist, mental health provider, etc.); (5) medically-necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751; (6) death in the family; or (7) other set of circumstances the Superintendent deems on a case-by-case basis to be a good and sufficient cause for medical absence from school. A medically excused absence occurs any time a student is out of school due to illness or medical visit

(physician, dentist, mental health, etc.). A medical excuse for personal illness will be accepted in the form of doctor's note within two (2) school days of the absence or parent call-in on the day of the absence due to illness or doctor's visit. A student may have up to 60 hours medically excused absences without a doctor's note, but with a phone call from a parent/guardian. Medical excuse absences will be accepted through this process for students participating both in-person and remotely.

**For students determined to be excessively absent:**

1. Written notice will be provided to the parent/guardian
2. The student will follow the district's plan for absence intervention
3. The student and family may be referred to community resources

**E. Absence Intervention Team**

The school-based absence intervention team will establish a student-centered absence intervention plan by identifying specific barriers and solutions to attendance problems. Membership of the team will vary based on the needs of each individual student, but each team is required to include:

1. A representative of the school or district.
2. Another representative from the school or district who has a relationship with the child.
3. The child's parent/guardian.

**Remote Attendance Requirement**

Students are required to participate in teacher-led remote learning Zoom meetings and attendance will be tracked. In addition to the reasons listed at the beginning of this section, absences from teacher-led remote learning Zoom meetings may be considered excused under the following circumstances, with written notice from a parent/guardian:

1. Temporary internet outage for individual students or households;
2. Unexpected technical difficulties for individual students or households, such as password resets or software upgrades occurring during a teacher-led remote learning lesson;
3. Computer/device malfunction;
4. Malfunction of a district-owned device for which the District is providing technical assistance, repair, or replacement.

**Prohibition of Bullying and Harassment (Policy 5517.01)**

Great Oaks is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. Great Oaks will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

- A. Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or
- B. Violence within a dating relationship

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the campus dean or assistant dean or the President/CEO.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above. All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyberbullying, the dean or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the dean will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 - Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

#### **Reporting a Complaint by Students or Parents**

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the campus dean for review, investigation, and action.

Students, parents/guardians, and school personnel may make informal or anonymous complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal or anonymous complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the campus dean for review, investigation, and appropriate action.

Individuals who make informal complaints as provided above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

When an individual making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

#### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

Great Oaks will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with our legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

#### **Due Process Rights (Policy 5611)**

All students who receive discipline are guaranteed due process. This includes the following:

1. The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and reason for the proposed action.
  2. The student will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.
  3. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.
- Please refer to Policy 5611 for more information.

#### **Interrogation of Student**

The school is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the dean will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and s/he (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the

parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the dean (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or children's services agency removes a student from school, the dean will notify a parent.

### **Students Rights of Expression (Policy 5722)**

In accordance with Policy 5722 and Policy 9700 students have the right, protected by the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, to exercise freedom of speech. This includes the right to distribute or display, at reasonable times and places, written material, petitions, buttons, badges, or other insignia, except expression that:

- A. is defamatory, libelous, obscene or harmful to juveniles;
- B. is pervasively indecent or vulgar;
- C. promotes activities, products or services that are unlawful (illegal) as to minors as defined by state or federal law;
- D. constitutes insulting or "fighting words", the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character, or statements that violate the Board's policies regarding bullying, harassment and/or discrimination as set forth in Policy 2260, Policy 2260.01, Policy 5517 and Policy 5517.01);
- E. infringes upon the privacy or rights of others;
- F. violates copyright law;
- G. is reasonably likely to cause substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities or the educational process.

### **Weapons (Policy 5772)**

The Board of Directors prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle.

The term "weapons" includes any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, incendiary devices, explosives, and other objects defined as dangerous ordnances under State law.

Policy exceptions include items pre-approved by the Dean as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision, if used for the purpose and in the manner approved (working firearms and any ammunition will never be approved as a part of a presentation).

Students shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the Dean. Failure to report such information may subject the student to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be implemented through the Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Policy 5610, and Policy 5610.01, and through administrative guidelines.



The President/CEO is authorized to establish instructional programs on the weapons and the requirement that students immediately report knowledge of weapons and threats of violence by students and/or staff to the Dean. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

The President/CEO will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

This policy will be published annually in all District student and staff handbooks. Publication is not a precondition to enforcement of this policy.

