



# CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL 7-8

**Student & Family Handbook  
2024-2025**

*Building Our Future  
Together*

CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
4000 N. Okemos Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864

Main Office: (517) 706-4800  
Attendance/Guidance Office: (517) 706-4806

**School Hours**

8:00 am - 2:45 pm

\*Students may enter at 7:20 am

\*Students must exit by 3:05 or be with an adult

**Office Hours**

7:20 am - 3:30 pm

**Half Day School Hours**

8:00 am - 11:10 am (No lunch served)

Mrs. Jody Noble, Principal  
Mr. Andre Ridley, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Ms. Crystal Agler, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Brenda Tracy, Attendance/Guidance  
Mrs. Tiffany Albrecht, Clerk/Athletic Secretary  
Mrs. Rebecca Fedrigo, Counselor  
Mrs. Mary Stuible, Counselor

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Okemos Student and Family Handbook is designed to provide a general overview of rules and expectations for the community. For a complete list and detailed content of policies of the Board of Education policies, please visit the [Board policies page](#) of our website.

## OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS Web Accessibility Statement

Okemos Public Schools (OPS) recognizes the importance of making digital information provided on the District's website accessible to students, prospective students, parents, employees, guests and visitors with disabilities, particularly those with visual, hearing or manual impairments or who otherwise require the use of assistive technology to access information.

Okemos Public Schools strives to adhere to the accepted guidelines and standards for accessibility and usability as comprehensively as possible on this website.

If you cannot fully access the information on the District's website, please communicate specific issues with the District's Web Accessibility Coordinator. We will make every effort to provide the information to you in an alternate format and/or make the necessary improvements to ensure the information is accessible.

Formal complaints regarding accessibility concerns may be filed through our Section 504 and Title II grievance procedure. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and/or complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies:

### Section 504 and Title II Coordinator (adults)

John Hood, Superintendent  
Okemos Public Schools  
4406 Okemos Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-706-5007  
john.hood@okemosk12.net

### Title IX Coordinator

Mario Martinez, Director Human Resources  
Okemos Public Schools  
4406 Okemos Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-706-5006  
mario.martinez@okemosk12.net

### Section 504 and Title II Coordinator (students)

Heather Pricco, Director Special Education Department  
Okemos Public Schools  
4406 Okemos Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-706-4829  
heather.pricco@okemosk12.net

### Web Accessibility Coordinator

Mikayla Temple  
Telecommunications Coordinator  
Department of Technology  
Okemos Public Schools  
4406 Okemos Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-706-5044; webmaster@okemosk12.net

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ACADEMIC INFORMATION

- Academic Integrity
- Grade Level Information
- Homeroom
- Physical Education
- PowerSchool
- Report Cards
- Schedule/Class Changes
- Universal Accommodations
- Video/Film Viewing

### BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- Code of Conduct
- Behavior Response and Student Discipline
- Consequences for Misconduct
- After School/Evening Activities
- Communication Devices (Cell Phones)
- Dress Code
- Skipping Class
- Substance Abuse

### BUILDING/DISTRICT INFORMATION

- Animals/Pets
- Attendance (done)
- Bus Passes and Transportation Changes
- Calendar
- Closing/Delay of School
- Counselors
- Deliveries/Messages to Students
- Extracurricular Fees
- Field Trips
- Fines
- Food and Beverages
- Food Services
- Library
- Lockers
- Lost and Found
- Materials and Supplies
- Personal Property
- Pictures
- School Entrance and Exit Times
- Tardiness

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

- AED Program and MI HEARTSafe Compliance
- Head Lice
- Illness and Injury
- Managing Communicable Diseases
- Medication
- Sunscreen and Bug Spray Policy
- Understanding of Concussions

### HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

- Communication
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parent/Guardian Involvement
- Visitations

### REGISTRATION AND RECORDS

- Emergency Cards
- Enrollment
- Student Records
- Tardiness

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Emergency Procedures
- Search and Seizure
- Secure Storage Law

### TECHNOLOGY

- Personal Learning Device (PED)
- Screen Time/Technology Use
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Security Device Management Use

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Non-discrimination Policy
- Okemos School Board
- Website
- Appendix A - Students with Disabilities
- Appendix B - Authorization for Administration of Medication
- Appendix C - Letter from Prosecuting Attorney

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity requires high standards of personal achievement, ethical conduct and academic honesty. It creates an academic environment in which a student's search for knowledge is a true and honest reflection of that effort.

#### **Level I – Violation**

1. Submitting another's assignment as one's own
2. Knowingly allowing another student to use an assignment or test to submit as his or her own
3. Looking at another's test or essay and submitting the work as one's own
4. Knowingly assisting another student to misrepresent the content or authorship of the student's school work
5. Using any type of notes or technology without teacher approval
6. Plagiarism, including but not limited to:
  - a. Quoting or paraphrasing directly all or part of someone else's written or spoken words without documentation within the body of the work.
  - b. Presenting an idea, theory, or formula originated by another person as one's own.
  - c. Using information, which is not common knowledge, including statistics and demographics, without documenting the source.
  - d. Copying or pasting from the Internet or another document material that is not one's own without documentation from the source.

Level I violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will be addressed by the classroom teacher. Logical consequences can include re-doing the work, new assignment/assessment issued to students, restorative conference.

#### **Level II - Violation**




1. Unauthorized possession, use and/or theft of test materials, answer sheets, teacher materials, computer files, grading programs, and/or altering teacher records.
2. Level II violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will be addressed by the teacher and administration.

Restorative Conference, Suspension of up to 10 school days

## Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)

In order to help students to acquire new knowledge and skills, as well as to build their knowledge and skills progressively over time, teachers must have access to students' authentic displays of learning. Sometimes, those skills can be ethically and productively enhanced in very positive ways using generative AI, and at other times, teachers will prefer that students complete assignments without using generative AI. This will likely depend upon the skills/knowledge being assessed.

Therefore, these levels may be used by teachers to communicate their expectations for students' use of AI to complete various creative assignments both in and out of the classroom.

		
<p><b>AI RECOMMENDED</b> Generative AI is recommended for use in completing this assignment or project. Students are encouraged to explore AI tools and techniques to enhance their work. Properly cite any AI-generated work products.</p>	<p><b>AI PERMITTED</b> Generative AI is permitted but not required for completing this assignment or project. Students can choose to use AI tools and techniques if they believe it will improve their work. Properly cite any AI-generated work products.</p>	<p><b>AI RESTRICTED</b> Generative AI use in completing this assignment or project is restricted. Students are expected to complete the work using only their own knowledge and skills.</p>

## BASE

Each student is assigned to a BASE classroom teacher. We will follow an adjusted BASE schedule that will feature eight shortened class periods to provide students time for homework support, rehearsals, assemblies, and meetings.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Participation

All students must participate in physical education classes unless they have documented medical/health reasons or special education needs as identified through an I.E.P.

### Dress

For reasons of personal hygiene and to enhance active participation while minimizing the possibility of injury, all students must have tennis shoes for physical education activities.

Students will be expected to have appropriate gym shoes and clothing for participation in activities even on cold days. Clothing for these occasions can be sweatshirts, sweatpants, or other suitable play type clothes.

## POWERSCHOOL

We encourage students and parents/guardians to utilize PowerSchool to check grades and attendance. Information for establishing an account is shared with families through the guidance office.

If a parent has questions about an assignment or missing work, they are encouraged to contact the teacher.

Parents can program PowerSchool to send automatic weekly grade updates to their email addresses.

## REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be distributed at the end of each trimester.

## GRADE LEVEL INFORMATION

Chippewa houses all of the 7th and 8th grade classes for the district. In addition to traditional instruction, Chippewa houses the 7th and 8th grade sections of the Okemos Public Schools Montessori program.

Scheduling packets, that provide an overview of grade level programming and class enrollments, are shared with families each spring or when they enroll. In addition, specific grade level programming information will be shared at curriculum night and is also available on the district website.

## **SCHEDULE/CLASS CHANGES**

If a parent wishes to request a change in a student schedule, they should contact the guidance department or counselor. If the request is in response to a problem with a teacher or class, the parent must first meet with the teacher to problem solve any issues before requesting a meeting with the office regarding a schedule change.

Class and schedule changes after the first two weeks of a trimester are only considered as a last resort and may not be possible.

## **UNIVERSAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Chippewa offers the following Universal Accommodations to EVERY student:

- Students will coordinate with their teacher for extended time on assignments when needed.
- Students will receive frequent check-ins to determine understanding of directions and content.
- Students will have access to assistive technology to support reading and writing when applicable.
- Students will collaborate with teachers to structure a break if needed.
- Students will have access to flexible seating options within the classroom.
- Students' larger and long term assignments/projects will be broken down into chunks.

## **VIDEO AND FILM VIEWING**

Parental permission will be requested before a student is allowed to view a film with a PG-13 rating.



## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students have the right to an education in a safe and orderly learning environment, free from substantial disruption. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a positive learning environment, an atmosphere of mutual respect will be provided for students and staff. When self-discipline fails, regulations for management of school behavior must be enforced.

The superintendent shall develop and regularly update administrative regulations to implement the student code of conduct. The code of conduct must: (1) identify offenses that may result in discipline; (2) identify the possible disciplinary consequences; (3) and be consistent with board policy and applicable state and federal laws, including laws requiring mandatory suspension or expulsion,

Discipline may, but need not, include suspension or expulsion from school. Students should rarely be suspended or expelled from school and steps should be taken to minimize occurrences of suspension and expulsion. Provisions that require consideration of specific factors and the possibility of utilizing restorative practices before suspending or expelling a student, will reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions that exceed 10 days and the number of expulsions.

The school administrators shall have the authority to suspend students for up to ten (10) school days per incident. The superintendent or assistant superintendent shall have the authority to suspend a student for up to 59 consecutive school days. The Board of Education will provide a disciplinary hearing for alleged student misconduct that requires consideration of expulsion (exclusion from school for 60 or more school days) or permanent expulsion per the Revised School Code.

Once per year, the superintendent shall submit a summary report of suspensions exceeding three (3) consecutive days to the Board of Education. The report will include the following information: infraction, length of suspension or expulsion, student demographics, as well as the implementation of restorative practices and an academic plan (if applicable).

### **Behavior of Students**

Students at Chippewa Middle School are expected to behave within the following guidelines:

- Respect the rights of other people in the school, both students and adults.
- Be honest with yourself and others.
- Respect property of others and the school.
- Behave in a way that protects the health and safety of yourself and others.

### ***In the Building***

Behavior in the building must provide for the safety of everyone and should not interrupt the classes in session. Students are expected to:

1. Walk, not run
2. Maintain a reasonable tone of voice
3. Avoid disturbing classes in session
4. Keep the restrooms clean and safe

5. Refrain from throwing and kicking objects in the building
6. Keep all areas clean and free of litter
7. Refrain from marking on walls, lockers, furniture and other people
8. Refrain from having food or drink in the halls at any time
9. Obey any reasonable request from any staff member
10. Use appropriate language, which excludes racist, sexist, or obscene words
11. Use hall passes at all times

## ***In the Classroom***

Chippewa students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared
2. Be in the classroom on time
3. Stay in class until dismissed by the teacher
4. Use appropriate language
5. Be respectful

In each class, the teacher is the educational leader and is there to help you learn through a variety of activities. Each teacher and class is somewhat different, but each of your teachers will let you know what they expect you to do and how they expect you to behave.

Students should maintain expected behaviors when they are with a substitute teacher, aide, or other adults.

To leave the classroom, ask permission from your teacher, stating the reason you need to leave the room and the place you are going. The teacher will give you a pass if the reason for leaving is considered necessary. Go directly there and return directly to class without other stops that were not agreed to by your teacher. Failure to follow the teacher's specific directions may result in loss of this privilege.

## ***During Lunch***

Students are not allowed to leave school grounds during lunch period unless a parent or guardian signs them out at the guidance office.

Students are expected to abide by all school rules in the cafeteria, otherwise loss of cafeteria privileges, or other disciplinary consequences may be assigned.

- Eat only while seated at a table.
- Do not overcrowd tables; sit in appropriate seating.
- Dispose of garbage and recycling in the appropriate containers.
- Keep all food and drink in the cafeteria.

## ***Outside the Building***

The area around the building is designed for students to enjoy during supervised times, such as gym class, lunch and recess.

- Bicycles must be kept locked in the rack during school hours. Students are not allowed to be near the bike racks during school hours.
- Snowballs are not allowed to be thrown on school property.

## ***At Assemblies and Performances***

Behavior expectations for students at performances and assemblies are:

1. Students should sit with their accompanying teacher in assigned areas and remain seated at all times.
2. Remember to respond appropriately. Be quiet before, during, and after the performance. Whistling, booing, and yelling are not acceptable behavior. Use appropriate and positive language.
3. Students will be respectful of others, including but not limited to their peers, staff, and guest presenters.
4. Remember to be safe. Students should sit in auditorium seats safely and in a manner that respects the personal space of others.
5. Students should not bring food, drinks, or any items that could result in a disruption into the auditorium.
6. Enjoy the event! Be safe! Represent CMS with pride!

In addition to the expectations listed above, all Code of Conduct rules apply.

## ***After school activities***

Students should remember that they represent Chippewa and are to exhibit positive behavior during after school and evening activities, field trips, athletic events, music programs and other related trips or activities. School rules and procedures apply to after-hours school-sponsored activities where staff supervision is provided. In addition, school rules apply to all activities on school property at all times (i.e., playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.) A violation of school rules and procedures at these events may result in a warning, a parent-administrator conference, a detention, suspension or expulsion. Specific action taken may vary on a case by case basis depending on the nature of the offense, previous offenses, and the gravity of the situation.

Most activities are scheduled after school or in the evening. Students must make prior arrangements for transportation.

