

## Newark Board of Education

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Adopted July 8, 2024



**2024-2025**

## **Elementary Student and Parent Handbook**



## Elementary Schools

### **Ben Franklin Elementary**

533 Beacon Road  
Hours: 8:45-3:45  
Phone: 740-670-7340  
Attendance: 740-670-7343 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7349  
Principal: Dena Cable-Miller  
[dcable@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:dcable@newarkcityschools.org)

### **John Clem Elementary**

475 Jefferson Road  
Hours: 8:45-3:45  
Phone: 740-670-7130  
Attendance: 740-670-7133 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7139  
Principal: Andrea McVay  
[amcvay@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:amcvay@newarkcityschools.org)

### **Carson Elementary**

549 East Main Street  
Hours: 8:45-3:45  
Phone: 740-670-7300  
Attendance: 740-670-7303 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7309  
Principal: Julie Elwell  
[jelwell@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:jelwell@newarkcityschools.org)

### **Legend Elementary**

1075 Evans Boulevard  
Hours: 8:15-3:15  
Phone: 740-670-7100  
Attendance: 740-670-7103 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7109  
Principal: Ann Davis  
[amdavis@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:amdavis@newarkcityschools.org)

### **Cherry Valley Elementary**

1040 West Main Street  
Hours: 8:45-3:45  
Phone: 740-670-7330  
Attendance: 740-670-7333 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7339  
Principal: Chester Coleman  
[ccoleman@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:ccoleman@newarkcityschools.org)

### **McGuffey Elementary**

130 Green Wave Drive  
Hours: 8:45-3:45  
Phone: 740-670-7140  
Attendance: 740-670-7143 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7149  
Principal: Cynthia Baker  
[cbaker@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:cbaker@newarkcityschools.org)

### **Hillview Elementary**

1927 Horns Hill Road  
Hours: 8:15-3:15  
Phone: 740-670-7310  
Attendance: 740-670-7313 (message only)  
Fax: 740-670-7319  
Principal: Nicholas Myers  
[nmyers@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:nmyers@newarkcityschools.org)

### **NCS Digital**

1440 Granville Road, Suite J  
Hours 7:40 a.m. -3:00 p.m.  
Phone: 740-328-2022  
Fax: 740-328-2270  
Principal: Angie Adkins  
[aadkins@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:aadkins@newarkcityschools.org)  
Dean of Students: Matt Phillips  
[mephillips@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:mephillips@newarkcityschools.org)



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Newark City Schools. We have many exciting things launching across the district during the 24-25 school year: Our centralized preschool will open in August; Junior Achievement is currently under construction and will open for students after the first of the year; Carson and Cherry Valley are piloting the House System; our new website and communication app will go live in August; we are piloting a new dress code at the high school; and our rebranding efforts will assist in developing school pride with all students in grades Pre-K through 12 identifying as Wildcats.

We are very fortunate to live in a community that supports the educational experiences of our young people. There is a strong sense of pride within our district and community. We will continue to strive for improvement, while being progressive in the ever-changing world of education. It will always be our goal to assist students in reaching their full potential inside and outside of the classroom.

NCS prides itself as a community of opportunity and learning. We offer a variety of programs and extracurricular activities that satisfy the diverse interests of our student population. We encourage you to find your niche and become an active member of your school community.

The amazing staff at NCS is here to assist you in any way. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. Please take the time to review the student handbook to become familiar with the expectations for our students.

Have a great school year! Go Cats!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. L. Lewis'.

David L. Lewis  
Superintendent

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## **FOREWORD**

This Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year. This handbook summarizes and references many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior student handbook.

Because the handbook also contains information about student rights and responsibilities, each student is responsible for knowing its contents. Please take time to become familiar with this handbook and keep it available for you and your parent to use. It can be a valuable reference during the school year and a means to avoid confusion and misunderstanding when questions arise. Should you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, contact your Building Principal.

This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of May 2024. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after May 2024, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

A Community of Opportunity and Learning.

## **GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as "unlawful harassment"), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.



## **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

It is the policy of this District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. The right of a student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extra-curricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired based on the traits of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, Protected Classes ) or any other characteristic protected by Federal or state civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as "Protected Characteristics") or other protected characteristics as well as place of residence within District boundaries, or social or economic background.(See Board Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity)

## **TITLE IX SEXUAL HARRASSMENT**

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Board employees, students, third-party vendors and contractors, guests, and other members of the School District community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs and activities. (See Board Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities)

Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, Protected Classes ) while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer(s):

Maura Horgan

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Staff Development

740-670-7055

Newark City Schools, 621 Mount Vernon Road, Newark, OH 43055

[mhorgan@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:mhorgan@newarkcityschools.org)

Melinda Vaughn

Director of Student Services

740-670-7025

Newark City Schools, 621 Mount Vernon Road, Newark, OH 43055

[mvaughn@newarkcityschools.org](mailto:mvaughn@newarkcityschools.org)

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures described in Board Policy 2260 and 2266. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer(s) can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Public schools must adhere to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. Section 504 ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to an education through reasonable accommodations and modifications. This protection applies to students as well as to those individuals who have access to the programs and facilities in the district.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) assures services to children with disabilities. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. The law requires that students with disabilities have access to and progress in the general curriculum.

Section 504 and IDEA require an evaluation to determine the handicapping condition impacting educational performance as well as the services, modifications, and/or accommodations required. Parental involvement is essential to and required in the evaluation process.

The Director of Student Services is the Compliance Officer for the Newark City Schools and can be contacted at 740-670-7025 to learn more about intervention and evaluation processes, special education programming, and procedural safeguards in the district. See Policy 2260.01 for details.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The rules and procedures of the school are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those rights for their fellow students and the staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all school rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process before a student is removed because of the student's behavior.

Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in school and will be provided information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arise. Many times, it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, mail or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish the child's educational goals.

## **SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

No outside organization or staff member or student representing an outside organization may distribute or post literature on that organization's behalf on District property either during or after school hours without the permission and prior review of the Superintendent or designee.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS**

When school officials make the decision to close or delay school, the superintendent or his designee will utilize the ParentSquare system to notify parents. ParentSquare has the ability to deliver messages via phone call, text message, email and app notifications.

The school will also notify the following media organizations:

#### **Radio Stations:**

WCLT (1430 AM)

WHTH (790 AM)

WCLT (100.3/104.7/98.7 FM)

WNKO (101.7/107.7 FM)

#### **Television Stations:**

Wildcat Network (channel 1021)

WBNS TV (channel 10)

WCMH TV (channel 4)

WSYX TV (channel 6)

WTTE TV (channel 28)

#### **Websites:**

[www.newarkcityschools.org](http://www.newarkcityschools.org)

[www.NewarkAdvocate.com](http://www.NewarkAdvocate.com)

[Facebook.com/NewarkCitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/NewarkCitySchools)

"X": @Newark\_Schools

Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

### **FIRE, TORNADO AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

The Newark City Schools comply with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire and tornado drills in accordance with state law. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases. Newark City Schools will also participate in annual lockdown safety drills as required by state law. Parents are notified by automated phone call, email, text message or notice sent home with the student.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Check the office for the lost and found area. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the grading period.

### **MEAL SERVICE**

Newark City Schools is part of the National School Lunch Program, meeting all nutritional standards and Federal and State reimbursement criteria. Breakfast will be at no charge to ALL students.

Credit card payments can be made to a student's account online at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). This feature is free of charge. Parents may also view their child(ren's) daily activity at this website. Cash and checks are also accepted. If excess money is received, it will be credited to the student's account. Any remaining balance on the meal account at the end of a school year will be carried over to the next school year. Parents of graduating seniors, or withdrawn students with more than \$10 on their account, should contact the Food Service Department at 740-670-7446.

### **PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS**

The district is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all federal and state laws and regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the Newark City Schools' Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy and Asbestos Management Plan will be made available for inspection at the Administrative Offices office upon request.

### **STUDENT FEES AND FINES**

The Board of Education will provide necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State law, Newark City Schools charges specific fees for activities and materials used in the course of instruction.

Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage, or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks, and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment.

Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship.

Students can avoid late fines by promptly returning borrowed materials.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades and credits.

School fees may be paid in advance for each school term at the time of initial registration or initial enrollment.

### **STUDENT FUND-RAISING**

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fund-raisers:

- Students involved in the fund-raiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
- Students may not participate in fund-raising activity for a group in which they are members without the approval of the student's counselor(s).
- Student may not participate in a fund-raising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the principal.

- Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the principal.

Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

Newark City Schools maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Directory information includes the student's:

Name	Awards received
Address	Date of graduation
Telephone number	Dates of attendance
Date and place of birth	Major field of study
Participation in officially-recognized activities and sports	
Height and weight, if a member of an athletic team	

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. *Parents may refuse to allow the board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" by filling out a "Do Not Disclose" form available in the school office.*

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by FERPA and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age. The Board will provide access or release directory information to armed forces recruiters unless the parent or student request that prior written consent be obtained. See Form 8330 F13.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records, please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the school. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior

written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, the student's parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

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

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation. Please contact the Superintendent's office to inspect such materials.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the principal.