### **Grounds for Suspension, Expulsion, Emergency Removal or Other Disciplinary Action**

Violation on the part of a student of any one or more of the following rules shall constitute misconduct and may result in the suspension, expulsion, emergency removal, or other discipline of a student.

These student code of conduct regulations are applicable to conduct while school is in session, at school sponsored activities or events whether on or off school premises, on school premises whether or not school is in session, in any vehicle whose use is controlled, organized, or arranged by the school, or at any time the student is subject to the authority of the Board of Directors or school district personnel. Students are also subject to discipline for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the district or adversely affects the educational process. In addition, a student may be subject to school disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, for harassment, vandalism, physical abuse or other harmful or disruptive behavior toward school personnel during non-school hours.

The offenses listed below include suggested discipline. However, the suggested discipline guidelines are not, in any way whatsoever, binding on school district personnel assigning discipline to a student for violations of the Code of Conduct. A student may, at any time, for any violation of the Code of Conduct, be suspended, removed, and/or expelled from school, and/or be subject to other disciplinary action or referral to law enforcement or other officials.

### **Great Oaks Student Code of Conduct**

#### **Section 1 - Suspension for 10 Days with Recommendation for Expulsion**

Students committing any offense in Section 1 will be suspended from school for ten days and will be recommended for expulsion from school. The matter may be referred to law enforcement or other officials.

##### **A. Alcoholic Beverages and/ or Drugs**

A student shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, conceal, transmit, give attempt to purchase, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal or illegally used drug including steroids, counterfeit (look-alike) drugs, or controlled substances or otherwise violate Board Policy 5530 Drug Prevention. "Possession" includes, but is not limited to, retention on the student's person or in a purse, backpack, wallet, locker, desk, or vehicle. A student shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, conceal, or transmit any drug-related paraphernalia. A student shall not have the odor of illegal toxins, such as alcohol, marijuana etc. on or about their person. It is not a violation of the Code of Conduct if a substance is used for medical purposes in accordance with directions for use, in accordance with a valid prescription (if the substance is a prescription drug), and in accordance with Policy 5330 Use of Medications. Such a validly

used/possessed substance must be (1) if a prescription drug, authorized by a medical prescription by an authorized health-care professional and kept in the original container, which shall state the student's name and directions for use and expiration date; or (2) if an over-the-counter drug, kept in the original container, which shall state directions for use.

**B. Arson/Unauthorized Use of Fire**

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause any flame, spark or other form of fire to be ignited without the authorization to do so.

**C. Assault**

A student shall not cause, attempt to cause, or threaten to cause physical injury to any person.

**D. Dangerous Weapons**

A student shall not possess, transport, transmit, conceal or attempt to possess, transport, transmit, or conceal a dangerous weapon, firearm, knife, fireworks, explosive ordnance or dangerous instrument, or "look-alike" counterfeit weapon, firearm, knife, ordnance, or dangerous instrument. "Look -alike" weapons, firearms, knives, fireworks, explosive ordnance, or instruments include, but are not limited to, any object a reasonable person might consider under the circumstances a dangerous weapon, firearm, knife, fireworks, explosive ordnance or dangerous instrument.

As used herein, "firearm" shall be defined as in 18 USC section 921 and shall include, but not be limited to, any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device as defined in 18 USC section 921 et seq. The definition of destructive device includes, but is not limited to, (1) any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas including, but not limited to, a bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or a device similar to any of the devices described herein or (2) any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described herein and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

As used herein, "knife" shall be defined as any instrument that possesses a pointed or sharp-edged blade of metal or other rigid material and that is designed or can be used for cutting, slicing, or stabbing; this definition shall include, but is not limited to, straight razors, utility knives, box cutters, ice picks, pocket knives, switchblades, and buck knives.

Nothing in this provision is intended to, nor shall it, preclude the President/CEO from suspending, expelling or removing a student in accordance with Ohio law for otherwise possessing, transmitting, or concealing a weapon, explosive ordnance, or other dangerous instrument that is not as just defined herein.