## ***Student Rules for School Activities***

1. Appropriate school behavior, as outlined in the student handbook, will be expected at all times.
  2. Respect for adult supervisors will be required at all times.
  3. You will not be readmitted once you leave a function.
  4. Only the food and beverage provided by the activity sponsors will be allowed at the activity.
  5. Admittance will be denied to anyone who is suspected of being under the influence of any illegal substance.
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6. Students who are suspended from school that day may not attend evening or after school activities.
7. Failure to comply with the rules may result in:
  - a. Notification of parent or guardian
  - b. Suspension from the next activity
  - c. Habitual offenders will be excluded from future activities
  - d. Possible loss of participation in field trips, school activities, or end of the year trips

## Student Expectations

The administration, in its discretion, may employ restorative practices involving students, parents/guardians, and administration in an attempt to acquire a firm commitment for cessation of the inappropriate behavior.

In all disciplinary cases, the administration may elect to employ after school detention, suspension, restorative practices and/or other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate and not specifically outlined here, in lieu of or in addition to other discipline.

The following list of student expectations is not all-inclusive, but provides the basic code of student conduct. Violation of any of the following expectations may result in student discipline, up to and including permanent expulsion from school:

1. Students are required to obey local, state, and federal laws. Unlawful behavior of any kind on school property or at a school activity is prohibited.
2. Upon Request, students are required to identify themselves to school personnel.
3. Students are required to cooperate with school personnel, including responding to questions or inquiries in a truthful, respectful manner.
4. Students are required to obey established school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures as well as obey reasonable directions or instructions of school personnel.
5. Students are required to adhere to behavior appropriate to the educational setting. Disruptive and inappropriate behavior (including the inappropriate display of affection) in the classroom, cafeteria, halls, school property, and on school vehicles, interferes significantly with the educational climate.
6. Students are required to use appropriate language in school. Abusive and offensive language as well as harassment and humiliation of others are prohibited.
7. Students are required to respect the individual rights of others.
8. Students are required to respect the property of others. Theft and damage to property will not be tolerated.
9. Students are required to respect authorship. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and violations of copyright laws are not permitted.
10. Students are required to obtain permission before conducting sales in the buildings or on school property.
11. Students are required to follow school rules as outlined in the student-parent handbook for using vehicles on school property.

## Prohibited Activities

Involvement or participation in the following prohibited activities will result in disciplinary penalty, up to and including permanent expulsion from school. Other misconduct may also give rise to discipline, up to and including permanent expulsion from school. As used in these regulations, "At school" means "in a classroom, elsewhere on school property, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school property." See MCL 380.1310, MCL 380.1311, and MCL 380.1311a.

1. **Abusive/Obscene Language or Materials.** The use of abusive and/or obscene language or materials, including but not limited to the possession of pornographic or otherwise sexually offensive material.
2. **Possession of Substances.** The possession, sale, delivery, distribution, use of, and/or being under the influence of alcohol, inhalants, look-alikes, and other drugs, including the possession of paraphernalia or devices associated with the use of controlled substances. Vaporizers, e-cigarettes, and pipes will be considered drug paraphernalia. Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3102 Smoking, Tobacco Products, Drugs and Alcohol](#).
3. **Arson.** Intentionally setting fire or attempting to set a fire or doing any act that results in the starting of a fire, or aiding, counseling, inducing, persuading, or procuring another to do such an act. The Michigan Revised School Code requires schools to permanently expel a student who commits arson on school property.
4. **Assault (Physical).** The Revised School Code defines "physical assault" as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence. The Michigan Revised School Code requires school districts to suspend or expel a student enrolled in grades 6 or above who commits a physical assault at school against another student. School districts are required to permanently expel a student enrolled in grades 6 and above who commits a physical assault at school against an employee, volunteer, or contractor.
5. **Assault (Verbal/Written).** Includes any intentional spoken or written threat or offer to do bodily injury to another by force, under circumstances that create a well-founded fear of actual harm. Suspension or expulsion, as determined by the board or its designees, is also required when a student in grades 6 or above commits a verbal assault at school against an employee, volunteer, or contractor.
6. **Blackmail, Coercion or Extortion.** Forcing someone to do something against her or his will.
7. **Threats of Violence.** Including but not limited to, bomb threats, shootings, suggestions of bringing or having weapons on school property, etc. directed at students, staff, a school building, school property, or a school-related event. Includes threats communicated verbally, electronically (such as social media, text, etc.), written, and all other forms of communication. Threats will be taken seriously and are not considered jokes. See appendix for full statement from the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney.
8. **Bomb Threat.** Section 1311a(2) of the Revised School Code states: "if a pupil enrolled in grade 6 or above makes a bomb threat or similar threat directed at a school building, other school property, or a school-related event, then the school board, or the designee of the school board, shall suspend or expel the pupil from the school district for a period of time as determined in the discretion of the school board or its designee." MCL 380.1311a (2).

9. **Bullying.** Bullying shall be defined as any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more students either directly or indirectly. This includes “relational” bullying, defined as persuading others to reject another student.  
  
Cyber-bullying is defined as the use of information and communications technologies such as, but not limited to email, cell phone, instant messaging, defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal polling websites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others. Bullying may also constitute harassment and intimidation (see definition below). Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5207 Anti-Bullying Policy](#).
  10. **Academic Integrity.** Cheating (Academic Integrity), forgery, plagiarism, and violations of copyright laws, including but not limited to copying assignments, tests, or exams; misrepresentation of authorship; unauthorized possession of school forms, test material, or teacher records; altering teacher records; falsifying phone calls.
  11. **Technology Violations.** Violation of the district’s policies and regulations overseeing the use of computer equipment and computer networks. This includes such a gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that is reasonably perceived as motivated by a student’s religion, race, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, height, weight, socioeconomic status, or by any other distinguishing characteristic. (See Board Policies 6300: Integrated Computer Network; 6301: District Video Network, and 6302: District Web Server and Web Page Development.
  12. **Use of Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS).** The use of PEDS is not allowed unless permission has been granted in advance by the building administration. These items include, but are not limited to cell phones, smart phones, personal laptops/tablets, music players, personal digital assistants or any other device with inbound/outbound communication capabilities. Also, laser pointers, which can cause harm to a person and are not permitted on school property.
  13. **Criminal Sexual Conduct.** Criminal sexual conduct as defined by Michigan law (MCL 750.520 b-g), including but not limited to unwelcome sexual touching or sexual penetration by force or coercion. The Michigan Revised School Code requires school districts to permanently expel students from all Michigan public schools who commit criminal sexual conduct at school Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#).
  14. **Disruptive Conduct.** (ie. chanting, inappropriate verbal or physical actions, etc.) that interferes with the educational process, the normal operation and functioning of the school, and/or school or school-related activities. This includes, but is not limited to classroom behavior, hallway behavior, cafeteria behavior, behavior at recess, and conduct such as recording fights, unauthorized tampering with school property and equipment, unacceptable public displays of affection, food fights and inappropriate unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct, at sporting and school events, whether at home or away.
  15. **Displays of Affection.** Student demonstration of affection between each other is personal and not meant for public display. This includes kissing, touching or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature, or such conduct that is a distraction to the educational environment. Such behavior may result in disciplinary action.
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16. **False Alarm.** Intentionally setting a false alarm/making false emergency calls or alerts to Law Enforcement and 911.
  17. **Fighting.** This involves two or more individuals who are involved in physical contact with the intent to do bodily harm.
  18. **Explosives.** Possession, use or threat to use fireworks, explosives, bombs or bomb-like devices.
  19. **Harassment and intimidation.** Any gesture or verbal, written graphic or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts) that a reasonable person, should know may have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property, insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Harassment or intimidation includes, but is not limited to, such a gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that is reasonably perceived as motivated by a student's religion, race, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, height, weight, socioeconomic status, or by any other distinguishing characteristic. This includes racial and ethnic slurs.
  20. **Hazing.** The intentional, knowing or reckless act by a person acting alone or acting with others that is directed against an individual and that the person knew or should have known endangers the emotional or physical health or safety of the individual and that is done for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, participating in, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization (fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, service group, social group, athletic team, or similar group whose members are primarily students at an educational institution). Hazing includes any of the following that is done for such a purpose:
    - a. Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
    - b. Physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space or calisthenics that subjects the other person to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual.
    - c. Activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the individual to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the physical health or safety of the individual.
    - d. Activity that induces, causes, or requires an individual to perform a duty or task that involves the commission of a crime or an act of hazing.
  21. **Insubordination.** Refusal to obey established and well-defined rules and regulations; refusal to obey reasonable directions or instructions of school personnel; refusal to identify self to school personnel; refusal to leave school property at the request of authorized personnel; refusal to store backpacks and containers larger than 8x4x3 inches in assigned locker; and/or any failure to cooperate with school personnel in the reasonable exercise of their duties.
  22. **Sexual Harassment.** Including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors or intimidating, hostile or offensive verbal, non- verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#).
  23. **Theft.** Theft of or damage to an individual's property or school property. This includes breaking and entering, theft (stealing of school or personal property), robbery (stealing from an individual with force), and/or possession of stolen property.
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24. **Possession.** The possession of and/or use of tobacco in any form, on school property or at school-related activities. This includes cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco. Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3102 Smoking, Tobacco Products, Drugs and Alcohol](#)).
25. **Trespassing.** Trespassing - being in an unauthorized area and/or refusing to leave school property at the request of authorized personnel. (See also "Insubordination.")
26. **Unauthorized Distribution or Sale.** Unauthorized distribution or sale of materials on school property, including printed or written matter which, either by its content or the manner of distribution, will interfere with the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school, cause violence or disorder, or constitute an invasion of the rights of others. Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3308 Distribution of Printed Material and Advertising in School](#).
27. **Unlawful Behavior.** Unlawful behavior of any kind at a school activity or on school property.
28. **Weapons.** The possession and/or use of dangerous weapons. Michigan law requires the Board of Education to permanently expel a student who possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon free school zone, which includes school property, and/or any vehicle used by a school to transport students to and from school property. Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3408 Firearms and Weapons](#).
29. **Propping Exterior Doors.** The propping or opening of exterior building doors to allow unauthorized persons to enter the building during the school day.

## COMMUNICATION DEVICES (CELL PHONES)

Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) are defined as any student owned laptop, cell phone, tablet, personal digital assistant or any other device with inbound/outbound communication capabilities. We believe to be attentive and an engaged learner, students do not need use of personal electronic equipment used for entertainment during the school day. Students can carry their cell phones during the school day in the off position. If a staff member hears the phone or a student is seen using the phone, the staff member will confiscate the device and turn it into the office. A staff member may pre-approve the use of the device within their classroom setting.

Texting, videotaping, recording or taking pictures with cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited. Students who violate this policy will have their device confiscated with appropriate administration action.

1st and 2nd Offense: Student's caregiver will pick up the device at the end of the school day from the office. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate home (student can utilize the guidance office phone) sharing their device has been confiscated.

Further Offenses: Student's right to possess the cell phone or PED at school will be revoked. The device will be checked in and out of the office for an assigned period of time.



## DRESS CODE

### Dress Code Philosophy

The dress code for students attending Okemos Public Schools supports equitable educational access and is intentionally written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

### We Believe . . .

- Students should be able to dress comfortably for school and engage in the educational environment without fear of discipline or body shaming
- School staff should support a positive school environment that focuses on the development of the whole child without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement
- The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s)
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression

**Basic Principle:** Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric. However, cleavage should not have coverage requirements.

### Students **MUST** wear while following the *basic principle*:

- **A Shirt** (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), **AND**
- **Pants/Jeans or the equivalent** (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), **AND**
- **Shoes**

### Examples that **SUPPORT** our *basic principle*:

- Head coverings must allow the face to be visible to staff and must not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff
- Religious headwear
- Hoodie sweatshirts
- Leggings, yoga pants and "skinny jeans"
- Pajamas
- Ripped jeans
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps; halter tops
- Athletic attire
- Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing

## Examples that DO NOT support our *basic principle*:

- Racist messaging, images, or symbols (e.g., swastika, Confederate flag, etc.) on all clothing and accessories
- Violent language, weapons or images
- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity)
- Bullet proof vest, body armour, tactical gear, or facsimile
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)
- Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice)
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon
- Any item that obscures the face (except as personal protective equipment (PPE) or as a religious observance)

## Dress Code Implementation

School staff will have conversation with the student who is not adhering to the dress code to discuss the standards. The conversation with the student will be restorative in nature. School administration may direct students to change clothing or contact home for a change of clothes.

These dress codes shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances and prom.

## SKIPPING CLASS

Skipping is an unexcused absence from class. A student will be considered as skipping class if they are in attendance at school but do not:

- arrive to a scheduled class;
- arrive after 10 minutes of class has passed; or
- leave class before the end of class without permission.

## Response to Skipping Class

- Administration and/or counselor will meet with the student to address the cause for the student skipping. Administration will contact the student guardians to discuss the skipping of classes.
- A restorative reflection sheet will be completed and presented to the classroom teacher by the student.
- Administration has the ability to provide additional consequences based on the situation and circumstances of the behavior.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

### Supporting Chemical Dependency

In the event the principal or designees, upon conclusion of an investigation, concludes that chemical dependency or abuse exists on the part of the student, efforts will be made to assist the student and/or parents or guardians in developing alternative courses of action to address this matter.

At a meeting with the student and parent or guardian the nature of the problem will be discussed and suggestions offered on how to eliminate chemical dependency or abuse. The school shall provide a listing of community and private agencies that can offer assistance in this matter.

The school officials shall enforce the appropriate school rules and regulations which lead to suspension and/or expulsion.

Any service or materials rendered or provided by professionals or persons other than school employees will be the responsibility of the student's parents. The school will assume no responsibility for payment or for making arrangements for such payment.

If the student and family fail to seek treatment and/or the chemical dependency symptoms persist, the student's position in school will be in jeopardy and one or more of the following actions shall be taken:

- Additional appropriate actions which lead toward suspension and/or expulsion.
- Notification of law enforcement officials.
- Notification of county health officials.

### Use of Drug Dog

Chippewa believes our parents want students to attend schools which are safe and drug free. A trained Meridian Township canine (drug dog) may periodically sweep our building.

This action is intended to give our students a clear message that drugs in school will not be tolerated. Should the dog find any illegal substance, the school would take the appropriate action (police notification and implementation of school discipline policy) based on all the circumstances. The use of the drug dog provides another means of attempting to protect all of our students while preserving a safe school that is free of drugs.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3102 Smoking, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol](#)

### Appeal Process

The superintendent will develop an appropriate appeal process for suspensions of three (3) consecutive days or greater. Students will be provided with information regarding their rights of appeal. The student's records will be adjusted to reflect the result of the appeal hearing.