The Superintendent will notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- B. the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one (1) or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc)

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:

[FERPA@ED.Gov](mailto:FERPA@ED.Gov); and  
[PPRA@ED.Gov](mailto:PPRA@ED.Gov).

### **STUDENT PICTURES**

Pictures and/or videotape of students may be used in district publicity such as the district Website, newsletters and/or television station (Wildcat News Network). These photos and/or videos are used to highlight the programs, activities and achievements in the Newark City Schools. If you would prefer your student not be photographed for these purposes, please contact your building principal.

### **USE OF THE LIBRARY**

In order to avoid late/lost fees, all materials checked out of the library must be returned before the due date.

### **USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom. Students must seek permission from the principal prior to using any other school equipment or facility. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

### **USE OF TELEPHONES**

Office telephones are not to be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call.

Possession of a cellular telephone or other electronic communication device (ECD), (e.g., laser pointers and attachments, paging devices/beepers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other devices designed to receive and send an electronic signal) by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this guideline, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Students in grades K-5 are prohibited from using cellular telephones or other electronic communication devices (ECD) or having them "On" during the school day. This includes lunch periods and passing periods. "Using" refers to, not only the making and/or receiving of calls, but also using the cellular telephone or ECD for any other purpose (i.e., sending text messages, taking pictures, making recordings, etc.)

At the middle school and high school level, students may possess cellular phones and other electronic devices (ECD) in school, on school property, and during afterschool activities but they may only be used in designated areas and at designated times with specific permission from school personnel. Cellular telephones and other ECDs are not to cause classroom disruptions.

Using a cellular telephone or other ECD in an unauthorized manner or in violation of the policy, may result in the loss of this privilege, additional disciplinary action (e.g., warning, parental notification and conferences, suspension, expulsion), confiscation of the cellular telephone or ECD (in which case, the cellular telephone or ECD will only be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequence that is imposed), and/or referral to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity. Students also may not use cellular telephones or ECDs to access and/or review Internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. Students cannot use a cell phone to violate school policy.

Parents/guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office. Students may use school phones to contact parent/guardians during the school day.

The Board of Education is not responsible for the loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to student cellular telephones or ECDs as well as other student property. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to take appropriate precautions, if students have cellular telephones or ECDs in their possession, to make sure the cellular telephones and ECDs are not left unattended or unsecured.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors, particularly parent(s)/guardian(s), are welcome at our schools. Visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without signing in or without a pass shall be reported to the Principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the school in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.

Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the principal.

## **SECTION II – CODE OF CONDUCT**

A major component of the educational program (at the school) is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards. Students are expected to behave in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and rules and Board policies and Administrative Guidelines, and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. Staff will take corrective action to discipline a student and/or to modify the student's behavior when a student's behavior does not fall within these parameters.

School staff may report suspected criminal misconduct by a student to law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will be permitted to carry out necessary law enforcement functions in the schools, including the removal of a student from school grounds in appropriate circumstances.



## **EXPECTED BEHAVIORS**

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by national, state, and local laws as well as the rules of the school;
- respect the rights of others;
- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, or ethnic background;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.

## **Classroom Environment**

It is the responsibility of students, teachers, and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that allows:

- A. a teacher to communicate effectively with all students in the class;  
and
- B. all students in the class the opportunity to learn.

## **Student Complaints and Grievances**

A complaint is an objection to a condition or a circumstance related to an act of discrimination regarding an individual based upon race, national origin, religion, creed, gender or disability. A parent or a student has the right to initiate a complaint. Normally, a complaint is oral; however, any party to a complaint may at any time request the complaint be reduced to writing. A grievance is a means by which a person may seek to resolve a complaint.

The following procedures are to be used by a person filing a grievance regarding a complaint. Failure to follow the procedures may result in no action being taken to resolve the grievance.

*Level 1*-Within ten (10) school days of the grievable incident, the student and/or parent must discuss the incident with the person who originally took the action upon which the complaint is based indicating this is a grievance. The person shall reconsider his/her original plan of action and give his/her decision to the complainant. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, the complainant may carry his/her grievance to Level 2. Students in eighth grade and under must have their parent or guardian carry the grievance to Level 2.

*Level 2*-If the grievance is not resolved at Level 1, it must be submitted in writing to the immediate supervisor of the person who took the original action within five (5) school days following the receipt of the response in Level 1. If it is not submitted to the immediate supervisor within five (5) school days following receipt of the Level 1 decision, the complaint is considered resolved. If the grievance is directed at a teacher, the immediate supervisor is the building principal or designee. If the

grievance is directed at a principal, the immediate supervisor is the Superintendent or his/her designee.

*Level 3-* If the grievance is not resolved at Level 2 within five (5) days, the superintendent may elect to hear the grievance or direct it to an appropriate person for disposition. The superintendent or designee will review the grievance and will issue a decision regarding the grievance.

When a person wants to initiate a grievance, the procedure outlined under complaints must be followed. Failure to follow the procedure shall result in no action being taken to resolve the grievance.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE**

No form of violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior, including excessive truancy, will be tolerated. The administration reserves the right to take necessary action for the good of the order and safety of the school or personnel.

### **BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR**

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

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

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional written, verbal, electronic graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s) or violence within a dating relationship.

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

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

to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

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

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying/cyberbullying by an electronic act or otherwise, has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include suspension or up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyberbullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 – Anti-Harassment and 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior.

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

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

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

The District shall implement intervention strategies to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, act of harassment, intimidate, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

### **Complaints**

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

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

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

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

#### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

#### **Reporting Requirement**

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District web site (if one exists). The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

## **Immunity**

A School District employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

## **Notification**

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. At least once each school year a written statement describing the policy and consequences for violations of the policy shall be sent to each student's custodial parent or guardian.

The statement may be sent with regular student report cards or may be delivered electronically.

The policy, included in the student handbook, and an explanation of the seriousness of bullying by electronic means shall be made available to students in the District and to their custodial parents or guardians.

State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedures.

## **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying and violence within a dating relationship. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying procedures. All training regarding the Board's policy and procedures about aggressive behavior and bullying, in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Annually, the District shall provide all students enrolled in the District with age-appropriate instruction regarding the Board's policy, including a written or verbal discussion of the consequences for violations of the policy.

Students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) shall receive age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, including instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. Students will also receive training in social isolation and suicide awareness/prevention. Parents, who submit a written request to the building principal to examine the dating violence prevention instruction materials used in the school,

will be afforded an opportunity to review the materials within a reasonable period of time.

The District shall provide training, workshops, and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

In accordance with Board Policy 8462, the Superintendent shall include a review of this policy on bullying and other forms of harassment in the required training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development.

## **ANTI-HARASSMENT**

### **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

### **Definitions**

#### **Bullying**

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation; and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;
- F. cyberbullying;

- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
- J. public humiliation; or
- K. destruction of property.

### **Harassment**

"**Harassment**" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

### **Sexual Harassment**

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:



- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.
- H. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggests the desire for a romantic relationship.
- J. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.
- K. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- L. In the context of employees, consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
- M. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- N. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

### **Race/Color Harassment**

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational

performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

### **Religious (Creed) Harassment**

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

### **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment**

Prohibited national origin/ancestry harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin or ancestry and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin or ancestry, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

### **Disability Harassment**

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE**

Each of the behaviors and/or types of misconduct described below are prohibited and may subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, student conference, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, detention, in-school discipline, suspension, and/or expulsion from school. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the School will be reported to law

enforcement officials, as well as disciplined at school. Certain criminal acts may result in permanent exclusion from school.

**1. Aiding or Abetting Violation of School Rules**

Students assisting other students in the violation of any school rule will be disciplined. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

**2. Bomb Threats**

Making a bomb threat against a school building or any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year.

**3. Care of Property**

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. Damage to or loss of school equipment including school issued devices as well as damage to school facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or loses school property, the student and/or his/her parents will be required to pay for replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

**4. Careless or Reckless Driving**

Driving on school property, or in relation to a school event, in such a manner as to endanger persons or property.

**5. Damaging Property**

Vandalism and disregard for school property will not be tolerated. Students engaged in such activity will be subject to disciplinary action.

**6. Displays of Affection/Sexual Activities**

Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Sexual activity of any nature is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

**7. Disruption of the Educational Process**

Disruptions include, but are not limited to, delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic and performing arts events.

**8. Distribution/Sale of Unauthorized Materials**

A student shall not distribute or sell unauthorized materials on school property.

**9. Electronic Recordings**

A student shall not record and/or distribute videos of fights or any other disruptive act.

## **10. Explosives**

Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, firecrackers, and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Use or possession of explosives may subject a student to disciplinary actions.

## **11. Extortion**

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law and is prohibited by the Student Discipline Code.

## **12. False Alarms and False Reports**

A false emergency alarm or report endangers the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community, and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and may subject the student to disciplinary action.

## **13. Falsification of Schoolwork, Identification, Forgery**

Forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses as well as use of false IDs are forms of lying and are not acceptable. Students found engaging in such practices will be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Discipline Code.

Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and will subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action.