**E. False Alarms/Inducing Panic**

No student shall induce panic, cause the evacuation of any school building or otherwise cause serious public inconvenience or alarm by:

Initiating or circulating a report or warning of an alleged or impending fire, explosion, crime, or other catastrophe, knowing that such a report or warning is false. Examples include, but are not limited to, pulling a fire alarm when the student knows there is no fire or making a bomb threat when the student knows that there is no bomb, or making a false "hit list."

Threatening to commit an offense of violence, as that term is defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.01 (A) (9). Examples include, but are not limited to, threatening to kill, assault, kidnap, rape, or rob someone, to commit extortion, to provoke a riot, to commit arson, or to discharge a firearm at or into a school.

Committing any offense with reckless disregard of the likelihood that its commission will cause serious public inconvenience or alarm. For purposes of this policy, reckless disregard means disregarding a known risk that the student's conduct is likely to cause serious public inconvenience or alarm, and being heedlessly indifferent to the effects on others of the action taken by the student. Under Ohio law, any person who "induces panic" is guilty of a felony, regardless of whether anyone is hurt or their school suffers economic harm.

**F. Indecent Exposure**

A student shall not expose their person in an indecent manner or engage in any act of public indecency prohibited by Ohio Revised Code Section 2907.09.

**G. Unauthorized Entry**

A student shall not enter a closed or restricted school building, school vehicle, or other Board owned or leased property that has been locked or otherwise secured or prohibited from student use or access without administrative or staff approval.

**Section 2 - Suspension with Possible Recommendation for Expulsion**

Students committing any offense in Section 2 may be suspended from school for one to ten days. Serious and/or repeated violations may result in a recommendation for expulsion from school.

**A. Abuse of Computer Hardware, Software, and/or Internet**

A student shall not abuse the school district's hardware or software including, but not limited to, the following: tampering with computers or computer programs (whether such programs are commercially prepared or belong to another student or faculty member); using equipment to make unauthorized or illegal duplicate copies of computer software; damaging or destroying computers, computer hardware or software; or using computer phone or computer mail network facilities of the school district for purposes unrelated to the instructional program of the district unless written permission from the President/CEO or the President/CEO's designee has been obtained. A student shall not use the Internet or computer in violation of any policies or rules established for internet use.

**B. Defiance/Insubordination**

A student shall not disregard or refuse to obey reasonable requests or directions given to the student by school personnel. A student shall not refuse to identify himself/herself when asked.

**C. Destruction to Private Property**

A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard cause or attempt to cause damage to private property.

**D. Destruction to School Property**

A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard cause or attempt to cause damage to or deface school property including, but not limited to, buildings, grounds, equipment, materials, or computers or other technology. In accordance with state law, parent(s) may be liable for payment for the cost to repair or replace any such property damage caused by the acts of their children.

**E. Use of Profane, Vulgar or Abusive Language or Gestures Toward Employee(s)**

A student shall not direct toward Great Oaks employee(s) profane, vulgar, abusive, obscene, or other words or gestures which, under the circumstances, are offensive to the sensibilities of ordinary people in the school district community or which disrupt normal school activities. A student shall not direct toward Great Oaks employee(s) any derogatory words or gestures. Such prohibitions include, but are not limited to, use of computers or other technology or communications.

**F. Disruption of Educational Environment**

A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard act or urge other students or persons to act in such a way as to cause by use of violence, force, noise, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, the substantial and material disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function of the educational process of the school district including, but not limited to, curricular and extracurricular activities or the normal operation of the school.

**G. Disruptive Demonstration**

A student shall not participate in demonstrations or other similar behavior that has the effect of disrupting the educational process or safety of students or others.

**H. Endangering the Health and Safety of Others**

No student shall purposefully expose students or employee(s) to unsafe conditions.

**I. Extortion**

A student shall not gain or attempt to gain any money or thing of value from any person unless both parties agree freely and without the presence of an implied or expressed threat.

**J. Failing to Follow Directions in an Emergency**

A student shall not refuse or fail to follow directives of safety or law authorities or personnel or school district personnel evacuation of any school building or property at the time of an alarm.

**K. Failure to Serve Detention, Evening School or Alternative School Assignments**

A student shall not fail to serve detention, evening school or alternative school assignments.

**L. Fighting**

A student shall not engage in physically hostile bodily contact with another person.