### Discipline of Students with Disabilities

For students with disabilities, all disciplinary consequences under this policy shall be applied in a manner consistent with applicable student discipline procedures, as well as federal and state law. The superintendent or designee shall establish administrative guidelines to inform the discipline of students with disabilities and ensure those guidelines are properly used when disciplining any student with a disability. See Appendix A

## Code of Conduct Regulations

Students have a right to an education in a safe and orderly environment that provides an atmosphere of mutual respect. A basic responsibility of those who enjoy the rights of citizenship is to respect school rules. Therefore, students have certain responsibilities and rules to follow. These rules apply to any student who is on school property; traveling to and from school, including at a school bus stop; on a school-related vehicle; at a school-sponsored or school-related event; or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

These basic rules and consequences are integrated with existing student handbooks. The examples of misconduct listed are not the only acts or conditions for which disciplinary action is warranted, nor do they in any way limit the application of school rules and administrative regulations. The offenses and penalties listed herein are only guidelines. Actual circumstances, and the severity of those circumstances, may dictate disciplinary actions not specifically outlined.

## Law Enforcement

Administrators will contact law enforcement any time a student engages in suspected illegal conduct that jeopardizes the health or safety of other students at school or a school-related activity or en route to or from school.

Administrators will notify law enforcement when required by the Statewide School Safety Information Policy and to make all other reports and provide all other notifications required by the School Safety Information Policy or any state or federal law.

In addition, administrators will refer a student who is expelled for (1) possession of a dangerous weapon; (2) arson; (3) criminal sexual conduct; or (4) physically assaulting an employee, volunteer, or contractor to the county department of social services or the county community mental health agency and to notify the student's parent/guardian (or the student if the student is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor) of the referral within 3 calendar days of the expulsion.

*Refer to Board of Education Policies as outlined in board policies [3402 Drills, Plans, and Reports](#) and [5201 Investigations, Arrests, and Other Law Enforcement Contact](#)*

## References

Michigan Compiled Law:

MCL 380.1309-1311a (School Code) MCL 750.520 (b-g)

Michigan Penal C

## Board of Education Student Code of Conduct Policies

[#3102 Smoking, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol](#)

[#3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

[#5206E Suspension from Class, Subject, or Activity by Teacher](#)

[#3408 Firearms and Weapons](#)

[#5603 Section 504](#)

[#5601 Special Education](#)

[#5201 Investigations, Arrests, and Other Law Enforcement Contact](#)

[#5202 Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Against Students](#)

[#5203 Hazing](#)

[#5204 Student Appearance and Dress Code](#)

[#5205 Student Handbooks](#)

[#5206 Student Discipline](#)

[#5206A Due Process](#)

[#5206B Students with Disabilities](#)

[#5206C Reinstatement Following Expulsion](#)

[#5206D Enrollment Following Misconduct at Another Public or Nonpublic School or Intentionally Left Blank](#)

[#5206E Suspension from Class, Subject, or Activity by Teacher](#)

[#5207 Anti-Bullying Policy](#)

[#5208 Student Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy](#)

[#5209 Student Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Devices](#)

[#5210 GPS Tracking Device with Audio Surveillance Capabilities or Intentionally Left Blank](#)

[#5211 Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint](#)

[#5212 Registered Sex Offenders](#)

[#5213 Personal Protection Orders Against Students](#)

## BEHAVIOR RESPONSE AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE

### Positive Behavior Supports

The school district strives to provide a system that will support students' efforts to manage their own behavior and to promote academic achievement. An effective behavior support system is a proactive, positive, skill-building approach for the teaching and learning of successful student behavior. Positive behavior support systems ensure effective strategies that promote prosocial behavior and respectful learning environments.

### Disciplinary Procedures

Discipline that involves the levels of consequence defined in Section V below— loss of privilege, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion - will be instituted when a student engages in or is involved in misconduct. Most often, discipline procedures begin in the classroom and are then referred to the administration.

### Classroom Progressive Discipline

Classroom teachers are expected to use a progressive discipline plan and upon request provide a written copy of this plan to the building administrator (provided in OEA teacher contract: "Student Discipline and Teacher Protection"). Components of such a plan include:

1. Explanation of established classroom rules, disciplinary procedures, and consequences.
2. Teaching, modeling, and practicing appropriate behavior.
3. Parent/guardian contact where a pattern of misbehavior exists or where there is extreme misbehavior.
4. Detention, at the secondary level, assignment of a before or after school session or loss of a privilege at the elementary level.

## Administrative Progressive Discipline

Progressive discipline will ordinarily be utilized when students misbehave or engage in prohibited activities outlined earlier in these regulations. Serious misconduct, however, may subject a student to discipline, up to and including permanent expulsion, for a first offense. Progressive discipline will involve, but not be limited to, the following consequences:

- A. **First referral:** Conference with the student. May include administrative contact with parent or guardian; restorative practices, and/or conflict resolution strategies such as detention; suspension; or expulsion.
- B. **Second referral:** Conference with the student. May include administrative contact with parent or guardian and suspension (in- school; out-of-school); may include expulsion.
- C. **Succeeding offenses:** (considered persistent disobedience) Consequences may involve progressive suspension.

The progressive discipline for each of the prohibited activities identified in these regulations is outlined in the attached table, ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE (Attachment A). The information contained in the district's student-parent handbooks correlate to this policy and regulations.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR MISCONDUCT

The school district has a responsibility to protect the rights of individuals and fulfill its functions under state and federal law. Therefore, when, in the judgment of a school district administrator or designee, a student engages in serious misconduct such as described above, the administration may impose discipline, move to suspend or, depending on the seriousness of the matter, request the superintendent or Board of Education move to suspend or to expel a student. Following are potential consequences of student misconduct.

### Restorative Practices

#### A. Definition and Explanation

1. In an attempt to change behavior, students who engage in misconduct may be required to participate in restorative practices in lieu of, or in addition to, suspension or expulsion. Restorative practices will typically be the first consideration to remediate offenses such as interpersonal conflicts, bullying, verbal and physical conflicts, theft, damage to property, class disruption, harassment, and cyberbullying.
2. This includes conversations facilitated by an administrator, counselor, or teacher that focus on building a common understanding of a conflict/situation through face to face dialogue in order to restore relationships and a sense of community.
3. No person who claims to be the victim of unlawful or unwelcome harassment may be compelled to meet with the alleged perpetrator of the harassment as part of a restorative practice.
4. Before suspending or expelling any student (except a student who possesses a firearm in a weapon-free school zone), teachers, administrators, and the Board must first determine whether restorative practices would better address the student's misconduct, recognizing the Board's policy to minimize out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. Likewise, when suspending or expelling a student, teachers, administrators, and the Board must consider whether restorative practices should be used in addition to the suspension or expulsion.

5. Restorative practices, which may include a victim-offender conference, should be the first consideration to remediate offenses such as interpersonal conflicts, bullying, verbal and physical conflicts, theft, damage to property, class disruption, and harassment and cyberbullying.
6. A victim-offender restorative circle is one type of restorative practice. Although not mandatory, a victim-offender circle allows the offender to repair harm caused to the victim through a formal, safe conference that includes: as applicable the victim, a victim advocate, supporters of the victim, the offender, supporters of the offender, and other relevant members of the school community. A victim-offender circle must be initiated by the victim and, if the victim is under 15, must be approved by the victim's parent/guardian. The selected consequences will be described in a written agreement signed by all attendees and must identify the time frame for the offender to complete the consequences. (Appendix B)
7. Restorative practices include conversations facilitated by an administrator, counselor or teacher that focus on building common understanding of a conflict/situation through face to face dialogue in order to restore relationships and a sense of community.
8. No person who claims to be the victim of unlawful or unwelcome harassment may be compelled to meet with the alleged perpetrator of the harassment as part of a restorative practice.

## **B. Procedures**

1. A meeting is established for the students and the adult facilitator. (Depending on the severity of the incident, parents may or may not be notified.)
2. Three (3) key questions that guide the process are:
  - a. What happened?
  - b. Who was affected and how?
  - c. How do we make things right?
3. The level of success and personal accountability achieved through steps a and b, as well as the seriousness of the misconduct will determine if further disciplinary action is warranted.

## **C. Loss of Privilege**

1. Definition: In an attempt to change behavior, removing student privileges prior to more significant disciplinary actions may be used.
2. These privileges may include, but are not limited to loss of recess, after-school athletic and/or extracurricular activities, in-house student activities, student field trips, and/or bus transportation.

## **Detentions**

### **A. Definition and Explanation**

1. Temporary placement of a student in a time-out area away from the classroom for varied amounts of time; or
2. Assignment of a before-school or an after-school session for misbehavior in the classroom or other infraction of school regulations.

### **B. Procedures**

1. The student shall be informed of the specific misconduct that led to the action being taken.
2. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the type, length, and reasons for the detention.
3. When the teacher or administrator assigns a before or after school session as detention, the student will be presented with a detention notice which will state the nature of the offense and the number of sessions assigned. A copy of this notice will be sent to the parent/guardian.

4. The student will serve before or after school detention within ten (10) school days of being presented the detention notice. If the detention is not served within the ten days allotted, additional detention will be assigned according to the student parent handbook. The school district will not be responsible for transporting a student home following an after school detention.

## Suspensions

### A. Definition and Explanation

1. The temporary removal of a student from a class(es), school, and/or school- sponsored activities when, in the judgment of the building principal, the welfare of the student and/or student body and staff would best be served by keeping the student out of the class(es), school, or school-sponsored activities for less than 60 school days.
2. Such removal from school shall occur only after school personnel have followed the steps listed in Procedures for Suspension Students under suspension are not allowed on any school property, in a school building, or admitted to any school function.

### B. Factors to Consider before Suspending a Student

1. Pursuant to state law, a teacher, an administrator, or the Board of Education, as appropriate, will consider the various factors before suspending a student from a class, subject, activity, or before suspending a student from school.
2. Factors for considering suspension include:
  - a. The student's age;
  - b. The student's disciplinary history;
  - c. Whether the student has a disability;
  - d. The seriousness of the behavior;
  - e. Whether the behavior posed a safety risk;
  - f. Whether restorative practices are a better option; and
  - g. Whether lesser interventions would address the behavior

### C. Types of Suspensions

1. **Short Term.** Suspension imposed by a building administrator for the remainder of the school day and/or up to one (1) to ten (10) days which may include extra and/or co-curricular activities.
2. **Long Term.** Suspension from school attendance imposed by the superintendent or assistant superintendent for eleven (11) to fifty-nine (59) school days, which may include extra and/or co-curricular activities.
3. **Extra/Co-curricular.** Suspension from participation in school-sponsored activities outside the normal school day. This consequence is generally to be used only when misconduct is related to extra or co-curricular activities.
4. **In School.** Suspension from class(es) but attending school; student spends the time in a detention room/area.
5. **Snap Suspension.** Removal from a class, subject or activity up to one school day. Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5206E Suspension from Class, Subject, or Activity by Teacher](#).

## Short Term Suspension

### A. Procedures for Short Term Suspension

1. The student shall be informed of the specific charges that have led to the action being considered.



2. The student shall have the opportunity to present any relevant information that will support the defense.
3. The parent or guardian shall be contacted as soon as possible and informed of the type, length, and reasons for the suspension. Arrangements should also be made concerning the steps necessary and the conditions to affect the student's return.
4. The appeal process will be documented in the Student/Parent Handbook. For short term suspensions less than three (3) days, if a parent/guardian is not satisfied with the disciplinary outcome (1-2 day), a conference with the building administrator may be requested.

## **B. Appeal Process**

1. The student shall be informed of the specific charges that have led to the action being considered.
2. The student shall have the opportunity to present any relevant information that will support the defense.
3. The parent or guardian shall be contacted as soon as possible and informed of the type, length, and reasons for the suspension. Arrangements should also be made concerning the steps necessary and the conditions to affect the student's return.
4. The appeal process will be documented in the Student/Parent Handbook. For short term suspensions less than three (3) days, if a parent/guardian is not satisfied with the disciplinary outcome (1-2 day), a conference with the building administrator may be requested.
5. Short term suspensions of three to ten (3-10) school days) may be appealed following the procedures below:
  - a. Level of Review (principal or designee) A conference shall be scheduled with parent/guardian within two (2) school days of the request for appeal.
  - b. Decisions will be rendered within two (2) school days of the conference.
  - c. The principal or designee may uphold the suspension, establish an alternate suspension of lesser severity, or reverse the suspension in its entirety.
  - d. The decision of the principal or designee shall be considered final.
  - e. During a suspension appeal, the suspension or that portion of the suspension remaining shall be held in abeyance until the appeal is completed. If the student and/or parent/guardian cannot meet within the timelines, then the suspension shall be re-instituted unless this provision is waived by the person or committee hearing the appeal. In unusual cases, where in the opinion of the principal or designee, the student or school personnel's safety, or school property would be endangered by returning the suspended student during the appeal, the principal may prohibit the student's return. In such a case, a meeting with the student and/or parents or guardian shall be held at the earliest possible time.
6. A suspended student is allowed full make-up privileges - quizzes, chapter, unit, quarter, and final exams.
7. A record shall be kept of the specific misconduct, any witnesses to the misconduct, and the action taken.

***Long Term Suspension*****A. Procedures for Long Term Suspension**

1. Long term suspension (11-59 school days) shall occur only in accordance with the procedures set forth below.
2. Written notice shall be given to the student and parent or guardian of the charges of misconduct and of a long term suspension hearing before the superintendent or assistant superintendent.
3. The principal or designee may suspend a student pending the long term suspension hearing, in which case the hearing shall be held at the earliest possible time.
4. For 11-20 day suspensions the assistant superintendent will conduct a hearing scheduled with the parent/guardian and school administration.
5. For 21-59 day suspensions, the superintendent or assistant superintendent shall conduct a hearing scheduled with the parent/guardian and school administration.
6. The student and parent or guardian may, at their own expense, be represented by legal counsel and shall have the right to bring relevant fact or character witnesses.