## **14. Gambling**

Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering and is prohibited by the Student Discipline Code. Students who bet on any school activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that school activity.

## **15. Gangs**

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or which are disruptive to the school environment are not tolerated.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidation or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the building principal.

## **16. Harassment/Intimidation and/or Bullying**

The harassment, intimidation and/or bullying of other students or members of staff or any other individuals is not permitted. This includes any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or

pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or violence within a dating relationship.

### **17. Hazing**

Hazing by any individual, school group, club, or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property. All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals; the building principal or other administrator, teacher, coach, student club advisor/supervisor, and/or superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

### **18. Improper Dress**

Clothing may not include words or visuals that are lewd, obscene, disruptive, abusive, or discriminatory, or that advertise drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Dress or grooming that is disruptive of the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Footwear must be worn at all times.

### **19. Insubordination and/or Disrespect**

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable directions of staff. Failure to comply with directions or acting disrespectfully or in defiance of staff members will result in disciplinary action.

### **20. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence**

Because the board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

### **21. Loitering**

A student shall not loiter or delay in any way that may cause disruption of some activity or function.

### **22. Misconduct Against a School Official or Employee or the Property of Such a Person, Regardless of Where it Occurs**

The board prohibits misconduct committed by a student against a school official or employee, including, but not limited to, harassment (of any type), vandalism, assault (verbal and/or physical), and destruction of property.

### **23. Misconduct Off School Grounds**

Students may be subject to discipline for student misconduct even when such misconduct occurs off school property when the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that occurred on property owned or controlled by the district. Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

**24. Off-Limit Areas**

Students are prohibited from occupying off-limit areas. Off-limit areas are defined as those areas, both inside and outside of the school building, which have been designated as such by school officials by definition or by time of day, including leaving the school building without permission during the school day.

**25. Persistent Absence or Tardiness**

Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or to have a legitimate excuse for their absence. Penalties for unexcused absences can range from detention to a referral to court and/or revocation of the student's driver's license.

**26. Physical Contact**

A student shall not engage in fighting, physical altercations, horseplay or inappropriate touching of another student.

**27. Physically Assaulting of/Fighting with a Staff Member/Student/Person Associated With the District**

Physical assault of or fighting with a staff member, student, or other person associated with the district, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Assault of/fighting with any other individual may result in criminal charges and may subject the student to expulsion/suspension.

**28. Pornographic Material**

Possessing, transmitting, distributing, or concealing sexually explicit material.

**29. Possession of Electronic Equipment**

The school will supply any electronic equipment or devices necessary for participation in the educational program. Students shall not use or possess any electronic equipment on school property or at any school-sponsored activity without the permission of school personnel. Examples of prohibited devices include but are not limited to personal laptops and gaming devices. Unauthorized electronic equipment will be confiscated from the student by school personnel and disciplinary action will be taken.

**30. Prescription or Non-Prescription Drugs**

A student shall not use, sell, or distribute, buy or possess prescription or non-prescription drugs without following the procedures for use of such drugs at school.

**31. Profane, Obscene or Vulgar Language/Gestures/Media**

A student shall not use profane, obscene or vulgar language gestures, or media at school, on school buses or while engaged in or present at any school-sponsored event or activity.

**32. Purposely Setting a Fire**

Nothing, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will be tolerated. Arson is a felony.

**33. Repeat Offenses**

A student shall not repeatedly fail to comply with school rules and regulations or directions of teachers, student teachers, teacher aides, principals or other authorized school personnel. Repeated violations may result in increased severity of the consequence per occurrence.

**34. Refusing to Accept Discipline**

Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

**35. Theft**

Students caught stealing will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students should not bring anything of value to school without prior authorization from the principal and/or teacher. The school is not responsible for personal property.

**36. Threatening a Staff Member/Student/Person Associated with the District**

A student shall not engage in any behavior that threatens the school community, another student, staff member, or other persons associated with the district. This includes threats that are verbal, physical, or in written form.

**37. Trespassing**

Although schools are public facilities, the law allows the board to restrict access to school property. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, the student is prohibited from being present on school property without authorization of the principal.

**38. Unauthorized Use of School or Private Property**

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property or private property located on school premises shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**39. Use of an Object as a Weapon**

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers and jewelry.

**40. Use and/or Possession of Drugs and/or Alcohol**

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting or concealing, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, controlled substance including, but not limited to, narcotics, mood-altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids or drug-related paraphernalia.

If a building principal has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug or alcohol use, s/he may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a Breathalyzer test or urinalysis. In such circumstances, the student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or

administrative staff present as a witness to the test. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol or drug use unrefuted thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

#### **41. Use and/or Possession of a Firearm**

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) on to school property or to any school-sponsored activity, competition, program, or event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law.

Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free School Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm which is inoperable but which can be readily operated.

Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.

#### **42. Use and/or Possession of Tobacco**

The use of tobacco products is a danger to a student's health and to the health of others. The school prohibits the possession, consumption, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products in school, on school grounds, on school buses and at any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event or other school sponsored event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, clove cigarettes or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. Smoking paraphernalia such as lighters, matches, e-cigarettes, vapes, etc. is also prohibited.

#### **43. Use and/or Possession of a Weapon**

A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purpose, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

#### **44. Use of School and State Property**

Students will be careful in their use of all school property including school-owned books. Students are required to return material loaned to them in the same condition



as existed at the time of the loan, subject to reasonable wear and tear. Students are required to pay for damage whether specifically caused by the student or not.

#### **45. Violation of Bus Rules/School Vehicle Rules**

Please refer to Section VI – Transportation for Bus Rules

#### **46. Violation of Individual School/Classroom Rules**

Each learning environment has different rules for students. Individual rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules within each learning environment, all of which will be consistent with the policy of the school.

#### **47. Violent Conduct**

Students may face expulsion for up to one school year for committing an act of violence that would be considered a criminal offense if committed by an adult or that results in serious physical harm to one or more persons. Any act committed at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program, or an act directed at a board official or employee is subject to expulsion.

#### **48. Visiting Other Schools**

Students of one school SHALL NOT visit the building or grounds of another school while school is in session except with the permission of the principals of both schools.

### **DISCIPLINE**

It is important to remember that the School's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation, and on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board. Furthermore, students may be disciplined for conduct that, regardless of where or when it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school vehicle rules.

The School is committed to providing prompt, reasonable discipline consistent with the severity of the incident. The consequences for misbehavior are designed to be fair, firm, and consistent for all students in the School.

Because it is not possible to list every misbehavior that occurs, misbehaviors not listed above will be responded to as necessary by staff.

Two (2) types of discipline are possible, informal and formal.

#### **Informal Discipline**

Informal discipline takes place within the school. It includes change of seating or location, before school, lunchtime and/or after-school, and/or in-school discipline.

### Detentions

A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher or school administrator, after giving the student and his/her parents one (1) day's notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation.

### In-School Discipline

Assigned students will attend a school day in a designated area at the respective building. Each student shall arrive with sufficient educational materials to be busy during this day long study period.

A student missing any portion of the assigned time in detention or in-school discipline may be given an additional hour period equal to the amount of time missed. Failure to timely serve detention or in-school discipline assignments may lead to suspension from school for a period not to exceed ten (10) days. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with District guidelines on suspension and expulsion.

### **Formal Discipline**

Formal discipline involves removal of the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to three (3) school days, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days or the number of days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater, and permanent exclusion. Expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Any student who is expelled from school for more than twenty (20) days, or for any period of time if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year, will be provided with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitude and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The Superintendent, at the Superintendent's discretion, may require/allow a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of an expulsion. The Superintendent may impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion to the following school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension, expulsion, and permanent exclusion may be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension are entitled to an informal meeting with the building administrator prior to removal. Also, students being considered for expulsion are entitled to an informal meeting with the Superintendent or designee prior to removal. During the informal meeting, the student will be notified of the charges and given the opportunity to respond.

Students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, such as band and athletics, can lose their eligibility for violation of the School rules.

If a student commits a crime while under the School's jurisdiction, the student may be subject to school disciplinary action, as well as action through local law enforcement.

## **DUE PROCESS RIGHTS**

Before a student is suspended, expelled or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting or be subject to appeal.

### **Suspension from School**

When a student is being considered for a suspension, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the basis for the proposed suspension. The student will be given an opportunity to explain their view of the underlying facts. After that informal hearing, the Principal (or assistant principal or other administrator) will determine whether or not to suspend the student. If the decision is made to suspend the student, the student and their parents will be given written notification of the suspension within one (1) day, setting forth the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension, and the process for appeal. The suspension may be appealed, within five (5) days after receipt of the suspension notice, to the Superintendent. The request for an appeal must be in writing. During the appeal process, the student shall not be allowed to remain in school. If the appeal is heard by the Board's designee, the appeal shall be conducted in a private hearing. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the appeal shall be conducted in executive session unless the student or the student's representative requests otherwise. A verbatim transcript will be made, and witnesses will be sworn in prior to giving testimony. If the appeal decision is to uphold the suspension, the next step in the appeal process is to the Court of Common Pleas.