**M. Frightening or Intimidating Acts**

A student shall not engage in any act or conduct which, under the circumstances a reasonable person would believe does or is intended to frighten or intimidate the person toward whom the act or conduct is directed. Students are expected to be tolerant of individual differences. A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard engage in any act or conduct which causes another person to reasonably believe that such student will cause physical harm to the person or property of such other person.

**N. Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation, Dating Violence or Other Degrading, Disgraceful, Discriminating and/or Racist Acts**

A student shall not harass, bully, intimidate, degrade, disgrace, disparage, incite, provoke, threaten, or discriminate against any other student or school employee or any other person or otherwise disrupt the school environment. A student shall not commit dating violence.

For this purpose, harassment, intimidation, or bullying also includes, but is not limited to, the possession of; or the taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of, by way of example: nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfers or other means (commonly called texting, emailing, sexting, etc.) Any student possessing, taking, disseminating, or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under the code of conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Harassment is defined as harassment, intimidation, or bullying that:

1. Causes or intends to cause mental or physical harm to another person that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates a hostile, intimidating, threatening, offensive, or abusive educational environment;
2. Causes or intends to cause another person to be reasonably placed in fear of his or her personal safety;
3. Causes or intends to cause a material disruption of the educational process;
4. Unreasonably interferes with a student's curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular performance; or
5. Otherwise adversely and unreasonably impacts upon a student's educational opportunities.
6. Any of the foregoing that is conducted by means of an electronic device including but not limited to a cell phone, computer, pager, or other electronic device.

Dating violence refers to the intentional use of actual or threats of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control his or her dating partner. It is a pattern of coercive behavior that one dating partner exerts over the other for the purpose of establishing and maintaining power and control. For this purpose, dating means any romantic relationship between an unmarried couple, regardless of gender, and regardless of duration, commitment level, or physical intimacy.

**O. Hazing**

A student shall not encourage, promote, engage in, or subject any other students to abusive or ridiculous activities or harass any other student with unnecessary or disagreeable tasks. Student organizations are not permitted to haze members or potential members of their organization.

**P. Records**

A student shall not alter, destroy, or falsify any school record, form, or other school data. A student shall not remove any school record from its official place of deposit.

**Q. Search**

No student shall refuse, impede, hinder, obstruct, or otherwise interfere with any search authorized by law enforcement and/or school officials.

**R. Sexual Harassment**

No student shall engage in any sexual harassment or otherwise violate Board Policy 5517 Anti-Harassment. Prohibited sexual harassment includes by way of example, but is not limited to: unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors, solicitation of sexual activity, displaying sexually suggestive objects, making sexual remarks or gestures, displaying sexual pictures or cartoons, making derogatory comments or slurs based on sex, making sexual comments about a person's body or clothing, touching a person, blocking their exit or assaulting a person, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature which the offender knows or should know is offensive to the listener or observer. A student shall not wear or possess clothing, jewelry, personal possessions, publications or other items or materials, which are sexually suggestive.

**S. Sexual Misconduct**

No student shall engage in any sexual conduct or sexual contact.

**T. Stealing**

A student shall not take nor receive or attempt to take or receive into his/her possession property of the school district or property of another student, teacher, visitor or employee of the school district without consent of the owner to do so.

**U. Unauthorized Touching or Hitting**

A student shall not engage in any unwanted or unwelcome touching, hitting, or physical contact with another person.

**Section 3 - Alternate Disciplinary Actions with Possible Suspension**

Instructors/administrators may be involved in assigning alternative discipline to a student for violations of Section 3. Alternative discipline may include but, is not limited to, lunch detentions, after school detentions, parent/student workshops, community service, or alternative center.

Students committing any offense in Section 3 may be suspended from school for one to ten days. Repeated violations may result in a recommendation for expulsion from school.

**A. Absence, Class Cutting, Tardiness, Truancy**

A student shall not be late, absent from school, or fail to comply with compulsory attendance laws for all or any portion of a school day, or any assigned class, or activity without proper authorization.

**B. Cheating**

A student shall not obtain by fraudulent, dishonest or deceptive means and use as his or her own (or provide to another student) the work, work product, questions on or answers to examinations, or any like matters or violate the reasonable requirements of a teacher with respect to the conduct and taking of examinations or the completion of other course assignments.