**B. Disciplinary Hearings**

1. At the disciplinary hearing, an opportunity for all sides to be heard in detail shall be provided according to the following outline:
    - a. Opening statement by the superintendent or deputy superintendent
    - b. Opening statement by the school
    - c. Opening statement by the student or representative (usually the parent or guardian)
    - d. Presentation of school's position
    - e. Opportunity for student to ask questions, clarify issues brought forth by school and/or board members
    - f. Presentation of student's position
    - g. Opportunity for school and/or superintendent or deputy superintendent to ask questions, clarify issues brought forth by student
    - h. Final statement by school
    - i. Final statement by student
    - j. Final questions by superintendent or deputy superintendent
  2. The superintendent or assistant superintendent will deliberate upon the evidence and determine the outcome. The superintendent or deputy superintendent shall make a determination solely upon the evidence presented during the hearing.
  3. The superintendent or assistant superintendent shall make a written report to the concerned parties within five (5) school days containing the findings and the decision concerning long term suspension. The report shall also include the student's appeal rights.
  4. For suspensions greater than twenty (20) days, administration will develop an academic plan to promote the continued education of the student. It is the student's responsibility to participate and engage in the programming set forth in the plan to ensure academic progress
  5. The parent/guardian may, within three (3) school days of receipt of the disciplinary decision, file a notice to appeal with the superintendent for the appropriate level of review.
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**C. Appeal Process**

1. Long term suspensions of 11-20 school days may be appealed following the procedures below:
  - a. Level of Review (Superintendent). A conference shall be scheduled with parent/guardian within three (3) school days of the request for appeal.
  - b. Decisions will be rendered within two (2) school days of the conference. For suspensions of 11 to 20 days, the decision of the superintendent is final.
2. Long term suspensions of 21-59 school days may be appealed following the procedure below:
  - a. Level of Review (Board of Education). A hearing will be scheduled with the parent/guardian within ten (10) school days following the request for appeal.
  - b. Decisions will be rendered within three (3) school days of the conference. The board or subcommittee of the board may uphold the suspension, establish an alternate suspension of lesser severity, or reverse the suspension in its entirety. The decision of the board or subcommittee of the board shall be considered final.

**Expulsions****A. Definition and Explanation**

1. Termination of enrollment for an extended period of time of sixty (60) or more consecutive school days. A student may be expelled only by action of the Board of Education following recommendation by the building principal or designee.
2. If a student possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon in a weapon free school zone, the board will permanently expel the student unless the student demonstrates, in a clear and convincing manner, at least one of the following:
  - a. The student was not possessing the instrument or object to use as a weapon or to deliver, either directly or indirectly, to another person to use as a weapon;
  - b. The student did not knowingly possess the weapon;
  - c. The student did not know or have reason to know that the instrument or object constituted a "dangerous weapon"; or
  - d. The student possessed the weapon at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of, school or police authorities.
3. If a student demonstrates one of the above circumstances in a clear and convincing manner and the student has not been previously suspended or expelled from school, the Board will not expel the student unless the Board finds that, based on the circumstances, expulsion is warranted.

***Permanent Expulsion (State Mandated)*****A. Definition and Explanation**

1. Termination of enrollment permanently, subject to possible reinstatement as prescribed by the Revised School Code. A student may be permanently expelled only by action of the Board of Education following recommendation by the building principal or designee. This action shall occur only in accordance with these procedures for expulsion:
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- a. Matters which will result in a recommendation for permanent expulsion to the Board of Education include arson (intentional setting of fires), criminal sexual conduct, physical assault against a school employee or student (grade 6 and above), and possession of a dangerous weapon.
  - b. Reasonable and deliberate decisions will be made cooperatively by the administration and faculty in cases where serious extenuating circumstances exist.
2. If a student possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon in a weapon free school zone, the board will permanently expel the student unless the student demonstrates, in a clear and convincing manner, at least one of the following:
  - a. The student was not possessing the instrument or object to use as a weapon or to deliver, either directly or indirectly, to another person to use as a weapon;
  - b. The student did not knowingly possess the weapon;
  - c. The student did not know or have reason to know that the instrument or object constituted a “dangerous weapon”; or
  - d. The student possessed the weapon at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of, school or police authorities.
3. If a student demonstrates one of the above circumstances in a clear and convincing manner and the student has not been previously suspended or expelled from school, the Board will not expel the student unless the Board finds that, based on the circumstances, expulsion is warranted.

## **B. Factors to Consider before Expelling a Student**

1. Pursuant to state law, the Board of Education will consider the various factors before expelling a student from school, unless the student is being expelled for possessing a firearm on school property.
2. Factors for consideration include:
  - a. The student’s age;
  - b. The student’s disciplinary history;
  - c. Whether the student has a disability;
  - d. The seriousness of the behavior;
  - e. Whether the behavior posed a safety risk;
  - f. Whether restorative practices are a better option; and
  - g. Whether lesser interventions would address the behavior.

## **C. Procedures for Expulsion**

1. Written notice shall be given to the student and parent or guardian of the charges of misconduct and of a hearing before the Board of Education.
2. The principal or designee may suspend a student pending the hearing, in which case the hearing shall be held at the earliest possible time.
3. The Board of Education shall conduct a hearing scheduled with the parent/guardian and school administration.
4. The hearing will be conducted as a special meeting of the Board of Education in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
5. The parents/guardians may request in writing that the hearing be conducted in a closed session meeting of the Board of Education as permitted by Section 8(b) of the Open Meetings Act.

6. The student and parent or guardian may, at their own expense, be represented by legal counsel and shall have the right to bring relevant fact or character witnesses.
7. At the hearing, an opportunity for all sides to be heard in detail shall be provided according to the following outline:
  - a. Opening statement by the board
  - b. Opening statement by the school
  - c. Opening statement by the student or representative (usually the parent or guardian)
  - d. Presentation of school's position
  - e. Opportunity for student to ask questions, clarify issues brought forth by school and/or board members
  - f. Presentation of student's position
  - g. Opportunity for school and/or board members to ask questions, clarify issues brought forth by student
  - h. Final statement by school
  - i. Final statement by student
  - j. Final questions by board members
8. The board will deliberate the evidence and determine the outcome. The board shall make its determination solely upon evidence presented during the hearing. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the vote on the Board's decision will take place in open session.
9. The Board of Education shall make a written report to concerned parties within five (5) school days containing the findings and the decision concerning expulsion. (Michigan law does provide for possible reinstatement and enrollment in alternative education programs and strict discipline academies.
10. A record shall be kept of the Board of Education hearing in accordance with the Open Meetings Act; however, in accordance with Michigan law, student name(s) and student personal representatives will not appear in the official minutes of the meeting.

### ***Reinstatement Procedures following Expulsion***

It is the policy of the Board to consider a petition for reinstatement from an expelled student and the parent/guardian and to follow the requirements of sections 1311 and 1311a of the Revised School Code.

### ***Reinstatement Following Mandatory Permanent Expulsion***

The parent/guardian (or the student if emancipated or at least 18 years old) of a student who was in grade 5 or below at the time of expulsion and who was expelled for possessing a firearm or threatening another person with a dangerous weapon may file a petition for reinstatement 60 school days or later from the date of the expulsion. The Board, in its discretion, may reinstate a student who was in grade 5 or below at the time of expulsion and who was expelled for possessing a firearm or threatening another person with a dangerous weapon no sooner than 90 school days after the date of the expulsion.

The parent/guardian (or student if emancipated or at least 18 years old) of a student who was in grade 5 or below at the time of expulsion and who was expelled for possessing a dangerous weapon but not for possessing a firearm or threatening another person with a dangerous weapon, or who was expelled for committing arson or criminal sexual conduct, may file a petition for reinstatement at any time. The Board, in its discretion, may reinstate a student who was in grade 5 or below at the time of expulsion and who was expelled

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for possessing a dangerous weapon (unless the possession was of a firearm or involved threatening another person with a dangerous weapon) or for committing arson or criminal sexual conduct no sooner than 10 school days after the date of the expulsion.

The parent/guardian (or student if emancipated or at least 18 years old) of a student who was in grade 6 or above at the time of expulsion and who was expelled for (1) possessing a dangerous weapon; (2) committing arson; (3) committing criminal sexual conduct; or (4) physically assaulting an employee, volunteer, or contractor, may file a petition for reinstatement 150 school days or later from the date of the expulsion. The Board, in its discretion, may reinstate a student who was in grade 6 or above at the time of expulsion and who was expelled for (1) possessing a dangerous weapon; (2) committing arson; (3) committing criminal sexual conduct; or (4) physically assaulting an employee, volunteer, or contractor, no sooner than 180 school days after the date of the expulsion.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian (or the student if emancipated or at least 18 years old) to prepare and submit the reinstatement petition. The Board will, however, provide a reinstatement petition form, upon request, for the parent/guardian or student to use. The Board may request that the parent/guardian or the student attach additional relevant information to the reinstatement petition.

The Board will appoint a reinstatement committee, consisting of 2 board members, 1 administrator, 1 teacher, and 1 parent of a current district student, to consider a reinstatement petition. The Board will appoint the reinstatement committee no more than 10 school days after receiving a reinstatement petition. The Superintendent is directed to prepare and submit information to the reinstatement committee related to the circumstances surrounding the student's expulsion and any factors supporting and not supporting reinstatement.

The reinstatement committee must convene not later than 10 school days following its appointment to: (1) review the reinstatement petition and supporting documentation submitted by the parent/guardian or the student; (2) review the information submitted by the superintendent; and (3) submit to the Board a written recommendation on whether the Board should unconditionally reinstate the student, conditionally reinstate the student, or deny reinstatement to the student, based on consideration of all of the following factors:

1. The extent to which reinstatement would create a risk of harm to other students or personnel;
2. The extent to which reinstatement would create a risk of school liability or individual liability for the board or school personnel;
3. The age and maturity of the student;
4. The student's school record before the incident that caused the expulsion;
5. The student's attitude concerning the incident that caused the expulsion;
6. The student's behavior since the expulsion and the student's prospects for remediation; and
7. If the petition was filed by a parent or guardian, the degree of cooperation that the parent or guardian has provided the student and the degree of cooperation that the parent or guardian can be expected to provide the student if the student is reinstated.

Before making its recommendation, the reinstatement committee may request that the student and his or her parent/guardian appear in person to answer questions. If the committee recommends that the student be conditionally reinstated, the committee must include in its written recommendation to the Board a list of recommended conditions.

At or before its next regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of the reinstatement committee's recommendation, the Board will consider the recommendation and make a final decision to unconditionally reinstate the student, conditionally reinstate the student, or deny reinstatement. The Board may require a student, and if the petition was filed by a parent/guardian, the parent/guardian, to agree in writing to specific conditions to reinstatement, including, without limitation, a behavior contract, completion of an anger management program, a "last-chance" agreement, counseling, drug treatment, or a psychological evaluation. The Board's decision to unconditionally grant, conditionally grant, or deny the reinstatement petition is final. Unless otherwise expressly authorized by the Board at the time of denial, if the Board denies reinstatement, the parent, guardian, or student may not file another petition for reinstatement until 180 school days after the date of the denial.

### ***Reinstatement Following Discretionary Permanent Expulsion***

Unless otherwise expressly authorized by the Board at the time of a permanent expulsion, a student expelled for reasons other than those resulting in a mandatory permanent expulsion may not petition the Board for reinstatement until at least 150 school days after the date of the expulsion, and the student may not be reinstated until at least 180 school days after the date of the permanent expulsion. Upon receipt of a timely reinstatement petition, the Board will hold a hearing at its next regularly scheduled meeting to consider the petition and any information submitted by the student or his or her parent/guardian and the Superintendent in either support of or opposition to the petition. The Board may unconditionally grant, conditionally grant, or deny the reinstatement petition. The Board's decision is final. Unless otherwise expressly authorized by the Board, if the Board denies reinstatement, the parent, guardian, or student may not file another petition for reinstatement until at least 180 school days after the date of the denial.

## **BUILDING/DISTRICT INFORMATION**

### **ANIMALS/PETS**

Animals with feathers and fur are not allowed at Chippewa . With advanced permission from the classroom teacher or administrator, family pets with feathers or fur can still be brought in on special occasions. Pets allowed in school must be confined in the appropriate cage/container or be leashed. An exclusion to this policy includes the Okemos Woof Pack therapy dogs.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Regular school attendance is an important component of learning for students. Good attendance benefits students academically as well as socially. Group learning assists students to communicate, to gain perspectives and to accept responsibility – all important components of adulthood. Class attendance is necessary for learning and academic achievement, as well as for developing the habits of punctuality, dependability and self-discipline. Days missed from school cannot be completely recovered as the classroom experience is unique and cannot be fully replicated. We must work as a team - parents, students, teachers, and administrators - to ensure that absences are limited to necessities such as illness, family emergencies, funerals, or school-related absences.

The parent/guardian must call the guidance office and give the following information when a student is absent.

1. Student's first and last name and grade
2. Reason for absence

If the school does not receive a call by 9:30 a.m. The parent/guardian will receive an automated phone message stating their child has been marked absent.

If a phone is not available, the student must bring a note from home explaining the absence when the student returns to school.

To promote a positive learning environment, we expect all families to have their students in school and on-time in the morning. The administration may require a note from a doctor for excusing prolonged absences.

Parents should excuse 1st hour absences only for appointments and emergencies. Oversleeping may be considered an absence. Ten days absent may result in referral to the Ingham County Truancy Court.

### **Arriving Late (Sign In Procedure)**

When a student arrives at school after 8:00 a.m the student must go to the guidance office to sign in. The student must be marked tardy unless a parent or guardian signs the student in, sends a note or calls the guidance office excusing the tardy.

### **Leaving Early (Sign Out Procedures)**

In order for a student to leave school early a parent/guardian must sign out the student in the guidance office. You must give the guidance office at least 5 minutes to locate your child upon arrival to check them out. Chippewa has over 700 students so it is not possible to call ahead and have your child waiting.

### **Missed Assignments/Work**

Please have your child email their teachers for missed assignments when they are absent.