### **Emergency Removal**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the Superintendent, Principal, or assistant principal may remove the student from any curricular or extra-curricular activity or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from any curricular or extra-curricular activity under the teacher's supervision, but not from the premises.

If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building administrator of the circumstances surrounding the removal, in writing, within one (1) school day. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this procedure. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from curricular or extra-curricular activity for less than one (1) school day, and is not subject to further suspension for expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply.

If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a hearing will be held on the next school day after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reasons for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be provided to the student, as soon as practical prior to the hearing. If the student is subject to an out-of-school suspension, the student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the Principal, assistant principal, Superintendent, or a designee, and may challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain their actions.

### Students in Grades Pre-K Through Three (3)

A student in any of grades pre-kindergarten through three (3) may be removed only for the remainder of the school day, and shall be permitted to return to any curricular and extra-curricular activities on the next school day (following the day in which the student was removed or excluded). When a student in any of grades pre-kindergarten through three (3) is removed and returned to their curricular and extra-curricular activities the next school day, the Principal is not required to hold a hearing (or provide written notice of same).

Within one (1) school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the student. This notice will include the reasons for the suspension, the right of the student or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal to the Board or its designee, and the student's right to be represented in all appeal proceedings. If it is likely that the student may be subject to expulsion, the hearing will take place within three (3) school days and will be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Expulsion Policy. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. In an emergency removal, a student may be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is resolved, either by reinstatement, suspension, or expulsion.

### **Expulsion from School**

When a student is being considered for expulsion, the student and parent will be provided with a formal notice of the proposed expulsion. This written notice will include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity to appear in person before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the expulsion and/or explain the student's action, and notification of the time and place to appear. Students being considered for expulsion may be removed immediately. A hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three (3), nor no later than five (5), school days after the notice is given. Parents may request an extension of time for the hearing. The student may be represented by their parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of the student's choice at the hearing.

In accordance with Board Policy 5610 – Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students, the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion will be imposed for the same duration that it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

If a student is expelled, the student and the student's parents will be provided with written notice within one (1) school day of the imposed expulsion. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings, the right to be

granted a hearing before the Board or its designee, and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

Within fourteen (14) days after the Superintendent notifies the parents of the expulsion, the expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the Board of Education or its designee. A hearing on the requested appeal will be formal with an opportunity for sworn testimony. If the expulsion is upheld on appeal, a student's parents may pursue further appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students serving expulsions will not be awarded grades or credit during the period of expulsion. Expulsion for certain violations, including use or possession of alcohol or drugs, may result in revocation of the student's driver's license. When a student is expelled, the Superintendent will notify any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under the Early College Credit Program at the time the expulsion is imposed.

### **Permanent Exclusion**

State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student, sixteen (16) years of age or older, who engages in certain criminal activity. Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one (1) or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school:

- A. conveying deadly weapons onto school property or to a school function;
- B. possessing deadly weapons onto school property or at a school function;
- C. carrying a concealed weapon onto school property or at a school function;
- D. trafficking in drugs onto school property or at a school function;
- E. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function;
- F. voluntary or involuntary manslaughter on school grounds or at a school function;
- G. assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function;
- H. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration on school grounds, or at a school function, when the victim is a school employee;
- I. complicity in any of the above offenses, regardless of the location.

This process is formal and may follow an expulsion with the proper notification to the parents.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE (Policy 5771)**

The Board of Education recognizes that the privacy of students or their belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner.

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Such spaces remain the property of the Board and, in accordance with law, may be the subject of random search. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Administrators are permitted to conduct a random search of any student's locker and its contents at any time, providing notice has been posted in the locker areas of each building. Random searches shall not be used for criminal prosecution. Search of a student's person or personal belongings shall be conducted by a principal or his/her designee in the presence of another staff member of the same gender as which the student identifies, and only in circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is threatened.

Administrators are authorized to arrange for the use of a breath-test instrument for the purpose of determining if a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. It is not necessary for the test to determine blood-alcohol level, since the Board has established a zero tolerance for alcohol use.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices, when the Superintendent has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs or devices may be present in a school. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places on school property where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or with organizations certified in canine detection and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

Except as provided below, a request for the search of a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the principal who shall seek the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the principal in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the principal. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

The principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each student search, including the reasons for the search; information received that established the need for the search and the name of informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found; and the disposition made of them. The principal shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

### **STUDENT INTERROGATIONS**

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

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

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and the building administrator (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

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

### **STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION**

The school recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do so appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, non-commercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet school guidelines.

#### **A. Material cannot be displayed if it:**

1. is obscene to minors, libelous, is pervasively indecent or vulgar;
2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
3. intends to be insulting or harassing; intends to incite fighting; or presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it will cause or is likely to cause a disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

#### **B. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch**

periods, and/or before or after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building. Students who are unsure whether materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

### **SECTION III – ENROLLMENT & ATTENDANCE**

#### **ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

In general, state law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardians reside, unless enrolling under the district's open enrollment policy.

New students under the age of eighteen (18) must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. an original birth certificate or similar document;
- B. custody (if applicable) or court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities;
- C. proof of residency (i.e. a paid utility bill, lease or rental agreement);
- D. current immunizations record.
- E. Photo ID

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. School personnel will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Students enrolling in the District following any period of home education will be placed in the appropriate grade level, without discrimination or prejudice.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the District Liaison Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

Students who meet the Federal definition of children and youth in foster care may enroll and will be under the direction of the Local Point of Contact with regard to enrollment procedures.

Foreign students and foreign-exchange students (from recognized and approved student programs) are eligible for admission on the same basis as other non-resident students.

New students eighteen (18) years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting



themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the district's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the district's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the district had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has recently been discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the district, the student will not be admitted until the following records required to be released by DYS to the superintendent have been received:

- A. an updated copy of the student's transcript
- B. a report of the student's behavior while in DYS custody
- C. the student's current Individualized Education Program ( IEP), if an IEP has been developed for the child
- D. a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

## **SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT**

### Elementary Level

The Principal will assign each student to the appropriate classroom and program. Any questions or concerns about the assignment should be discussed with the Principal.

## Secondary Level

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the guidance counselors in the high school and dean of students in the middle schools. Students may be denied course enrollment due to lack of available space or the need for the student to pass prerequisite courses. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation must be approved with a pass or schedule change.

### **WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL**

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

Parents must notify the principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records will be transferred to the new school within five (5) days of the parents' notice or request.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### School Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is a significant student responsibility at all grade levels. Many studies correlate regular attendance with success in school. Regular attendance means that the academic learning process is not interrupted, less time is spent on make-up assignments, and students benefit from participation and interaction with others in class. Many important lessons are learned through active participation in classroom and other school activities that cannot be replaced by individual study.

When a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student has failed to initiate a telephone call or other communication notifying the school or building administration of the student's excused or unexcused absence within 120 minutes after the beginning of the school day, the attendance officer or designee for each school building shall make at least one (1) attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of any student who is recorded as absent without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day by a method designated by the Superintendent in accordance with Ohio law (see AG 5200 - Attendance).

Establishing a pattern of good attendance will benefit the student in school and in the workplace. Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic, which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a person is the person's dependability in coming to work every day on time. This is a habit the School wants to help students develop as early as possible.

### Truancy

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is not acceptable. Students who are truant will receive no credit for school work that is missed. A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) month, or for seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year.

If a student is habitually truant and the student's parent fails to cause the student's attendance, a complaint will be filed with the Judge of the Juvenile Court in compliance with State law and Board Policy 5200.

### Excused Absences

Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make-up missed school work and/or tests:

- A. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. appointment with a health care provider
- C. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- D. quarantine of the home
- E. death in the family
- F. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- G. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- H. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction) to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity. Any classroom assignment missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student.  
If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.
- I. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
- J. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751
- K. college visitation - The District requires verification of the date and time of the visitation by the college, university, or technical college.
- L. absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status
- M. absences due to a student being homeless

### **Notification of Absence**

If a student will be absent, the parents must notify the School and provide an explanation. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written excuse as soon as possible after the student's absence. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused and the student will be identified as truant for that school day. If the offered excuse for a student's absence is questionable or if the number of student absences is excessive, the school staff will notify the parents of the need for improvement in the student's attendance.

A skipped class or part of the school day will be identified as an unexcused absence and students will not be permitted to make-up missed class work. The student will also be subject to disciplinary action.

Students with a health condition that causes repeated absences must provide the administration with an explanation of the condition from a registered physician.

### **Homebound Instruction**

The School may arrange for individual instruction at home for students who are unable to attend school for more than 20 consecutive days because of an accident, illness, or disability. Such instruction may be arranged upon receipt of documentation of the student's condition from a physician. For more information, contact the Student Services Department at 740-670-7025.

### **Make-Up Tests and Other School Work**

Students who are absent from school with an excuse shall be given the opportunity to make up missed work. The student should contact the school office and/or teacher(s) as soon as possible to obtain assignments. The number of days for completion of make-up work will be equivalent to the number of excused days of absence.

If a student misses a teacher's test due to an excused absence, s/he may arrange with the teacher to take the test at another time. If the student misses a state mandated assessment test or other standardized test, the student will be given the opportunity to make up the test(s) on mandated make-up dates.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse shall be considered truant and the student and his/her parents shall be subject to the truancy laws of the state.