**C. Disrupting Class or Educational Environment**

A student shall not behave in a way that interferes or disrupts or attempts to interfere or disrupt any curricular or extracurricular activity or the normal operation of the school.

**D. Distribution or Sale of Unauthorized Materials**

A student shall not sell, distribute or attempt to sell or distribute any material, object or substance which has not been properly authorized by the President/CEO, campus administrator or their designee for sale or distribution to any person on school premises. This includes, but is not limited to, pamphlets, leaflets, buttons,

**E. Dress and Expression**

A student shall not violate Board Policy 5511- Dress and Grooming

**F. Tobacco or Non-Tobacco Products**

A student shall not smoke, use, or possess tobacco; tobacco products; other plant products (such as clove cigarettes); synthetic tobacco products, nicotine delivery products, including e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) and vaporizers of any kind; or any other substance that may be used for smoking, vaporizing or otherwise to consume tobacco or deliver nicotine to the body and look-alike products which may not actually contain tobacco or nicotine. This applies to school property and school events both on and off school property.

**G. Electronic Devices**

During class time, students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices of any kind without receiving specific permission from the classroom teacher. Class time also includes study halls, volunteering, work-study, curricular and extra-curricular programs during and after the school day. Students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices to make audio or video recordings of any kind while on school property without written permission from the building administrator.

**H. Gambling**

A student shall not engage in any form of gambling.

**I. Leaving School Premises**

A student shall not leave school premises before the time of dismissal except where individual school policy otherwise provides or without first obtaining the consent from the Campus Administrator or his/her designee.

**J. Misrepresentation, Forgery and Plagiarism**

A student shall not, orally or in writing, use or sign the name of another person or falsify times, dates, grades, addresses or other data on school records, in correspondence, or in other written material directed to the school or school personnel. A student shall not use the written work of any other person or parts or passages of such other person's writings, or the ideas of such other person and hold them out as or represent them to be the product of his or her own mind. A student shall not give or assist in giving false or fictitious information to any police department, fire department, school official or other person acting in an official and lawful capacity.

**K. Profane, Vulgar or Abusive Language or Gestures**

A student shall not use profane, vulgar, abusive, obscene, or other words or gestures which, under the circumstances, are offensive to the sensibilities of ordinary people in the school district community or which disrupt normal school activities. Such prohibitions include, but are not limited to, use of computers or other technology or communications.

**L. Student Automobiles/Parking Lot**

Driving on school property and use of a school parking lot is a privilege. A student shall not violate Policy 5515 Use of Motor Vehicles and shall operate his or her vehicle safely in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and staff directions. Students are not permitted to be in the parking lot other than during arrival and dismissal without approval of a building administrator or designee.

**M. Transportation/ Buses**

A student shall not violate any policies or rules established for student conduct on Great Oaks school buses or school transportation. The entire student code of conduct applies to any school or school-arranged or related transportation.

**N. Unauthorized Locations**

Students are not permitted to be in any area for which they are not scheduled or are permitted to be in, without the permission of school authorities.

**Section 4 - Miscellaneous Code of Conduct Violations**

Students committing any offense listed in Section 4 are subject to suspension, expulsion, or any other discipline.

**A. Aiding and Abetting** A student shall not, in any way, aid or abet another student or person in violating the Code of Conduct. A student who commits this offense will be disciplined according to the consequences given for the code of conduct offense that was violated by the other student.

**B. Other Conduct** In recognition that any list of prohibited conduct cannot, with specificity, encompass every conceivable action which may properly be subject to discipline, the President/CEO or a building campus administrator shall have the authority to suspend or expel a student for conduct not specifically set forth herein and which substantially and materially disrupts or interferes with the good order, discipline, operation, academic or educational process taking place in the school or which substantially and materially is or poses a threat to the safety of persons or property. A student may be suspended, expelled, or otherwise disciplined for the violation of rules in the student handbook, or of any class or department.

**C. Repeated Violations**

A student shall not have repeated violations of any offense in the Student Code of Conduct.

**D. Violation of Law**

A student shall not violate any law or ordinance.