### **Extended Absence Policy**

Students leaving school for more than one week will not be provided with assignments.

### **Planned Absences, Personal Convenience Absences, Trips/Vacations**

Students are expected to be in classes while school is in session. There are generous vacation periods built into the school calendar, so absences of this type taken during school time are discouraged. Parents must notify the main office at least two days in advance for the absence to be excused. Students and families will be responsible for making necessary arrangements for missed coursework with their teachers and must notify teachers in advance of the absence.

## **DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL**

For safety purposes, students who remain on school grounds after 3:05 p.m. must be in areas supervised by school personnel. Areas where supervision may take place include, but are not limited to: participation in athletics, conferencing with a teacher in the teacher's room, or being pre-registered to participate in an adult-supervised after-school program. Additionally, students are expected to leave school premises after any school-sponsored event (After-School Learning Program, clubs, etc) in a timely manner.



## BUS PASSES AND TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

The office will not be able to make phone calls regarding bus changes or write notes for students if prior arrangements have not been made by the parent/guardian.

Students will not be allowed to ride a bus other than their own without a bus pass. They will be taken to their original destination.

Occasionally, buses are full and do not allow extra riders. Please verify availability with the guidance office.

## CALENDAR

The Okemos Public Schools calendar is published on the district website at: <http://www.okemosk12.net>

Events specific to Chippewa are posted on our website at: <http://www.okemosk12.net/kms>

## CLOSING/DELAY OF SCHOOL

The Alert Now system will call all listed phone numbers for students if there is an emergency or school closing. The information for this system is taken from student emergency cards. In addition, the Okemos Public School district homepage will be updated to reflect school closures and other emergency information.

Local radio stations WJIM, WVIC, WITL, WKAR, WILS, WFMK, WHMI, WIBM, Q106, or TV channels WILX-TV, or WLNS-TV will indicate school closing information. Parents and guardians are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

If school must be closed during the day due to an emergency, all students will be released when the buses arrive to insure student safety.

## COUNSELORS

The counselors aid you, your parents/guardians/guardians, and your teachers by:

- Helping you choose classes to best meet your needs.
- Listening to any concerns which you may have and discussing alternatives with you.
- Administering a testing program so that you, your parents/guardians and your teachers have a better understanding of your abilities and achievements.
- Providing small group experiences to examine middle school issues.

## DELIVERIES/MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

Efforts to prepare your child for school by organizing all items and information needed in advance of the school day will help eliminate messages/deliveries as they are interruptions to instructional time. If there is an **emergency** and you must bring an item to school that needs to be delivered to your child, please:

- Bring the item to the table in the vestibule.
- Have your child's full name printed clearly on the item.
- Students will be notified to pick up items at the end of the hour.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an extension of learning for students. Parent/guardian permission is required for students to participate. To help offset the costs for such experiences, parents may be asked to pay a trip fee. A confidential call to the counselor is requested if families need assistance with field trip costs. We always welcome donations to help assist families in need.

When misconduct or a pattern of inappropriate behavior exists, students may be denied the privilege of a field trip or a parent may be required to accompany their child.

End of the year activities and trips are a privilege for students who exhibit appropriate behavior during the year. (Good attendance, academic effort, positive behavior).

For students that require the administration of medication during a field trip (local or international travel), and do not already have a Medication Authorization Form filed with the school, one must be completed and medication must be provided in order for the student to attend the trip.

## FINES

Parents may be fined replacement costs for lost or misplaced school property, including but not limited to:

- Lost/damaged textbooks
- Lost/damaged library books
- Lost/damaged musical instruments
- Lost/damaged combination locks
- Damage to school equipment/facilities
- Lost or damaged student personal learning devices and accessories

Damages to school property, beyond normal wear and tear, may result in fines so the district may ensure it has enough for use for all students in subsequent years.

## FOOD SERVICES

Hot breakfast and lunch are provided at a reasonable cost for students to purchase daily. Chippewa uses a debit card system as well as cash/checks for purchases. Students can bring lunch money to school and give it directly to the lunch cashier when they go to lunch. Parents can also make deposits online using Meal Magic. To access Meal Magic, visit the food service link on the district home page. A copy of the monthly food menu is also available on the website.

A free and reduced price meal program is available for students that qualify. Information about the program is sent home with students each fall, is available in the main office and on the food service webpage.

Monies left over in your child's account at the end of the school year will be carried over to the following school year, unless a parent request is made to the Food Service department.

## LIBRARY

The library is open most days before school and during the day for classes, small groups, and individuals. We are open during lunches for students with a pass from a lunchroom supervisor unless needed for other activities.

Students may have up to 5 items checked out at a given time for a period of 2 weeks. Materials may be renewed once if no one is on a waitlist for the item. There is a 1-week grace period on items. Once the grace period has passed it is the library staff's discretion to allow other items to be checked out otherwise, in most cases, students will need to return or renew an overdue item(s) to check out more materials. Materials may be borrowed from any Okemos Public School unless the requested item is needed at said school. The library also has an extensive eBook and eAudiobook collection available via the catalog with directions for use on the district website. Overdue items do not block you from checking out eBooks.

Students are asked to respect that the library is used primarily for studying and reading. Students will be asked to return to their classroom if they do not use the area responsibly and respectfully. Gum, food and drinks are not allowed in the library.

For more information about the library, including hours, please find the library link on the district website.

## LOCKERS

Separate lockers are provided for coats and books, musical instruments and physical education clothing. Book bags, coats, backpacks, etc. are to remain in lockers until the end of the school day. In the event that we have more students than lockers, students may be asked to share.

Students are responsible for keeping all lockers in good order and are responsible for any excessive damage or wear. Students should not place stickers or other decorations in lockers that cannot be easily removed. Students are responsible for the content in their lockers. Locker clean out and periodic inspections will occur.

Students are responsible for keeping locker combinations confidential. Combinations will not generally be changed for students who willingly give out their combinations.

The school retains joint custody and control over student lockers.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5102 Lockers](#)

## LOST AND FOUND

Please identify all of your student's belongings so they may be easily returned to them when misplaced. If your child has lost something of value, they should report it to the guidance office. Chippewa cannot be held responsible for articles that are misplaced by students.

Found articles are placed in the lost and found area across from the main office. Students should see their gym teacher for items lost in the gym.

Periodic announcements are made to students and families to remind them to check the area for belongings. Items are on display during parent teacher conferences and parents and students are welcome to check the lost and found at any time.

Unclaimed items are donated to charity monthly and at the end of the year. Please contact the transportation department for items left on school buses.

## MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Textbooks, workbooks, and most other instructional materials are provided by the Okemos Schools. Teachers may send home a list of suggested items for students, such as a backpack, pencils, pens, notebooks, trapper keeper, and facial tissue.

## PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. Chippewa cannot be held responsible for personal property.

To prevent problems, damage, theft, hurt feelings and distractions to class time, personal property should be kept at home.

In addition, personal property of great value, like electronic devices, brought to school are at a student's own risk. **We strongly encourage these items to be left at home.**

## PICTURES

Students are required to have pictures taken for use in school records each fall. Parents may purchase picture packages if they wish; however, purchase is not required. Information regarding school pictures will be provided to students the week before pictures are taken, usually sometime in September or early October.

## SCHOOL ENTRANCE AND EXIT TIMES

Chippewa Middle School is open between 7:35 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Students must not be in the building before or after these hours unless accompanied by a teacher, coach or parent/ guardian. Students must be in areas supervised by school personnel or a parent/guardian after 3:05 p.m.

## TARDINESS

The Chippewa staff believes that students should arrive at school prepared and on time. Failure of students to do so compromises valuable instructional time for all students. A student is deemed tardy to class if that student is not in the classroom by the time the bell has rung marking the beginning of class. A student will be considered absent when they arrive to class more than fifteen minutes after the class period begins.

**Morning Tardies:** Parents/guardians may request to excuse a 1<sup>st</sup> hour tardy only in the case of an emergency. A request to excuse a 1st hour tardy must be made within 24 hours of the student having received the tardy. Oversleeping is not a reason to excuse a tardy. We expect that parents/guardians take into consideration the weather and traffic so that a timely arrival at school can be accomplished.

**Steps to Improve Reporting to Class on Time:** We will work closely with the student and parent/guardians to identify reasons why the student is struggling to report to class on time. Parents/guardians will be notified of tardies via our auto call system. Below are steps we will follow when the tardies become excessive:

**Fourth Tardy** – Parents/guardians are notified, students warned that a fifth tardy will result in a lunch detention via written communication.

**Fifth Tardy** – Parents/guardians are notified. A lunch detention will be served.

**Sixth Tardy and Beyond** – parents/guardians are notified. A forty-minute detention will be served either before or after school. Additional natural consequences will be implemented, and may include any or all of the following: 1) Behavior Improvement Plan; 2) Student is placed on hall restriction (leave class early, no passes, hall support, etc.); 3) Student is assigned additional lunch detentions; 4) Parent/student conference if tardies becomes excessive.

**Additional consequences will be implemented may include:**

- Hall restrictions (no hall passes, limited passing time)
- Lunch detentions
- A behavior plan developed by the counselor, behavior contract
- Storage of materials in class
- Loss of locker until tardiness is fixed
- Parent meeting
- Others to be determined by administration

## TELEPHONE USE

A Guidance Office phone is available for student use in the event of an **emergency or illness**. We ask that students not use this phone for forgotten items such as gym clothes, musical instruments, or to make after-school plans. We hope this policy encourages students to become more responsible for their belongings, avoids interrupting parents at home or work, and keeps students in class so they are not missing instruction.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5209 Student Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Devices](#)

## TRANSPORTATION

### **Walkers/Bikers**

Walkers and bikers should proceed home after school utilizing crosswalks and sidewalks along the route. We urge walkers and bikers to use caution and watch for traffic, especially at busy intersections near the school.

### **Bus Riders**

We do not advise parents to transport students to school when bus transportation is available. However, parents who drive students to school should park in designated parking areas and follow car line procedures. Do not, for any reason, block fire or bus lanes.

Bus schedules are available on the district website. Students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the listed time. Students are reminded that the bus stop is considered an extension of the school and that appropriate behavior is expected.

### **Bus Behavior**

School bus transportation is an extension of the school. The same behavior standards in school are expected on the bus. Good behavior on a school bus is even more important because of the safety factor. Pupils are expected to conform to the following bus regulations as developed for the safety of the pupil riders. How well bus riding rules are adhered to and the manner in which they are adhered to may lead to student discipline.

### **Bus Riders Rules and Regulations**

1. Be on time at the designated bus stop. Buses cannot wait for tardy pupils.
2. The driver is in charge. Pupils are expected to obey the bus driver.
3. Expect to walk some distance to a bus stop as required by State Regulations.
4. Stay off the roadway while waiting for the bus. Form a line to get on the bus.
5. Cross in front of the bus when crossing a road or the highway, not in back of the bus.
6. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to get off or on the bus.
7. Leave the bus only at the consent of the driver.
8. Occupy any seat assigned by the driver. Keep feet out of the aisles, off seats and off backs of seats and refrain, at all times, from moving around while the bus is in motion.
9. Sit upright and keep your head, arms and hands inside of the bus.
10. Observe classroom conduct. Avoid unnecessary disturbing noises. Drivers should not be distracted while the bus is in motion. Do not shout at passing persons or vehicles.
11. Be courteous. Use no profanity or vulgar language.
12. Help keep the bus clean. No eating or drinking on the bus.
13. Fighting, pushing, shoving or other rowdiness will not be tolerated.
14. Report to the driver at once any damage to the bus that is observed.
15. There shall be no smoking or drinking on the bus.
16. Skateboards, animals and dangerous objects such as shovels are prohibited.
17. Students are to use the same bus stop location on a consistent basis.

## ***Bus Pass District Policy***

Please follow these procedures when arranging for a child to ride a bus other than their own. District policy requires that a child be taken to the original destination if these procedures are not observed:

1. A note must be written by the parent/guardian (indicating the name of the student their child is riding with and the bus #) and sent with the student to school. The school office will also accept a phone request for alternate transportation arrangements, if done in advance.
2. The office will write an official Bus Pass and return it to the student. Students will be responsible for giving the Bus Pass to the bus driver.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **AED PROGRAM and MI HEARTSafe COMPLIANCE**

Our school district is dedicated to the health and safety of our students, staff, and visitors. In accordance with the Michigan Schools Cardiac Emergency Response (CERP) laws and MI HEARTSafe recommendations, we have established a comprehensive AED (Automated External Defibrillator) program. This includes the strategic placement of AEDs throughout our facilities to ensure quick and efficient response in the event of a cardiac emergency. AEDs signs are clearly displayed above each machine and labeled on building maps for quick reference to include fire exits and shelter areas.

Our compliance to these guidelines emphasizes our commitment to providing a safe environment for everyone in our schools. We regularly train our staff in the use of AEDs and conduct emergency drills to maintain a state of readiness. This proactive approach ensures that we are prepared to handle cardiac incidents effectively, safeguarding the well-being of our school community.

### **HEAD LICE**

Head lice are a common condition that can be transmitted where any group assembles regularly, especially among students whose hats and jackets hang close together. Itching or scratching may be a sign of lice, but sometimes there are no signs until you look closely. Please check your student's head frequently. Look around the ears and back of the neck. Be sure you have good light; stand near a window or use a lamp. Nits (lice eggs) look like little white spots hanging on a shaft of the hair. They are difficult to move or pull off the hair. Dandruff or scalp flakes move very easily. Nits do not. If there are lice, notify the attendance office and start treatment immediately.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5709 Lice, Nits and Bed Bugs](#)

### **ILLNESS AND INJURY**

We encourage parents to share with us any information they feel would be helpful so we can plan for the safety of their child. This can include chronic illnesses or conditions or temporary events like concussions. Students should inform their teacher if they are ill or injured to get permission to go to the guidance office. The guidance secretary or other school staff will help students contact a parent/guardian if they need to go home. We encourage students to bring all injuries to our attention. We like to inform parents of any injuries that occur at school so they can follow up at home or with their family doctor.

To provide for a safe environment for all, we ask parents to keep students with fevers or other contagious illnesses home from school for at least 24 hours. The Guidance Office does not monitor students for fevers.