### **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL**

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence.

A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work missed due to suspension. Assignments may be obtained from Google Classroom and/or the school office. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns from school. The student will be given at least partial credit for properly-completed assignments and will receive a grade for any made-up tests.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without either; (a) a written request signed by the parent or guardian; or (b) the parent or guardian coming to the school office to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than the custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian(s).

## **TARDINESS**

A student who is not in his/her assigned location by school start time shall be considered tardy. Any student arriving late to school is to report to the school office before going to class. Building administrators reserve the right to implement consequences for chronic tardiness.

## **VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged not to take their child out of school for vacations. However, students may be excused for vacation purposes a maximum of five (5) days during one school year. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a written request prior to the date of absence and a review of the student's attendance history. No student shall be excused for vacation during the last five days of each semester. Make-up work may not be available prior to the vacation.

## **SECTION IV- ACADEMICS**

### **CURRICULUM PROGRAMS**

Newark City Schools provide comprehensive programs to serve the educational needs of students. The Newark Board of Education has the responsibility for establishing what students should learn. As a result, the board adopts a district curriculum that, to the extent possible, reflects the desires of the community, the needs of society, and the requirements of law.

The instructional programs meet the standards prescribed by the State Board of Education. For more information about Ohio's Academic Content Standards, visit [www.OhioAcademicStandards.com](http://www.OhioAcademicStandards.com).

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips.

Attendance rules apply to all field trips.

While the district encourages the student's participation in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission for the student to attend. Not attending a field trip does not constitute an absence.

Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips.

### **GRADING SYTEMS**

The Newark Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for providing a system of grading student achievement that can help the student, teachers, and parents judge properly how well the student is achieving the goals of the district's program.

The board believes that the district's grading system should be a reliable system and one that ensures each student's grade signifies accurately his/her degree of accomplishment of those expected learning outcomes which are to be stated for each program at every grade level, kindergarten through twelve.

The periodic issuance of grades and interim reports serves to promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance that informs the student, parents, pupil services personnel, and school administrators of student progress and is a basis for intervention necessary to bring positive student behaviors to increase student achievement.

It is the responsibility of each teacher, at the beginning of a course, to discuss the possible methods for determining course grades. Students should be included in determining the criteria for satisfactory achievement whenever possible. Performance-based/authentic tasks, written or oral discourse, portfolios and self-assessment, as well as more traditional evaluation methods, should be used. When evaluating student progress and, consequently, assigning an evaluation mark, the teacher should recognize that:

- A. quality tasks motivate students to do quality work;
- B. the welfare of the student and the student's needs and abilities are primary considerations;
- C. positive comments and encouragement result in increased academic achievement;
- D. the students should meet the standards for their grade levels in a subject area by the end of the school year.

Before the school year begins, each teacher will establish and communicate expectations for all classes they teach and all students in those classes regarding how student's grades could be affected by the items below. Teacher practices in the items below will be sent home in writing to parent(s)/guardian(s), with a separate sign-off sheet for the parent to sign and return. The parents will keep a copy, provided by the teacher, for future reference. All such expectations shall have the building principal's approval before they are communicated to the parent.

- A. Attendance;
- B. participation in class activities;
- C. absences from class and procedures for make-up work;
- D. disciplinary procedures in the classroom if class work or homework is not complete;
- E. failure to bring materials to class;
- F. elements of the class that require parent collaboration and support

#### Grading Scale For 4-12 Grades

A	= 90-100	Superior, excellent achievement
B	= 80-89	Good, above-average achievement
C	= 70-79	Average achievement
D	= 60-69	Average, borderline achievement
F	= 0-59	Failing/Unsatisfactory achievement

I	= Incomplete - The student has not completed required work – or – Improving (Grades K,1)
O	= Outstanding
S	= Satisfactory (K-8)
U	= Unsatisfactory
N	= Needs to improve
TR	= Trying but progressing slowly
*	= Works below grade level
No Mark	= Not evaluated at this time (Grades K,1)

#### Grade Averaging in Grades 4-8

When averaging grades to arrive at a yearly average, the following scale will be used:

A = 4 points    O = 2 points

B = 3 points    S = 1 point

C = 2 points    U = 0 points

D = 1 point

F = 0 points

When grades are averaged for the year, the following scale is to be used when recording letter grades:

.0 - .59            = F

.60 -.74            = Teacher Option F or D

.75 -1.49            = D

1.50 – 2.49        = C

2.50 – 3.49        = B

3.50 – 4.00        = A

#### Incomplete Grades

A student whose work is incomplete ("I" grade) at the end of a grading period must complete the work within two (2) weeks. Additional time may be allowed by the teacher and building principal/assistant principal for extenuating circumstances. If, at the end of two (2) weeks, or additional time given, the required work has not been made up, a final grade will be calculated with all incomplete work calculated as zeros. An incomplete may not be given for the last grading period of a school year.

#### Students in Special Education Classes

Grades in special education classes are based on individual student ability, progress, achievement, and effort.

### **PROMOTION, ACCELERATION, AND RETENTION**

It shall be the policy of the Board that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development.

Such pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the instructional objectives established for each.

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when s/he has:

- completed the course and State-mandated requirement at the presently assigned grade;

- in the opinion of the professional staff, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him/her to move ahead in the educational program of the next grade;
- demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Academic acceleration may involve whole-grade acceleration or individual subject acceleration. Academic acceleration occurs when a student is not only doing the caliber of work necessary to be promoted to the next grade or enrolled in the next course in the academic sequence, but also demonstrates the ability to do the caliber of work required of students in that next grade level/subject/course. After a student has been assessed using a process and assessment approved by ODEW, an acceleration evaluation committee may determine whether the student will be permitted to skip a grade level (i.e., whole-grade acceleration), or take a subject at a higher grade level or skip a course in the usual and customary academic sequence (i.e., individual subject acceleration).

A student may be retained at his/her current grade level when s/he has in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to achieve the instructional objectives set forth at the current grade level that are requisite for success at the succeeding grade level.

A student may be placed at the next grade level when retention would no longer benefit the student.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION AND IDENTIFICATION**

Identification:

- A. The District shall identify children of the District, in grades kindergarten through twelve, who may be gifted in one (1) or more of the following areas:
  1. Superior Cognitive Ability
  2. Specific Academic Ability in one (1) or more of the following content areas:
    - a. Mathematics
    - b. Science
    - c. Reading, writing or a combination of these skills
    - d. Social Studies
  3. Creative Thinking Ability
  4. Visual or Performing Arts Ability such as drawing, painting, sculpting, music, dance, drama
- B. The District shall use only those instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education for screening, assessment, and identification of children who are gifted.
- C. The District shall accept scores on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education provided by other school districts and trained personnel outside the school district.
- D. The District shall adopt and submit to the Ohio Department of Education a plan for the screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted. Any revisions to the District plan will be submitted to the Ohio



Department of Education for approval. The identification plan shall include the following:

1. The criteria and methods the District uses to screen and select children for further assessment who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in one (1) of the gifted areas.
2. The sources of assessment data the District uses to select children for further testing and an explanation to parents of the multiple assessment instruments required to identify children who are gifted.
3. An explanation for parents of the methods the District uses to ensure equal access to screening and further assessment by all District children, culturally and linguistically diverse children, children from low socio-economic background, children with disabilities, and children for whom English is a second language.
4. The process of notifying parents regarding all policies and procedures concerning the screening, assessment, and the identification of children who are gifted.
5. Provision of an opportunity for parents to appeal any decision about the results of any screening procedure or assessment, the scheduling of children for assessment, or the placement of a student in any program or for receipt of services.
6. Procedures for the assessment of children who transfer to the District.
7. At least two (2) opportunities a year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents, or other children.
8. The District's plan may provide for the District to contract with any qualified public or private service provider to provide screening or assessment services under the plan.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is any assignment to be prepared outside of the school by the student or independently while in attendance at school. Homework is considered an important part of learning.

Rules for the assignment of homework:

- A. Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing the learning experience.
- B. Homework should help students learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience and integration of knowledge and an opportunity to remediate learning problems.
- C. Homework should help develop the student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment.
- D. The number, frequency and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the ability and needs of the student.
- E. As a valid educational tool, homework should be assigned with clear direction.
- F. The schools should recognize the role of parents by suggesting ways in which parents can assist the school in helping a student carry out assigned responsibilities.

- G. Homework should always serve a valid learning purpose; it should never be used as a punitive measure.

Homework is also part of the student's preparation for the achievement tests and graduation.

## **STUDENT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### Personal Responsibility

By signing this Policy and Agreement, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this Policy and Agreement, but are agreeing to report a misuse of the network to your immediate teacher, supervisor, or director. Misuse means any violations of this policy, Board of Education Policy, or any other use that is not included in the policy, but has the effect of harming another or his or her property.