**Section 5 - Permanent Exclusion**

**Acts Subject to Permanent Exclusion**

A student shall not participate in any of the acts prohibited in Policy 5610.01 Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students. A student, in addition to suspension, expulsion, and/or emergency removal, may be subject to permanent exclusion from school for the following acts pursuant to R.C. 3313.662. A student may be permanently excluded from attending any Ohio public school if the student is convicted of, or adjudicated as a delinquent child, for committing, when 16 years of age or older, one of the following criminal offenses:



- A. Illegal conveyance or possession of deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance on school premises, in violation of R.C. 2923.122.
- B. Carrying or being in possession of concealed weapons on school property or at a school activity in violation of R.C. 2923.12.
- C. Selling or offering to sell or possessing a controlled substance in violation of R.C. 2925.03 (A) (1), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), or (10) on school property or at a school activity.
- D. Committing one of the following on school property or at a school function: aggravated murder in violation of R.C. 2903.01, murder in violation of R.C. 2903.02, voluntary manslaughter in violation of R.C. 2903.03, involuntary manslaughter in violation of R.C. 2903.04, felonious assault in violation of R.C. 2903.11, aggravated assault in violation of R.C. 2903.12, rape in violation of R.C. 2907.02, or gross sexual imposition in violation of R.C. 2907.05; and
- E. Complicity in any of the above-described violations regardless of whether the act of complicity was committed on school property or at a school activity. Complicity is defined as soliciting or procuring another to commit an offense; aiding, abetting or encouraging another to commit an offense; conspiring or agreeing with another to commit an offense; or causing an innocent or irresponsible person to commit an offense.

#### **Section 6 - Expulsion for One Calendar Year**

A student who brings a firearm, as defined in section 1 (D) above, to school or on to property owned or controlled by the Board of Education while school is in session; to school sponsored activities or events whether on or off school premises; on school premises whether or not school is in session; in any vehicle whose use is controlled or organized or arranged by the school; or at any time when the student is subject to the authority of the Board of Education or school personnel, shall be expelled from school for one calendar year. The President/CEO may reduce, on a case-by-case basis, the one year required expulsion period in circumstances subject to the provisions of federal and state law related to the education of handicapped students or when the President/CEO, in his/her sole discretion, determines that the interest of the expelled student is served and the interest of other students, school employees, and other members of the school community are not disproportionately disserved by such a reduction. This provision does not in any way prevent school officials from pursuing the permanent exclusion of a student pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3313.662.

A student who possesses a firearm or knife, as defined in section 1 (D) above, at a school or on any other property owned or controlled by the Board of Education, while school is in session; at school sponsored activities; on school premises; off school premises at any school sponsored activity or event; in any vehicle whose use is controlled or organized by the school; or at any time when the student is subject to the authority of the Board of Education or school personnel, may be expelled from school for a period up to one calendar year. This provision does not in any way prevent school officials from pursuing the permanent exclusion of a student pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3313.662. A student who makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat may be expelled for one calendar year. This provision does not in any way prevent school officials from pursuing the permanent exclusion of a student pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3313.662.

A student who commits an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.01 (A) (6) while the student is at school, on any other property owned or controlled by the Board of Directors, or at an

interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity may be expelled for one calendar year. This provision does not in any way prevent school officials from pursuing the permanent exclusion of a student pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3313.662.  
*Legal References: ORC 3313.66, 3313.661*

## **VI. REQUIRED ANNUAL NOTICES FOR PARENTS**

For questions or concerns, including questions or complaints under the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), contact:

Dr. Donna J. Eakins  
Director of Student Services  
Great Oaks Career Campuses  
110 Great Oaks Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45241  
513.771.8840  
[eakinsd@greatoaks.com](mailto:eakinsd@greatoaks.com)

### **Emergency Notification**

If an emergency situation (such as a natural disaster, weather event, or intruder) occurs, Great Oaks will act first to secure the safety of students and then to notify parents. Notification will occur through the Great Oaks website, local media, and automated phone calls or notices to parents/guardians. If students are evacuated from the building and district transportation home is not available, parents will be notified about where and when to pick up students.

***The Great Oaks Board of Directors sets policies to ensure students are safe and successful. While it's useful to be aware of all Board policies, there are several that parents should especially be familiar with and understand. The following are excerpts from those select Board policies. For the complete policy, go to <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/goitcd/Board.nsf/Public> and click on the "Policies" tab at the upper right.***

### **Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior—Policy 5517.01**

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Directors' Model Policy.