Refer to Board of Education Policies: [#5702 Student Illness and Injury](#), [#3403 Reporting Accidents](#), [#5713 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases](#), and [#3404 Communicable Diseases](#).



## **MANAGING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Our school district follows the guidelines provided by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for managing communicable diseases in schools. These recommendations help us ensure a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

When looking at the current handbook I think the verbiage is fine. The number just needs to be corrected

Fever (for this purpose, defined as temperature above 101 °F [38.3 °C])

## **MEDICATION**

All medications, both prescription and non-prescription, must be kept in the school office and administered by an adult. The medication must be kept in a labeled container as prepared by the pharmacy, physician, or pharmaceutical company and labeled with the dosage and frequency of administration and accompanied by a signed physician's authorization. The only exception to this is when the student's physician allows the student to carry medication on his/her person to allow for immediate and self-determined administration. This exception needs to be authorized by the physician on both the prescription and non-prescription forms. If students decide to self-administer medications the nurse may ask your student to demonstrate that they can administer the medication properly on their own.

School staff are not allowed to give the first dose of any medication. No over the counter or prescription medication of any kind including vitamins and supplements are allowed on school premises without a signed authorization form from a physician.

The signed authorization must be provided to the school using the form included on the last page of the handbook and on our school's websites.

In the event that a student displays signs of a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction, anaphylaxis, trained school personnel will respond by administering an epinephrine auto-injector, calling 911, and notifying the student's parent/guardian. Staff will receive yearly training in administration of epinephrine auto-injector by medical personnel.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5703 Medications](#)

## SUNSCREEN AND BUG SPRAY

To ensure the health and comfort of our students during outdoor activities, we allow the use of sunscreen and bug spray. We recommend that students self-apply these products to promote independence and proper personal care.

For the use of sunscreen and bug spray at school, a completed prescription form must be submitted to the school office. This form should be filled out and signed by a parent/guardian.

In special situations where a student is unable to apply sunscreen or bug spray arrangements can be made for assistance. Please contact the school nurse or administration to discuss and accommodate these individual needs.

## UNDERSTANDING CONCUSSION

Beginning on July 1, 2013 Public Acts 342 and 343 (Concussion Laws) will go into effect in the State of Michigan. These laws require all levels of schools and youth sports organizations to educate and train staff, notify parents/guardians of the law, and monitor all possible youth concussions or head injuries. Please read this fact sheet and sign as acknowledgement that you have been provided this information.

### ***Some Common Symptoms***

Headache	Pressure in the Head	Nausea/Vomiting	Dizziness
Balance Problems	Double Vision	Blurry Vision	Sensitive to Light
Sensitive to Noise	Sluggishness	Laziness	Fogginess
Grogginess	Poor Concentration	Memory Problems	Confusion
“Feeling Down”	Not “Feeling Right”	Feeling Irritable	Slow Reaction Time
Sleep Problems			

### ***What is a Concussion?***

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a fall, bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. A concussion can be caused by a shaking, spinning or a sudden stopping and starting of the head. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. A concussion can happen even if you haven’t been knocked out.

You can’t see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussions can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If the student reports any symptoms of a concussion, or if you notice symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away. A student who may have had a concussion should not return to play on the day of the injury and until a health care professional says they are okay to return to play.

## If you suspect a concussion:

- **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY** – A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for the student to return to regular activities, including sports. Don't hide it, report it. Ignoring symptoms and trying to "tough it out" often makes it worse.
- **KEEP YOUR STUDENT OUT OF PLAY** – Concussions take time to heal. Don't let the student return to play the day of injury and until a health care professional says it's okay. A student who returns to play too soon, while the brain is still healing, risks a greater chance of having a second concussion. Young children and teens are more likely to get a concussion and take longer to recover than adults. Repeat or second concussions increase the time it takes to recover and can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting the student for a lifetime. They can be fatal. It is better to miss one game than the whole season.
- **TELL THE SCHOOL ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION** – Schools should know if a student had a previous concussion. A student's school may not know about a concussion received in another sport or activity unless you notify them.

## *Signs Observed by Parents*

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Can't recall events prior to or after a hit or fall
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes

## *Concussion Danger Signs*

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot may form on the brain in a person with a concussion and crowd the brain against the skull. A student should receive immediate medical attention if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body s/he exhibits any of the following danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other
- Is drowsy or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech Convulsions or seizures
- Cannot recognize people/places
- Becomes increasingly confused, restless or agitated
- Has unusual behavior
- Loses consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.)

## ***How to Respond to a Report of a Concussion***

If a student reports one or more symptoms of a concussion after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, s/he should be kept out of athletic play the day of the injury. The student should only return to play with permission from a health care professional experienced in evaluating for concussion. During recovery, rest is key. Exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration (such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games) may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse. Students who return to school after a concussion may need to spend fewer hours at school, take rest breaks, be given extra help and time, spend less time reading, writing or on a computer. After a concussion, returning to sports and school is a gradual process that should be monitored by a healthcare professional.

Remember: Concussion affects people differently. While most students with a concussion recover quickly and fully, some will have symptoms that last for days, or even weeks. A more serious concussion can last for months or longer. To learn more, go to [www.cdc.gov/concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion).

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5712 Concussion Awareness](#)

## **HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTIONS**

### **COMMUNICATION**

Chippewa understands the important role of communication between the school and families. We encourage parents to call or contact staff members when a concern or question arises.

Chippewa communicates with families by:

#### **BrightArrow Messages**

Parents may share their email addresses with the school to receive building updates.

If you are receiving a school issued message from BrightArrow, please be aware that the message will start as soon as you say "hello". Should the system detect any background noise during the call session, it will pause and restart from the beginning. To prevent this from happening, you can put your phone on mute or cover the microphone. At any time, you can restart the message by pressing the Star key.

#### **PowerSchool (Online Gradebook)**

Parents may access a student's grades and attendance at any time by establishing a Parent Portal account through PowerSchool. Information for establishing an account is shared with incoming families in the fall through the guidance office.

### **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Chippewa conferences are held two times per school year

## PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

Chippewa encourages parent involvement in their child's education. A number of possibilities exist for volunteering, such as:

*Chippewa Parent Group (CPG)* – Our school has an active PTO (CPG) that sponsors many school activities each year. Membership is open to all parents and guardians of Chippewa students and teachers. If you are interested in participating in this group, contact the PTO president or school office.

*Classroom Volunteers* – Throughout the year, teachers may want classroom volunteers to help coordinate special classroom activities in classrooms. Volunteers will need to undergo a background check prior to volunteering in the school.

*Annual School Needs* – Every school year is different and volunteers are encouraged to contact the main office to see what special needs the school may have where they may help.

## VISITATIONS

### Parents/Community Members

Okemos Public Schools welcome visits to our middle schools by parents and other citizens. Classroom visits need to be limited in number and frequency and pre arranged with the principal and staff. All school visitors must report to the guidance office upon arrival in the building.

### Students

Students who wish to have other school aged children visit Chippewa must make arrangements with the guidance office at least two days before you wish to have a visitor attend.

Approval must be obtained from the principal after your teachers have given their written approval. Visits are limited to one day and visitors are not allowed in school after Memorial Day. All school visitors must report to the office upon arrival in the building.

### Visitor Management

All visitors to the school during school day operational hours must follow the visitor management process established by the district. Failure to comply with such processes will hinder the safety and security of students, staff, and the building.

- **Name and Reason:** At the main entrance, each visitor will ring the video doorbell and will be asked for their name and reason for visiting before entering the vestibule.
- **One at a time:** Each visitor must individually be verified through the video doorbell before entering the vestibule. After verification, we ask that visitors do not hold the door open for anyone behind them. Each person should be verified before entering.
- **Office check in:** Visitors will be checked in through the main office and may be required to present photo identification. They must sign in and obtain a visitor's pass prior to entering the school.
- **Visitors pass:** All visitors must wear and be identified by a visitor's pass while in the building.

- **Office check out:** Before leaving the building, visitors must return the visitor's pass and check out with the office.
- **Item drop off:** If a visitor needs to drop off items for a student (lunch, homework, device, etc.), they can label and deposit those at that school's designated location. Visitors will not need to enter the building to drop off items.
- **Student pick up:** If a visitor plans to pick up a student during the school day or before the end of the day, please notify the school prior to dismissal by calling the attendance office.

Refer to [Board of Education Policy # 3105: Visitors and Volunteers](#)

## **REGISTRATION AND RECORDS**

### **EMERGENCY CARDS**

Parents will be provided a link via Bright Arrow to electronically verify and update student information at the beginning of each year. You will no longer be required to fill out a hardcopy emergency card. This link will include pertinent information used for our school emergency cards such as who the school should contact in the event of an accident or injury, student medical needs, and residency information. In addition, it may authorize designated individuals to pick up your child in case of illness or an emergency school closing. Please notify the guidance office of any changes to phone numbers, email addresses or individuals listed on the card. The information provided is used to contact parents both electronically and through the mail.

If your child has a medical condition (diabetes, asthma, allergies, etc.) or physical disability, please inform the guidance secretary and special education department so we can be sure we have a plan on file to meet your child's health and safety needs. This plan may require a written medical protocol by your family doctor. All non-prescription medication requires a medication form filled out by a parent/guardian and for a prescription medication the guidance office needs a medication form filled out by your child's family physician. You may find this form on Chippewa's web page under forms. All medications are stored and administered by the guidance office.

Refer to [Board of Education Policy #3403 Reporting Accidents](#)

### **ENROLLMENT**

#### **New Student Enrollment**

Students who are new to the Okemos Public Schools are required to enroll with a parent or legal guardian. Please call the guidance office to schedule a time to enroll your child. When enrolling, the following must be provided:

- Birth certificate or passport (if not a US Citizen)
- Two proofs of residency (Ex. lease, utility bills, mortgage)
- Proof of government mandated immunizations
- Custody papers (if appropriate)

#### **Permission to Publish**

Students who attend Okemos Public Schools may occasionally be asked to participate in District publicity, publications, and public relations activities. By signing this form, I grant the District permission to publish, display, reproduce, and distribute my Child's name, image, likeness, and work at school or school-related events in print and digital media for the purpose of advertising, marketing, and promoting the District's educational services. I waive any rights to compensation, ownership, inspection, and approval of such use. I, on behalf of myself and my Child, release, indemnify, and hold harmless the District from any demands, claims, and liability resulting therefrom, and waive any causes of action based on copyright infringement, defamation, disparagement, slander, false light, or invasion of privacy or publicity. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by notifying the District in writing.

- I PERMIT use of my Child's name, image, likeness, and work to be used in school and/or District publicity, publications, and public relations activities.
- I DO NOT PERMIT use of my Child's name, image, likeness, and work to be used in school and/or District publicity, publications, and public relations activities.

By the Electronic signature. This rollover language handles those families that do not renew, and also let them know that they can change at any time, in writing.

"I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by notifying the District in writing."

## Enrollment Following Misconduct at Another District

To the extent permitted by law, the district may deny enrollment to a student who engaged in misconduct in another school and who seeks to enroll in the district either: (1) before the previous school imposes disciplinary consequences for the misconduct, or (2) while the student is suspended or expelled from the previous school. The superintendent is directed to refer any such student to the Board if, under the district's student code of conduct, the student's misconduct in the previous school would result in a long-term suspension or expulsion from the district and, in the superintendent's opinion, the student's enrollment in the District would jeopardize the safety, welfare, or good order of the district. The Board will hold a pre-enrollment hearing following the superintendent's referral to consider whether the student may enroll and, if so, any conditions on enrollment. The hearing will be structured like a discipline hearing to determine if the student will be allowed to enroll. The Board will consider any information submitted by the student or his or her parent/guardian and the superintendent in either support of or opposition to the student's enrollment.

Regulations: January, 2019

## STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over eighteen years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights include:

- Parents have the right to inspect and review the student's education records and to have the district respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records.
- Parents should submit to the appropriate administrator a written request that identifies as precisely as possible the record(s) they wish to inspect or review, or receive explanation or interpretation. The building administrator will make the necessary arrangements within 15 school days following receipt of the request. All records must be examined in the school district office during the business day in the presence of the appropriate administrator or designee.
- Parents have the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent believes are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.
- The parent should submit to the appropriate administrator a written request, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specify what is inaccurate or misleading within 10 school days from the date the records were examined.

In the event the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent, the District shall notify the parent of the decision and advise the parent of their rights to a hearing regarding their request for amendment.



Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided to the parent when notified of the right to a hearing.

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

One exception which permits disclosures without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests, or as provided by statute or regulation. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill professional responsibilities.

Directory information from the student's education record may be disclosed, unless it includes the student's address, telephone number, date of birth, class designation, dates of attendance, extra-curricular activities, achievement awards or honors, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photograph, and school or school district previously attended.

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning an alleged failure by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. Such a complaint should be filed with the U.S. Department of Education at the following:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 202202-4605

A copy of the District's student record policy and implementing regulations are available in each school building or superintendent's office. For more information concerning this notice of the District's policy, please contact Heather Pricco, Director of Special Education, Chippewa School.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT**

Behavioral Threat Assessment is recognized as the standard of best practice for preventing targeted violence in schools. Behavioral Threat Assessment is a systematic process and methodology to:

1. Identify threats and recognize other forms of concerning behavior and communications.
2. Assess the seriousness and potential for violence.
3. Manage, mitigate, and prevent violence and other adverse outcomes.

Okemos Public Schools are committed to identifying, assessing, and managing individuals who may pose a threat as set forth by the National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), United States Secret Service publication, Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence.

Okemos Public Schools trained Threat Assessment teams are established in all schools and respond to reports of threats, concerning behaviors and/or communications by gathering information, investigating the facts and circumstances, and assessing the potential seriousness and imminence of risk for violence or physical harm to self or others.

The Behavioral Threat Assessment process will follow policy established by the Board see 5714.01 - Behavioral Threat Assessment [w Consolidated Revisions to OPS BTA Policy rev mhc 03142024.docx](#)

Refer to Board of Education Policy #5714.01

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Practice for emergency response is conducted with tornado, fire and lockdown drills. Information sheets are posted in each classroom stating directions to follow in case of an emergency. The fire alarm is a special horn. The tornado alarm is made by a P.A. or hallway announcement.