### Term of the Permitted Use

**A properly signed and submitted copy of this document is required to have a computer account activated for the given school year. Please sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement which is included in your packet.**

## **STUDENT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY**

**(Policy 7540.03)**

Technology directly affects the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. Educators are expected to continually adapt their means and methods of instruction and the way they approach student learning to incorporate the latest technologies. The Board of Education provides Information and Technology Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) (collectively, "District Information & Technology Resources") to support the educational and professional needs of its students and staff. With respect to students, District Information & Technology Resources afford them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board provides students with access to the Internet for educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's computer network and Internet system do not serve as a public access service or a public forum and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its stated educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District Information and Technology Resources in a manner consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the District's educational mission, and articulated expectations of student conduct as delineated in the Student Code of Conduct. This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct govern students' use of District Information & Technology Resources and student's personal communication

devices when they are connected to District Information and Technology Resources, including online educational services/apps, regardless of whether such use takes place on or off school property (see Policy 5136).

Students are prohibited from using District Information & Technology Resources to engage in illegal conduct (e.g., libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, etc.) or conduct that violates this Policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct (e.g., making personal attacks or injurious comments, invading a person's privacy, etc.) Nothing herein, however, shall infringe on students' First Amendment rights. Because its Information and Technology Resources are not unlimited, the Board may institute restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

Students have no right or expectation to privacy when using District Information & Technology Resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, messages/e-mails, and records of their online activity).

While the Board uses various technologies to limit students using its Information and Technology Resources to only use/access online educational services/apps and resources that have been pre-approved for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the curriculum, it is impossible to prevent students from accessing and/or coming in contact with online content that has not been pre-approved for use by students of certain ages. It is no longer possible for educators and community members to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them) when significant portions of students' education take place online or through the use of online educational services/apps.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board implements technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using District Information & Technology Resources if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the CIPA. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be disciplined.

The Superintendent or Technology Supervisor may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been mistakenly, improperly, or inadvertently blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to online content and/or services/apps that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to content that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet. Principals are responsible for providing training so that students under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information;
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., “hacking”, “harvesting”, “digital piracy”, “data mining”, etc.) cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online; and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally-identifiable information regarding minors.

Staff members shall provide guidance and instruction to their students regarding the appropriate use of District Information & Technology Resources and online safety and security as specified above. Additionally, such training shall include, but not be limited to education concerning appropriate online behavior including interacting with others on social media, including in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while they are at school. Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

All students who use District Information & Technology Resources (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

In order to keep District Information & Technology Resources operating in a safe, secure, efficient, effective, and beneficial manner to all users, students are required

to comply with all District-established cybersecurity procedures. Principals are responsible for providing such training on a regular basis and measuring the effectiveness of training.

Students will be assigned a District-provided school email account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members, peers, individuals, and /or organizations outside the District with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments. Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school-assigned e-mail account when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services/apps.

Students are responsible for good behavior when using District Information & Technology Resources – i.e., behavior comparable to that expected of students when they are in physical classrooms and school buildings and at school-sponsored events. Because communications on the Internet are often public in nature, general school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its Information & Technology Resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students may only use District Information & Technology Resources to access or use social media if it is done for educational purposes in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence/Natural Language Processing Tools for School Work**

Students are required to rely on their own knowledge, skills, and resources when completing school work. In order to ensure the integrity of the educational process and to promote fair and equal opportunities for all students, except as outlined below, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools (collectively, "AI/NLP tools") is strictly prohibited for the completion of school work. The use of AI/NLP tools, without the express permission/consent of a teacher, undermines the learning and problem-solving skills that are essential to academic success and that the staff is tasked to develop in each student. Students are encouraged to develop their own knowledge, skills, and understanding of course material rather than relying solely on AI/NLP tools and they should ask their teachers when they have questions and/or need assistance. Unauthorized use of AI/NLP tools is considered a form of plagiarism and any student found using these tools without permission or in a prohibited manner will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Notwithstanding the preceding, students can use AI/NLP tools in the school setting if they receive prior permission/consent from their teacher, so long as they use the AI/NLP tools in an ethical and responsible manner. Teachers have the discretion to authorize students to use AI/NLP tools for the following uses:

- A. Research assistance: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students quickly and efficiently search for and find relevant information for their school projects and assignments.
- B. Data Analysis: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students to analyze, understand, and interpret large amounts of data, such as text documents or social media posts. This can be particularly useful for research projects or data analysis assignments – e.g., scientific experiments and marketing research.
- C. Language translation: AI/NLP tools can be used to translate texts or documents into different languages, which can be helpful for students who are learning a new language or for students who are studying texts written in a different language.
- D. Writing assistance: AI/NLP tools can provide grammar and spelling corrections, as well as suggest alternative work choices and sentence structure, to help students improve their writing skills.
- E. Accessibility: AI/NLP tools can be used to help students with disabilities access and understand written materials. For example, text-to-speech software can help students with specific learning disabilities or visual impairments to read texts and AI-powered translation tools can help students with hearing impairments understand spoken language.

As outlined above, under appropriate circumstances, AI/NLP tools can be effectively used as a supplement to and not a replacement for traditional learning methods. Consequently, with prior teacher permission/consent, students can use such resources to help them better understand and analyze information and/or access course materials. If a student has any questions about whether they are permitted to use AI/NLP tools for a specific class assignment, they should ask their teacher.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District Information & Technology Resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and Technology Supervisor as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to students' use of District Information & Technology Resources.

### **USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

For purposes of this policy, "personal communication device" (PCD) includes computers, tablets (e.g., iPad-like devices), electronic readers ("e-readers"; e.g., Kindle-like devices), cell phones, smartphones (e.g., iPhones, Android devices, Windows Mobile devices, etc.), PCDs intended and actually used for instructional purposes (e.g., taking notes, recording classroom lectures, writing papers) will be permitted, as approved by the classroom teacher or the Principal. However, the use

of a PCD to engage in non-education-related communications is expressly prohibited.

During after-school activities, PCDs shall be powered completely off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight when directed by the administrator or sponsor.

Under certain circumstances, a student may keep his/her PCD "On" with prior approval from the Principal.

Except as authorized by a teacher, administrator or IEP team, students are prohibited from using PCDs during the school day, including while off-campus on a field trip, to capture, record and/or transmit the words or sounds (i.e., audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person. Using a PCD to capture, record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted. Students who violate this provision and/or use a PCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their PCD confiscated and held until a parent/guardian picks it up, and may be directed to delete the audio and/or picture/video file while the parent/guardian is present. If the violation involves potentially illegal activity, the confiscated-PCD may be turned over to law enforcement.

The use of PCDs that contain built-in cameras (i.e., devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format) is prohibited in, gymnasiums, locker rooms, shower facilities, rest/bathrooms.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of PCDs on school premises/property.

Students may not use a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior. In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation/transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and (2) engage in "sexting" - i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

Students are also prohibited from using a PCD to capture, record, and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using PCDs to receive such information.

Possession of a PCD by a student at school during school hours is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise abuses this privilege.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the PCD. The Principal will also refer the matter to law enforcement or child services if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g., child pornography, sexting). Discipline will be imposed on an escalating scale ranging from a warning to an expulsion based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation. If the PCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed, unless the violation involves potentially illegal activity in which case the PCD may be turned over to law enforcement. A confiscated device will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the building's central office until it is retrieved by the parent/guardian or turned over to law enforcement. School officials will not search or otherwise tamper with PCDs in District custody unless they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance with Policy 5771 - Search and Seizure. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring a PCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

A person who discovers a student using a PCD, in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the Principal.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their PCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to, or misuse or unauthorized use of, PCDs brought onto its property.

Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.



**STUDENT ASSESSMENT**  
**2024-2025**  
**Assessment Calendar**

Grade	Date Begin	Date End	Assessment
K-12	August 6, 2024	June 30, 2025	OELPS Screener
K	August 15, 2024	September 12, 2024	KRA
K-12	August 21, 2024	September 13, 2024	MAP
K-3	August 21, 2024	September 13, 2024	MAP Fluency for K-3
3	October 21, 2024	October 25, 2024	English Language Arts
4	November 1, 2024	November 19, 2024	Cogat
HS	December 2, 2024	December 20, 2024	End-of-Course Tests
K-12	January 9, 2025	February 3, 2025	MAP
K-3	January 9, 2025	February 3, 2025	MAP Fluency for K-3
2	February 3, 2025	February 21, 2025	Cogat
K-12	February 3, 2025	March 28, 2025	OELPA Assessment
3-8, 10	February 24, 2025	April 18, 2025	Alternative Assessment (AASCD)
11	February 25-28, 2025	March 3-7, 2025	ACT - Online
3-8 & HS	April 7, 2025	April 25, 2025	English Language Arts
3-8 & HS	April 14, 2025	May 2, 2025	Math
5, 8 & HS	April 14, 2025	May 2, 2025	Science
HS	April 14, 2025	May 2, 2025	Social Studies
K-12	April 21, 2025	May 9, 2025	MAP
K-3	April 21, 2025	May 9, 2025	MAP Fluency for K-3
1-2	School Discretion		State Diagnostic – Math/Writing
3	School Discretion		State Diagnostic - Writing
<b>Summer Test Windows 2025</b>			
3	June 23, 2025	June 27, 2025	English Language Arts
HS	June 23, 2025	July 3, 2025	End-Of Course Tests

Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests are given to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess student achievement on specific objectives. Vocational and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interest or talent. These are often given by the guidance staff.