### **Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information—Policy 2416**

The Board of Directors respects the privacy rights of parents and their children. No student shall be required, as part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- C. sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally-recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

No such surveys are planned by Great Oaks for the 2022-2023 school year; if any such surveys were planned, parents would be notified beforehand as required by law.

#### **Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment—Policy 2520**

The Board of Directors shall provide materials, equipment, and other instructional resources, within budgetary constraints, to implement the District's educational goals and objectives. The primary objective of such instructional materials and equipment shall be to enrich, support, and supplement basic text materials.

The President/CEO shall develop administrative guidelines which will provide the criteria and procedures for the selection of all types of instructional resources. The guidelines shall include a plan for the review of instructional materials by staff and parents. The guidelines shall also ensure the proper maintenance of all educational and instructional materials and equipment. (See also **Adoption of Textbooks, Policy 2510**)

#### **Public Records—Policy 8310**

The Board of Directors is responsible for maintaining the public records of this District and to make such records available to residents of Ohio for inspection and reproduction in strict adherence to the State's Public Records Act.

The Board will utilize the following procedures regarding the availability of public records...No public records, including, but not limited to personnel records, personnel files, or staff directories or student records shall include the actual/confidential addresses of students, parents, or employees who are participating in the Safe at Home/Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State. Such public records and student records shall only contain the address designated by the Secretary of State to serve as the student's, parent's or employee's address.

The District's public records shall be organized and maintained so that they are readily available for inspection and copying. As such, public records will be available for inspection during regular business hours, with the exception of published holidays. The District's public records shall be promptly prepared and made available for inspection. A reasonable period of time may be necessary due to the volume of records requested, the proximity of the location where the records are stored, and/or for the District to review and redact non-public/confidential information contained in the record. Upon request, a person may receive copies of public records, at cost, within a reasonable period of time.

#### **Positive Behavior Intervention—Policy 5630.01**

The Board is committed to the District-wide use of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ("PBIS") with students and the establishment of a school environment focused on the care, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members. Student Personnel shall work to prevent the need for the use of restraint and/or seclusion. PBIS shall serve as the foundation for the creation of a learning environment

that promotes the use of evidence-based behavioral interventions, thus enhancing academic and social behavioral outcomes for all students. An emphasis shall be placed on promoting positive interventions and solutions to potential conflicts. PBIS emphasizes prevention of student behavior problems through the use of non-aversive techniques, which should greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the need to use restraint and/or seclusion.

Professional staff members and support staff determined appropriate by the President/CEO are permitted to physically restrain and/or seclude a student, but only when there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student and/or others, there is no other safe and effective intervention possible, and the physical restraint or seclusion is used in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate and protects the safety of all children and adults at school.

All restraint and seclusion shall only be done in accordance with this Policy, which is based on the standards adopted by the State Board of Education regarding the use of student restraint and seclusion.

For all current Great Oaks Board Policies, go to <https://www.greatoaks.com/about/legal-information> and follow the link.

#### **Student Hazing—Policy 5516.**

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with and disruptive to the educational process, and prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property if the misconduct is connected to or associated with Board-sponsored activities (e.g., extracurricular teams, clubs, or groups) or incidents that have occurred on school property. No administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District shall encourage, permit, authorize, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. The preceding prohibition includes recklessly permitting the hazing of any person associated with the District. Additionally, no student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, employees, faculty members, teachers, consultants, and volunteers of the District shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the President/CEO. Additionally, no administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District who is acting in an official and professional capacity shall recklessly fail to immediately report the knowledge of hazing to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim of hazing resides or in which the hazing is occurring or has occurred. Students, administrators, employees, faculty members, and teachers who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law. Likewise, consultants, and volunteers associated with the District who fail to abide by this policy may be prohibited from continuing their involvement and/or participation in activities associated with the District and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

The President/CEO shall distribute this policy to all students, Board employees, consultants, and volunteers and shall incorporate it into building, staff, and student handbooks. It shall also be posted on the District's website. This policy shall be the subject of discussion at employee staff meetings or in-service programs.

Board employees, consultants, and volunteers shall not intentionally remain ignorant of hazing or potential hazing activities.