Cooperation and alertness are necessary during all drills. Students who misbehave during drills may have disciplinary consequences.

In case of an emergency, students are expected to:

- Remain quiet. There is no talking except when necessary to make the drill safe.
- Walk. Running or rushing may create unsafe conditions.
- Listen and remain alert.

Teachers will give further instructions about leaving the building in case of emergencies. In any drill or emergency, it pays to be calm so the most intelligent and safest course of action can be followed if it becomes impossible to follow the instructions as originally given.

In an emergency shelter in place of an emergency, teachers will move classes to designated areas, take attendance, and then remain with the students. All students and teachers will remain in their shelter in place locations until dismissed by the office.

The Okemos Public Schools have established procedures to follow in the case of an internal or external threat that results in a lockdown situation. These procedures will be practiced and reviewed annually.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3402 Drills, Plans, and Reports](#)

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The school authorities retain the right to search areas assigned to students (such as lockers, desks, computer accounts, e-mail messages, text messages, etc.). Students do not have any reasonable expectations that such areas are private.

Student personal property may be seized by school authorities if the items are illegal, stolen, prohibited or are determined to be a threat to the health, safety, or security of others. Items which are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from student possession.

School authorities may also search a student's person or personal property, to enforce school rules, if such authorities have a reasonable suspicion that items that are illegal, stolen, dangerous, prohibited or threaten safety or the educational process, are likely to be found on a student's person.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#5103 Search and Seizure](#).

## SECURE STORAGE LAW

One of the District's top priorities is to provide students and staff with a safe educational environment, which includes an environment free from gun violence.

Public Act 17 of 2023 amended the Firearms Act by adding MCL 28.429 which went into effect on February 13, 2024. It is a crime to improperly store or leave a firearm unattended at one's home when that individual knows or reasonably should know a minor is, or is likely to be, on the premises. Any unattended firearms must be unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box or container.

If a student ever feels unsafe or has a concern regarding school safety, they are encouraged to report it immediately to any District employee or through the OK2SAY program.

## TECHNOLOGY

### **PERSONAL LEARNING DEVICE (PLD)**

The Personal Learning Devices are a critical component of the classroom instruction as we move forward; therefore students do not have the option of declining a district provided device. Students will be required to use their school issued device during the school day to provide continuity for classroom instruction. The intent is for students to use the devices both in school and at home. Additionally, students are required to use school-provided Google accounts for classroom assignments.

#### **Bringing the Device to School**

1. It is expected that students will have their fully charged device at school each day. Teachers will be designing their lessons and classrooms based on students having access to their device.
2. If students fail to bring their device to school or bring it uncharged, they are responsible for getting the course work completed as if they had their device present and working.
3. If a student repeatedly fails to bring their device to school, they may be required to turn in and check out their device from school.

#### **Student Use in the Classrooms**

1. Use of the device in the classroom is at teacher discretion.
2. Students are expected to take their device to each class each day unless told differently by the teacher.
3. Devices in the classroom are to be used for teacher approved educational purposes only.
4. The use of earbuds/headphones and other accessories in class are at teacher discretion. Earbuds/headphones will not be provided by OPS.

#### **General Care**

1. Treat this equipment with as much care as if it were your own property. Students may be assigned the same device for multiple years.
2. Do not attempt to alter, modify or upgrade the device in any way. Doing so may void the warranty.
3. Any and all support or repair will be handled through the district. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ANY OUTSIDE VENDOR (i.e., Geek Squad, device manufacturer) FOR REPAIR OR SUPPORT ISSUES.
4. Do not remove or interfere with the serial number or any identification placed on the device.
5. Keep the equipment clean. For example, don't eat or drink while using the device. \*It should be noted that liquids cause immediate damage to electronics.
6. Do not put stickers or use any type of markers on the device.
7. District issued carrying cases and/or device covers must be used at all times.
8. Close the device when it is not in use or it is being transported.
9. Never use a chemical to clean the screen or keyboard (i.e. Windex, bleach wipes). Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth when cleaning the device.
10. Do not lean on the top of the device or put excessive pressure on the screen.
11. Devices should always be stored in a safe, secure location. Avoid extreme temperatures.

12. Unattended devices found by staff will be moved to a designated location in the building.

## Student Printer Use

1. Use of a school printer is for educational purposes only and will be at the discretion of the teacher.
2. Installing a printer for home use is allowed.

## Prohibited Areas

Use of the device is prohibited in the following areas/situations:

1. Locker Rooms
2. Bathrooms
3. Areas used for the purpose of changing clothes
4. Any other areas as designated by administration

## Device Camera/Recording

1. Users shall not capture, record, transmit or post images, audio, or video of a person or persons unless provided with authorization by a teacher or administrator in compliance with OPS policies and procedures. This applies both in and out of the school setting.
2. Use of any recording, video or camera functions without a subject's consent is strictly prohibited.

## Device Problems

1. It is the student's responsibility to report device issues as soon as they occur.
2. The student must take the device to the designated technical support location as soon as possible.
3. If the device cannot be fixed immediately, the student may be issued a different device to use on a temporary basis.

## Discipline

1. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct (i.e., cheating, harassment, illegal activity, inappropriate images and content, etc.) that involve the use of any electronic device will be handled by administration as outlined in the Student Handbook. Loss of electronic device privileges up to and including confiscation of the device may accompany discipline for the offense. Failure to surrender and allow access to any electronic device upon request from a staff member is considered insubordination and will be handled by administration as outlined in the Student Handbook.
2. Please refer to district Code of Conduct Policy for further details regarding electronic communications and student expectations.

## Device Damages and Care/Loss or Theft of Devices

1. In the event of damage to the device not covered by the warranty, the student and parent/legal guardian may be billed for the damages.

2. Repeated damage offenses may result in the parent/legal guardian being billed for the damages and/or loss of the device for the remainder of the year (a daily check out device will be provided).
3. The administration has the authority to waive or modify charges if the cause of damage is judged to be beyond the student's control.
4. Devices that are lost or stolen need to be reported to the school's main office immediately.
5. If a device is stolen or vandalized while not at an OPS sponsored event, the parent/or legal guardian shall file a police report and notify the school's main office as soon as possible.
6. If a device is lost or stolen, the student may be financially responsible for its replacement.
7. The student may also lose the right to take future devices home.
8. Lost, damaged, or stolen devices in the care, custody, and control of a student may be covered by the homeowners'/renters' policy of the parent/guardian. Most homeowner/renter policies will provide some limit of coverage for the "damage to the property of others" under the comprehensive personal liability coverage part of the policy and is not normally subject to any deductible. Please consult your insurance agent for details about your homeowners'/renters' coverage.

## Checking Out and Returning a Device at the End of the Year

1. Students will be expected to attend an orientation session to receive their equipment. Each student will receive a device, case and AC charger.
2. Devices will be returned at a specified time at the end of the school year so they can be checked for serviceability.
3. It is the student's responsibility to maintain the power adapter and cable.
4. The student or parent/or legal guardian will replace lost or damaged power adapters or cables with the same model. It is recommended that students NOT use the prongs on the charger to wrap the power cord, as over time, this has proven to damage the cord.
5. If a student transfers out of the OPS during the school year, the device must be returned at that time.
6. This equipment is, and at all times remains, the property of OPS and is herewith loaned to the student for educational purposes only for the Academic School Year. The student may not deface or destroy this property in any way. Inappropriate use of the machine may result in the student losing their right to use the device and may lead to disciplinary action.

## ***Disclaimer***

The Okemos Public Schools makes no guarantees of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the District Network Resources or the device. The Okemos Public Schools specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. OPS staff and Board of Education members are released and indemnified from:

1. Any damages users may suffer including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, interruptions in service, or other reasons.
2. Any fees, expenses or damages a user incurs as a result of use, or misuse, of the District Network Resources. The district retains the right to seek monetary restitution from the user.
3. Any claims, causes of action and damages of any nature arising from the use, or inability to use, the District Network Resources.

4. Unauthorized financial obligations, identity theft or fraud resulting from District-provided access to the Internet and/or email.

## **Terms and Conditions**

All Terms and Conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the Okemos Public School District. These Terms and Conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, and the United States of America. These Terms and Conditions are subject to change with proper notification to the registered users.

Regulations: July 29, 2014

## **SCREEN TIME/TECHNOLOGY USE**

Okemos Public Schools provides students with meaningful and innovative learning opportunities, which includes the integration of technology into the classroom environment and district provided “one to one” devices as tools to support learning.

Students in grades 5-12 should turn off and charge computers outside of school hours in preparation for the next school day.

Families should be aware that students will access school technology during school hours, with older (secondary) students having more use than younger (elementary) students. We encourage families to visit the [National Sleep Foundation](#) for information on screen time use and impacts on student sleep after hours.

Additionally, as a district we are committed to the Health and Safety of all of our students. As part of our commitment we have a Securly Filter on all our students school issued devices. Securly is a K-12 filtering tool that prevents students from accessing inappropriate or distracting content on the web. It also provides data for administrators to see what content students are accessing over time and alerts on concerning search terms, such as those referencing weapons, grief, self-harm, and sexual content. Coupled with the school-based filter, Seculy Home provides families with a report of what sites their child is on or topics they may be searching.

## **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

All users of the District Network Resources must comply with the following regulations, which have been specifically established to protect our educational community and the district's networks.

### **Computer Network**

- A. A network account is provided for **educational purposes only**.
- B. Acceptable Network use by district students and staff include:
  1. Creation of files, digital projects, videos, web pages and podcasts using network resources in support of education and research.
  2. Participation in blogs, wikis, bulletin boards, social networking sites and groups and the creation of content for podcasts, email and web pages that support education and research.

- C. A network account is to be used only by the authorized user. The sharing of logins, passwords or accessing in another user's accounts and/or data is prohibited.
- D. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of Network Etiquette (Netiquette). This includes:
  - 1. Be polite. Do not send abusive messages or ones containing inappropriate language.
  - 2. Do not reveal your personal information (address, social security number, phone number, etc.) or that of other students/colleagues.
    - a. Do not wastefully use finite resources (paper, network/email storage space, etc.)
    - b. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by others.
  - 3. Email/Social Media/Messaging may not be used to spam, advertise/sell personal property, for commercial activities, or for political lobbying for personal gain. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to legal authorities.
  - 4. Uploading, downloading or transmission of material, information, or software in violation of any district policy or federal, state or local law or regulation is prohibited and may be reported to legal authorities.
  - 5. Users may access educational materials for school use via the Internet. Compliance with Copyright notices and/or Terms and Conditions pertaining to a website is required. Plagiarism, in any form, is prohibited.
  - 6. Non-educational, inappropriate communication including, but not limited to, instant messaging, network messaging, and chat rooms, is prohibited.
  - 7. Accessing, transmitting, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any inappropriate or illegal material including, but not limited to, defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, bullying, threatening, racially offensive, or harassing is prohibited and may be reported to legal authorities.
  - 8. Student network files may be purged at the end of the school year. It is the student's responsibility to back-up any files the student wants to retain.
  - 9. The network account, email account and network files of a user who leaves the district may be deleted.
  - 10. It is the student's responsibility to backup any files the student wants to retain.
  - 11. The Children's Online Protection Privacy Act requires website operators to obtain parental consent before collecting information from children under the age of 13. In certain instances, the District may act as an intermediary and provide the required parental consent on behalf of a student when the website is used for educational purposes.
  - 12. A staff member wishing to design and publish a web site must read and adhere to the district's Web Page Development Guidelines and Policy.

## Equipment

- A. The user will utilize district hardware (computers/printers/scanners, etc.) with care. Food, drink and candy must be kept away from any hardware.
- B. To protect logins/files, users must restart or shutdown the computer after use or when the computer will be unattended for a period of time.
- C. Users are always responsible for their assigned device. Users must take appropriate security measures at all times such as setting a passcode and/or logging out when necessary.



## Security

- A. It is the responsibility of every user to notify a staff member or administrator who, in turn, must notify the Department of Media & Technology if the District Network Resources policy violation or security problem involving the District Network Resources or Internet is identified. The user must not in any way communicate and/or demonstrate the problem to others.
- B. Attempting to login to the network as any other user or disclosing another user's login and password is prohibited.
- C. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of technology violations may be denied access to the District Network Resources.

## Software

- A. Downloading of unlicensed, malicious, illegal or inappropriate software from the Internet is prohibited and may be reported to legal authorities.
- B. Unauthorized copying, use or altering of licensed or copyrighted software is prohibited.

## Tampering

- A. Tampering with, or activities that threaten the integrity and/or security of any network, computer operating system, software or materials (including, but not limited to, hacking into the District network(s), downloading or installing files that will compromise the network(s), dual booting devices, removal of district computer policies, removal of anti-virus software, transmission of worms, viruses and other malicious codes, and accessing any device or data without proper authorization) is prohibited and may be reported to legal authorities.
- B. Any attempt to defeat or bypass the district's Internet filter or conceal Internet activity are prohibited (e.g., proxies, https, special ports, modifications to district browser settings and any other techniques designed to evade filtering or enable the publication of inappropriate content).

## Internet Safety

- A. In compliance with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act passed by Congress on 12/15/00) Internet filtering is in place for every networked computer to prevent access to inappropriate material on the district network. Internet filtering is provided by the district, both in and outside of the school setting for students. It is impossible to control access to ALL material on the Internet. The OPS firmly believe that the availability of valuable information and the potential for interaction on the Internet far outweigh the possibility that users may be exposed to material not consistent with the educational goals of the Okemos Public Schools. Furthermore, during student Internet use in school facilities, District staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise student access and use of the Internet.
- B. To help ensure student safety and citizenship in online activities, students and staff will be educated about:
  - 1. Appropriate online behavior.
  - 2. Safety and security while using email, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of electronic communications.
  - 3. The dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information.
  - 4. The consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking") and other unlawful or inappropriate activities.
  - 5. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

## Video Network

- A. All programming to be aired over the district's broadcasting system must be approved by the Department of Media & Technology.
- B. Programming which may be in violation of someone's civil rights, or that is discriminating in nature or content, or inappropriate for the educational audience is prohibited.
- C. Inappropriate language or behavior is prohibited from Okemos Channel programming.
- D. Student programming and use of equipment must be adult supervised at all times.
- E. Copyrighted materials or programming must be used in accordance with district policy and applicable laws.