### **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Students who display significant achievement during the course of the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include, but are not limited to, academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship and volunteerism.

## **SECTION V- HEALTH & WELLNESS**

### **WELLNESS (Policy 8510)**

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the Newark City School District as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and wellbeing of the District's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and wellbeing and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks, supporting good eating habits, and promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

- A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:
  - 1. Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive Health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
  - 2. Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
  - 3. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
- B. With regard to **physical activity**, the District shall:
  - 1. **Physical Education**
    - a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.

- b. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- c. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- d. Physical education classes shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- e. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.

2. **Physical Activity**

- a. Physical activity should not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
  - b. Schools shall encourage families to provide physical activity outside the regular school day, such as outdoor play at home, participation in sports sponsored by community agencies or organizations, and in lifelong physical activities like bowling, swimming, or tennis.
  - c. The school shall provide information to families to encourage and assist them in their efforts to incorporate physical activity into their children's daily lives.
  - d. All students in grades 7 - 12 shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.
- C. Regarding other school-based activities : Free drinking water shall be available to students during designated meal times and may be available throughout the school day. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
- D. All food items and beverages available for sale to students for consumption on the school campus (any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that is accessible to students during the school day) between midnight and thirty (30) minutes after the close of the regular school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including, but not limited to, competitive foods that are available to students a la carte or as entrees in the dining area (except entree items that were offered on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) menu on the day of and the day after they are offered on the NSLP or SBP menu), as well as food items and beverages from vending machines, from school stores, or as fund-raisers, including those operated by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs.

- E. All foods offered on the school campus during the school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as classroom snacks, or from vending machines.
- F. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well regardless of unpaid meal balances and without stigma.
- G. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.

The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the District's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop procedures necessary to implement this policy.

The Superintendent shall appoint a District-wide Wellness Committee that includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, educational staff (including health and physical education teachers), mental health and social services staff, school health professionals, members of the public, and school administrators to oversee development, implementation, evaluation and periodic update of this policy. The Wellness Committee shall be an ad hoc committee with members recruited and appointed annually. School level health advisory teams may assist in the planning and implementations of these Wellness Initiatives.

The Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:

- A. review of the District's Wellness policy;
- B. presentation of the Wellness policy to the Board for approval;
- C. measurement of the implementation of the policy; and
- D. recommendation for the revision of the policy, if necessary.

Before the end of each school year, the Wellness Committee shall recommend to the Superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary and/or appropriate. In its review, the Wellness Committee shall consider evidence-based strategies in determining its recommendations.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the Wellness Committee's progress and on its evaluation of the policy's implementation and areas for improvement, including status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining the policy's goals.

The Superintendent is also responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall include information in the student handbook.

The District shall assess the Wellness Policy at least once every three (3) years on the extent to which schools in the District are in compliance with the District

policy, the extent to which the District policy compares to model wellness policies, and the progress made in attaining the goals of the District Wellness Policy.

### **STUDENT WELL-BEING**

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills in the event of a terrorist or other violent attack, and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the school office.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with physician documentation to the school office.

### **CONTROL OF BLOOD –BORNE PATHOGENS**

The School District seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

Students may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in situation, including, but not limited to the following:

- Engaging in activities with other students in the school environment (e.g., physical education class) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding or exposure to saliva and other body fluids may occur.
- Working with equipment in the school environment that can cause cuts or similar injuries that produce bleeding.
- Participating in extracurricular activities (i.e., athletic activities) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding may occur.

Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, s/he must immediately notify his/her teacher, who will contact the principal or his/her designee and assist the student in completing the requisite documents.

The parents of a student who is exposed will be contacted immediately regarding the exposure and encouraged to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV either by his/her physician or Licking County Health Department. The student's parent are encouraged to consult with the student's physician concerning any necessary post-exposure treatment.

The student's parent will also be asked to provide a copy of the test results and any post-exposure treatment for maintenance in the student's educational record in accordance with the Federal and State laws concerning confidentiality.

The parents of the student who caused the exposure will also be contacted immediately and advised to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV virus either in cooperation with his/her physician or the Licking County Health Department.

The student's parents will be asked to provide a copy of the test results for maintenance in the student's educational record in accordance with Federal and State laws concerning confidentiality.

The student's parents will be encouraged to allow the District to release their child's name to the exposed student's parents, in the event serious health issues are presented as a result of the exposure.

### **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

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

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the District requires all students to be immunized (or in the process of being immunized) against poliomyelitis, measles (aka rubeola), diphtheria, rubella (German measles), pertussis, tetanus, mumps, and other diseases legally designated in accordance with State statutes, unless specifically exempt for medical or other reasons. The Board further requires that students enrolled in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) be immunized against meningococcal disease. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the Health Aide/School Nurse.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

A COMPLETE Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the school in the event emergency medical treatment for a student is necessary and in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extra-curricular activities and co-curricular

activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization form is provided at the time of enrollment or at the beginning of each school year.

### **ILLNESS AT SCHOOL**

A student who becomes ill at school can be better cared for at home by their parent(s)/guardian(s). If a student's temperature is 100 degrees or higher or if he/she shows outwards signs of illness such as excessive coughing, vomiting, etc., the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be called to pick up their child.

The school will only release the child to the child's custodial parent/guardian or to the parent's designee.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for providing the school with telephone numbers where they can be reached during the day. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are also responsible for providing the names and phone numbers of persons who can be contacted in the event of an illness or emergency, should the school not be able to reach a parent.

### **BEE STINGS AND OTHER ALLERGIES**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for informing the school of any allergies their child may have to foods, medications, bee stings, etc. If your child is allergic to bee stings, please provide the school with bee sting medication along with medical authorizations from the child's doctor to administer the medication.

### **HEAD LICE**

Head lice are a common problem among school-age children. They are spread through close, personal contact with an infested individual, most commonly through sharing combs and brushes; sharing hats, caps, wigs or coats; or through a mix of these items at home, school or other public places. It is not true that only persons who are unclean become infested with head lice. Frequent bathing will not prevent or eliminate head lice.

When a student is sent to the office or clinic for a head lice check, the following procedures are followed:

1. If live lice are discovered, the child is sent home immediately.
2. If nits (lice eggs) are discovered, the student will be sent home. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified and instructions for eliminating the lice will be provided.
3. Students may return to school after the lice are abated; Parents must accompany the child to school to ensure the lice are completely gone.

### **USE OF MEDICATIONS**

Student who must take prescribed medication during the school day must comply with the following guidelines:

- A. Parent(s)/guardian(s) should, with their physician's counsel, determine whether the medication schedule could be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.

- B. The appropriate form must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medication.
- C. All medications must be registered with the principal's office and must be delivered to school in the containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.
- D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the principal's office by the student's parent or guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request.

Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications, for allergies and/or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication or inhalers to any other student for their use or possession

If, for supportable reasons, the principal wishes to discontinue the privilege of a student self-administering a medication, except for the possession and use of asthma inhalers, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified of the decision in sufficient time for an alternative means of administration to be established.

- E. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of the school year.
- F. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.
- G. The building principal will maintain a log noting the personnel designated to administer medication, as well as the date, and the time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the physician's written request and the parent's written release.

#### **Non-prescribed (Over-the-Counter) Medications**

No staff member will dispense Non-prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any students without prior physician and parent authorization. Forms that must be signed by both physician and parents are available from the principal's office.

Parents, or students authorized in writing by physician and parents, may administer medication or treatment, but only in the presence of another adult.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, the student will be brought to the school office while the student's parents are contacted. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the code of conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the code.



A student may possess and use a metered-dose inhaler or a dry-powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is complete and on file in the principal's office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered-dose or dry-powder inhalers may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

### **CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Newark City Schools recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease through casual contact is essential to the well-being of the school community and to efficient District operation.

For the purposes of this policy, "casual-contact communicable disease" shall include diphtheria, scarlet fever and other strep infections, staph infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, chicken pox, and others designated by the Ohio Department of Public Health.

In order to protect the health and safety of the students, District personnel, and the community at large, the Board shall follow all State statutes and Health Department regulations which pertain to immunization and other means for controlling communicable disease spread through normal interaction in the school setting.

On the recommendation of the nurse, the teacher may remove from the class-room and the principal may exclude from the building or isolate in the school any student who appears to be ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease, except that the teacher or principal may act independently if the nurse is not present in the building when the decision needs to be made.

### **CONTROL OF NONCASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Newark City Schools has an obligation to protect staff and students from noncasual contact communicable diseases. When a non-casual-contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the county health department. The school will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Noncasual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency), Aseptic Meningitis, Hepatitis B and other disease that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by federal law, parents may be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

## **SECTION VI – TRANSPORTATION**

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL**

The Newark City Schools provide transportation for students in kindergarten through eighth grade according to Board Policy 8600.