Refer to Board of Education [Policy #3116 District Technology and Acceptable Use](#)

## ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The following guidelines, in alignment with Board of Education policies for code of conduct, outline the acceptable use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and technologies by students. Violations of these guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action.

1. **Academic Integrity** - AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI generated content as their own work. Students are expected to give credit to the source or acknowledge the AI tool they used to generate content, similar to how they would cite a source in a traditional research paper or project.
2. **Class Use** - The use of AI to take tests, complete assignments, create multimedia projects, write papers, or complete schoolwork must align with the teacher's assignment guidelines and/or class syllabus for using AI. If a student is unsure about expectations for appropriate use, communication with the teacher should occur.
3. **Bullying & Harassment** - Do not use AI to engage in any form of bullying, harassment, discrimination, or other behavior that may be harmful to others. Examples include, but are not limited to, modification of images, video, audio, or text.
4. **Bias & Inaccuracy** - AI results may generate inaccurate or biased results. It is the student's responsibility to check results for relevance and accuracy.
5. **Privacy** - Students are expected to protect the privacy and security of personal information.

## SECURLY DEVICE MANAGEMENT USE

At Okemos Public School, we are committed to fostering a safe and secure digital environment for all students and staff. As part of our efforts to ensure responsible and appropriate use of technology, we utilize Securly Device Management to manage and monitor school-issued devices.

## Purpose

Securly Device Management is employed to:

1. Ensure compliance with school policies and procedures regarding technology use.
2. Safeguard the integrity and security of school-issued devices.
3. Monitor and manage internet usage to promote a productive and educational environment.
4. Protect students from accessing inappropriate or harmful online content.

## User Responsibilities

Students and staff using school-issued devices are expected to:

1. Use the devices in accordance with school policies and guidelines.
2. Respect the integrity of the devices and refrain from tampering with or attempting to bypass security measures.
3. Report any issues or concerns regarding device functionality or security to the appropriate school personnel.
4. Understand that internet activity on school devices may be monitored and logged for security and accountability purposes.

## Consequences of Misuse

Misuse of school-issued devices or attempts to circumvent Securly Device Management may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

1. Loss of device privileges.
2. Suspension or revocation of technology access.
3. Academic penalties.
4. Legal consequences for severe breaches of security or illegal activity.

By using school-issued devices, students and staff acknowledge their understanding of and agreement to abide by the terms outlined in this handbook section.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3116 District Technology and Acceptable Use](#) and [#5208 Student Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy](#)



## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Okemos Public Schools and the State Board of Education comply with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United State Department of Education. It is the policy of these governmental agencies that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or handicap shall be discriminated in any programs or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the United States Department of Education.

If any person believes that the Okemos Public Schools or any parent of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of Title IX (prohibits discrimination based on sex), or Section 504 (prohibits discrimination based on handicap), a complaint may be brought forward to the Local Title IX and/or Section 504 Coordinator at the following address:

Title IX Coordinator

Mr. Mario Martinez

Okemos Public Schools

4406 N. Okemos Road

Okemos, MI 48864

Section 504 Coordinator

Ms. Amanda Hall

Okemos Public Schools

4406 N. Okemos Road

Okemos, MI 48864

Additionally, sexual or racial harassment is forbidden regardless of the source of harassment, e.g. student to student, teacher to student, school employee to student, etc. In the event that a student believes that sexual or racial harassment has occurred, the student should file a complaint with a school administrator, as per the Okemos Public Schools Harassment Policy.

Refer to Board of Education Policy [#3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy](#)

### **OKEMOS SCHOOL BOARD**

The Okemos School Board appreciates interest in our meetings and in the school system. Public participation and open lines of communication are vital to a successful educational environment for our schools.

Board meetings are conducted the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M in the Board office, located on the third floor of the administration building. Notice of all meetings are posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and are on the district website.

All meetings of the Board of Education are open to the public except those specifically exempted by law; these closed Executive Sessions may be a discussion of negotiations or certain personnel or student matters.

Policies of the school board are posted on the district website under the School Board link on the district homepage. For additional information, please contact the superintendent's office at 706-5010.

## WEBSITE

The district website contains valuable information for families, including a staff email and phone directory, enrollment information, departmental information, bus schedules, food menus, school newsletters, teacher web pages, and much more. Please utilize this resource as it contains information that is intended to help our families.

A link to the Okemos Channel provides information about the district cable channel and on demand streaming of events that have been taped by the district such as concerts, special assemblies, and school board meetings.

<http://www.okemosk12.net>

## APPENDIX A

### Students with Disabilities

All applicable state and federal laws related to disciplining students with disabilities will be followed. Additionally, students with disabilities are entitled to the same due process protections as all other students.

#### *Procedures for Discipline*

1. The district will notify the student's parent/guardian and will provide the parent/guardian a copy of procedural safeguard on the date on which the district decides to:
  - a. expel a student with a disability;
  - b. suspend a student with a disability for more than 10 consecutive school days;
  - c. suspend a student with a disability for more than 10 cumulative school days in the same school year if a pattern of removals exist (explained below); or
  - d. place a student with a disability in an interim alternative educational setting (explained below).
2. Within 10 school days of a decision to expel a student with a disability or suspend a student with a disability for more than 10 consecutive school days, the district will convene a manifestation determination review team meeting, which must include the parent/guardian and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 team, to determine whether the student's conduct was a manifestation of his or her disability.
  - a. If the team concludes that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the district may not continue the suspension or expulsion. For a student with an IEP, if the team finds the conduct to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the district must either conduct a functional behavioral assessment (unless one was previously conducted) and implement a behavior intervention plan for the student; or if a behavior intervention plan was already developed, review and modify the behavior intervention plan to address the conduct at issue.
  - b. If the IEP or 504 team concludes that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the student must be returned to the placement from which the student was removed unless the parent and the district agree to change the placement or unless the student may be placed in a 45-school day interim alternative educational setting (explained below).
  - c. If the team concludes that the conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the district may proceed with the suspension or expulsion by observing the due process

requirements discussed above and, if the student has and IEP must, if appropriate, conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavior intervention plan for the student.

3. Before suspending or expelling a student with a disability for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year, district administration must determine whether the student's removals from school constitute a pattern. If the district determines that the removals constitute a pattern, the district will, within 10 school days of a decision convene a manifestation determination review team meeting, which must include the parent/guardian and relevant members of the student's IEP team, to determine whether the student's conduct was a manifestation of his or her disability.
4. If the team concludes that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the district may not continue the suspension or expulsion. For a student with an IEP, if the team finds the conduct to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the district must either: (1) conduct a functional behavioral assessment (unless one was previously conducted) and implement a behavior intervention plan or (2) if a behavior intervention plan was already developed, review and modify the behavior intervention plan to address the conduct at issue.
5. If the team concludes that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the student must be returned to the placement from which the student was removed unless the parent and the district agree to change the placement or unless the student may be placed in a 45-school day interim alternative educational setting (explained below).
6. If the team concludes that the conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the district may proceed with the suspension or expulsion by observing the due process requirements discussed above and, if the student has and IEP must, if appropriate, conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavior intervention plan for the student.
7. District administrators may remove a student with a disability who engages in any of the following conduct to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days, even if the conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability:
  - a. Carrying a weapon to or possessing a weapon at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
  - b. Knowingly possessing or using illegal drugs, or selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
  - c. Inflicting serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.
8. For purposes of this section of the policy only, a "weapon" means a device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, which is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury. A "weapon" does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length. No student may be removed to an interim alternative educational setting without first receiving the due process rights afforded under this board policy.
9. Within 10 school days of a decision to place a student in an interim alternative educational setting, district administration must convene a manifestation determination review team meeting, which must include the parent/guardian and relevant members of the student's IEP team, to determine whether the student's conduct was a manifestation of his or her disability.
  - a. If the student has an IEP and the team concludes that the conduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, the district must either conduct a functional behavioral assessment (unless one was previously conducted) and implement a behavior intervention plan; or) if a behavior

intervention plan was already developed, review and modify the behavior intervention plan to address the conduct at issue.

- b. If the student has an IEP and the team concludes that the conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the district must, if appropriate, conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavior intervention plan for the student.
10. The district reserves its right to remove a dangerous student from school to the maximum extent permitted by law. The board directs administration to follow all state and federal laws governing the removal of dangerous students with disabilities.
  11. If a student who is eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is expelled or suspended for more than 10 school days during a school year or placed in a 45-school day interim alternative educational setting, administrators must ensure that the student continues to receive programs and services, although in a setting other than the regular school setting, that are sufficient to enable the student to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward meeting the goals contained in the student's IEP.
  12. A student who is not currently identified as a student with a disability is entitled to the rights and procedures provided to students with disabilities if the district had knowledge that the student was a student with a disability before the misconduct occurred. The district will be deemed to have knowledge that a student was a student with a disability only if:
    - a. The student's parent/guardian expressed concern in writing to a district administrator that the student needed special education or related services,
    - b. the student's parent/guardian requested a special education evaluation, or
    - c. the student's teacher or other personnel expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student to the district's special education director or to other supervisory personnel.
  13. The district will, however, be deemed to not have had knowledge that the student was a student with a disability if:
    - a. the student's parent/guardian refused to allow the district to evaluate the student;
    - b. the student's parent/guardian refused special education for the student; or
    - c. the student was previously evaluated and determined not to be a student with a disability.

This policy does not provide a comprehensive description of the disciplinary rights and procedures due to students with disabilities. The board directs administration to ensure that all other rights of students with disabilities are protected and all procedures applicable to students with disabilities are followed as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, state law, Board policy.

Legal Reference:

MCL 380.11a; MCL 380.1308; MCL 380.1309; MCL 380.1310;  
MCL 380.1310a; MCL 380.1310c; MCL 380.1310d; MCL 380.1311; MCL 380.1311a; MCL 380.1313;  
Gun Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151; 18 U.S.C. §921;  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1401 et seq.;  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§705, 794-794b.



## APPENDIX B

**OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMINISTRATION OF  
 NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Student Name _____	Teacher _____	Date form received _____
Birth Date _____ Grade _____	School _____	

*To be completed by a parent*

Name of Medication \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Medication \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions (schedule and dose to be given at school) \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Duration \_\_\_\_\_

The student is both capable and responsible for self-administering this medication:

\_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, supervised      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, unsupervised

I give my permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to carry the above medication with him/her during the school day. It is understood that the medication that is being carried cannot be shared with other students.

*Please attach any additional information you feel necessary for the school to know regarding the administration of this medication.*

**Parent Consent:**

I request that \_\_\_\_\_ receive the above medication at school according to the standard school policy.

I request that \_\_\_\_\_ be allowed to self administer the medication at school according to the school policy.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_


Phone #'s: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX C

**CAROL A. SIEMON**  
INGHAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**MICHAEL S. CLETTENHAM**  
Chief Assistant Prosecutor



**JOHN J. DEWANT**  
Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor

**Dear Parents/Guardians:**

Few events hit home for students and families like a school shooting. They are terrifying and tragic. When students learn of these events on television or on social media, it is natural for them to worry about their own school and their own safety. Unfortunately, some students see these tragedies as an opportunity to gain notoriety and make threats against their schools, teachers, and classmates.

We are all aware of the notable rise across the nation, in our state, and in Ingham County of threats made to our schools and the students, teachers, and other professionals working to educate our children. Although many of the students that have created these situations claim they were just joking, or did not think it was a big deal – it is a big deal. That is why the sheriff, local law enforcement chiefs, school superintendents, and I are reaching out to you. These threats are not viewed as a joke and these acts will be addressed by the school, law enforcement, and the prosecutor's office. These types of threats could lead to criminal charges including: Threat of Terrorism, False Threat of Terrorism, Intentional threat to commit an act of violence against a school, and Use of a Computer to Commit a Crime. The most serious of these crimes carries a potential maximum of 20 years in prison.

While the punishments dictated by the school and criminal justice system are significant, students may also face additional consequences, including:

- Loss of scholarships and federal aid
- Denied college admission
- Being required to disclose pending cases or criminal convictions on job applications
- Denied entry into the military

We urge you to talk to your children about the appropriate use of social media, and the lasting consequences of making threats against our schools. Please stress that there is nothing humorous about threatening to shoot up a school, and there is no such thing as a joke involving the threat of mass murder.

**All threats will continue to be taken seriously and may be prosecuted under Michigan law.**

By working together, we can provide our children the safe schools they deserve.

Respectfully,

*Carol A. Siemon*

**Law Enforcement:**  
Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth (Ingham County Sheriff's Office), Chief Daryl Green (Lansing Police Department), Chief Larry Sparkes (East Lansing Police Department), Chief Kelly Roudebush (Michigan State University Police Department), Chief Adam Kline (Lansing Township Police Department), Chief Bob Young (Williamston Police Department), Chief Robert Delamarter (City of Leslie Police Department), Chief Johnnie Torres (Stockbridge Police Department), Chief Don Hansen (Mason Police Department), Chief Ken Plaga (Meridian Township Police Department), F/Lt Detrich Speights (Michigan State Police Post 11), Chief William French (Lansing Community College Police and Public Safety)

**Superintendents:**  
Amy Hodgson (Dansville Schools), Jeff Manthei (Leslie Public Schools), Brian Friddle (Webberville Community Schools), Dori Leyko (East Lansing Public Schools), Ron Drzewicki (Mason Public Schools), Adam Spina (Williamston Community Schools), Steve Cook (Haslett Public Schools), John Hood (Okemos Public Schools), Jason Mellema (Ingham Intermediate School District), David Hornak (Holt Public Schools), Karl Heidrich (Stockbridge Community Schools), Sam Sinicropi (Lansing School District), Kelly Blake (Waverly Community Schools)

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303 West Kalamazoo Street 4R • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 • PHONE: (517) 485-8108 • FAX: (517) 453-6397  
<http://ingham.org>