Students may only ride assigned buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency. Students are permitted to only have 1 stop in the am and 1 stop in the pm. A student may be picked up and/or dropped off at a private address that is different than the home address, if 1) the private address is within the boundary of that student's school, 2) a new stop is not created, and 3) the student is already eligible for transportation to that school. The Transportation Department should be notified if a student is to be riding to a private address. If a student is not permitted to ride a school bus based upon the district's eligibility requirements, a parent may file for an exception from the Transportation Exception Review Committee.

### **BUS CONDUCT**

Students that are riding to and from school on District-provided transportation must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned vehicles as well as any contracted transportation.

The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

#### **Prior to Loading (on the road and at school)**

Each student shall:

- A. stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation;
- B. must be visible at bus stop 10 (ten) minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time
- C. line up single file off the roadway to enter;
- D. wait until the school bus is completely stopped before moving forward to enter;
- E. refrain from crossing a road until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
- F. go immediately to a seat and be seated.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

#### **During The Trip**

Each student shall:

- A. remain seated while the school bus is in motion;
- B. keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school bus at all times;
- C. not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything from the vehicle;

- D. keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
- E. be silent at all railroad crossings;
- F. be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
- G. not eat or drink on the bus;
- H. not bring animals or bugs (living or dead) onto the bus;
- I. not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment.
- J. Refrain from bullying other students
- K. keep conversation noise to a reasonable level
- L. keep hands, arms, legs to themselves
- M. not swear or use foul or inappropriate language

### **Afternoon Drop-Off**

Each student shall:

- A. board the bus following the dismissal bell
- B. go directly to an available or assigned seat
- C. provide their own transportation if they miss the bus after school;
- D. board the bus only after it has arrived at a complete stop at the school pick-up location(s).
- E. follow directions from the teachers, school aides, principal, bus driver, bus aide and all other adults working for Newark City Schools.

### **Exiting the School Bus**

Each student shall:

- A. remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
- B. cross the road, when necessary, at least ten (10) feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
- C. be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.
- D. wait at the designated area until the bus pulls away
- E. all Kindergarten students must have an adult at the stop unless the Transportation Department has been given written notification.
- F. if no adult is visible at the stop to pick up a Kindergarten student then that student may be brought back to the bus garage where a parent must pick up the student.

The driver is not permitted to discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials.

### **VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES**

The Newark Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior. Due to privacy concerns, it is Newark City Schools policy that parents are not permitted to view the bus tapes.

### **PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS**

Students who have the opportunity to ride district school buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. The bus driver is responsible for

the safety and discipline of the students on the bus. The bus is an extension of the school day. The bus driver in cooperation with the building principal has the authority to assign seats. The building principal and transportation administrators are available to give assistance to the driver and will determine consequences of misbehavior. The responsibility for student supervision by the district shall begin when the student boards the bus in the morning and is retained until the student is dropped off at their designated stop in the afternoon. A Student who misbehaves on a Newark City Schools vehicle or at a bus stop shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus. A suspension applies to all Newark City Schools vehicles unless otherwise designated by the Transportation Supervisor.

There are many types of misconduct that can occur on a school bus. The misconduct will be characterized into one of three tiers. The types of misconduct and the level of punishment are labeled below in each tier. The principal and the Transportation Supervisor have discretion as to which tier the infraction falls into and the consequences that will follow. If unsafe behavior is occurring before the bus has left the school in the afternoon, a student may be removed from the bus and stay at the school with a staff member and a parent or guardian is required to pick the student up from the school.

#### **Tier 1**

Eating or drinking on the bus; excessive noise; excessive horseplay; spitting; not staying in seat; riding unassigned buses; false identification; profanity; other offenses of this nature.

- 1<sup>st</sup> verbal warning by the driver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> write-up given to the principal for consequences to be determined at school
- 3<sup>rd</sup> write-up given to the principal for consequences to be determined at school
- 4<sup>th</sup> letter sent home to the parent by the school
- 5<sup>th</sup> suspension from bus ridership

#### **Tier 2**

Hanging out of windows; throwing/shooting any object in or out of the bus; physical aggression towards any person; bullying; racial or derogatory slurs of any kind; use of tobacco products; vandalism (restitution will be made); lighting of flammable objects; entering or leaving bus without permission; use of emergency door; other offenses of this nature.

- 1<sup>st</sup> – written write up to the principal and/or suspension from the bus
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – suspension of bus services
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – suspension of bus services for up to 90 days
- 4<sup>th</sup> – termination of bus services until meeting with principal, parent and Transportation staff in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3301-83-08 with the possibility of loss of privileges

### **Tier 3**

Bringing any weapon onto a Newark City Schools vehicle; fighting; sexual harassment; any other infraction that makes it unsafe to operate a Newark City Schools vehicle.

Immediate removal from the bus and consequences to be determined by the building principal and the Transportation Supervisor

### **TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE**

When transportation by district vehicle is either not available or feasible, there may be a need to provide transportation to student by private vehicle. However, no students will be permitted to ride in a private vehicle unless written consent is provided by each student's parent using Form 8660 F2 – Parental Consent for Transportation by Private Vehicles. Upon request, parent(s)/guardian(s) of participating students will be given the name of the driver, the owner of the vehicle, and the description of the vehicle.

### **SECTION VII- DRESS CODE**

The purpose of the dress code is to establish limits on extremes in student appearance and to promote a safe and friendly environment that accepts all students. We want the focus of attention to be on student learning, not what the student chooses to wear to school. We all recognize the impact of clothing designers and while some things may be looked upon as attractive, those items are not always appropriate to the school environment.

Students are expected to maintain a neat and well-groomed appearance. This expectation can be met at any income level. We suggest that students can meet this expectation with school spirit wear. We also suggest that students can meet this with clothing that fits well, is clean and maintains a positive self-image for the student.

#### **DRESSES**

Dresses may not be shorter than the mid-thigh area. Strapless dresses are prohibited at school. All dresses must have a minimum of "lasagna straps" and must cover to the under arm area.

#### **FOOTWEAR**

All students must wear some type of soled footwear at all times. This is a safety and health issue. Shoes with laces are to be tied. Shoes should be comfortable and safe for all school activities. Closed-toed shoes are advisable for safety during recess and physical activities; otherwise, sandals may be worn. Rollerskates, rollerblades and shoes with wheels are not permitted.

#### **HATS**

Hats and head coverings are not to be worn in the buildings. Hats promoting sex, drugs, racial slurs and ethnic intimidations, alcohol, tobacco, profanity and violence are prohibited at all times. Hats may be worn on special days established through the principal's office and, if permitted, those that are in the school spirit area are encouraged.

Bandanas and “do rags” are prohibited at all times.

### **JEWELRY**

Please limit jewelry worn to school, particularly necklaces and chains so that it does not get lost or cause injury. Excessive, bulky, or extreme jewelry is not permitted. Jewelry or accessories with spikes or other potentially dangerous features are prohibited.

### **JEWELRY PIERCINGS**

Extreme and or excessive piercing is not appropriate at school. Excessive and/or extreme piercing can lead to health issues with potential for infection and injuries.

### **PANTS**

Pants must be properly fitted to stay on at least the hip area. Underwear of any kind should not be visible. Holes in pants should not be revealing and no holes are to be above mid-thigh area. Excessively baggy fitting pants and jeans are not to be worn to school. Students would meet this requirement with cloth twill pants, jeans or dress slacks.

### **SHIRTS, TOPS AND SWEATERS**

Low cut, see-through, mesh tops and shirts are prohibited. Underwear must not be showing.

Sleeveless shirts and sweaters may be worn. The shirt must be “lasagna strap” at a minimum and armholes must fit to the underarm area.

Showing the midriff area even with arms raised, is prohibited.

Shirts, blouses, and sweats that promote, sex, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, profanity, racial slurs and ethnic intimidation and violence are prohibited. School spirit wear is encouraged in shirts, blouses, and sweaters.

### **SHORTS**

Shorts are to be no shorter than mid-thigh. Shorts, like pants, should be properly fitted at least at the hip area. Shorts should not be excessively baggy or excessively tight. Underwear must not be visible.

### **SKIRTS**

Skirts may not be shorter than the mid-thigh area.

### **GENERAL GROOMING AND DRESS**

Hairstyles that are extreme and that cause a disruption to the learning environment are prohibited.

Chains worn on belts and out of pockets are prohibited. Chain necklaces that are extreme are prohibited.

Clothing, jewelry and tattoos of any kind that depict gang affiliation or ethnic slur or intimidation are prohibited. This would include, but is not limited to, medallions and tooth grills.

Students are urged to give proper attention to their personal hygiene and cleanliness. Personal hygiene and cleanliness have a very strong impact on student self-image as well as acceptance among their peers.

Makeup is not appropriate for elementary school.

### **DRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUPS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

Students who are representing the school at official functions or public events may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, band, orchestras and choirs. This would include students representing the school on field trips as well as involvement in civic/government events.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

All school staff will be involved in the dress code enforcement. Students who may be considered in violation of the dress code will be referred to the principal or his/her designee for final decisions. A student found to be in violation of the dress code will not be permitted to return to class until the dress code issue is corrected. Students refusing to comply with the dress code policy may have increasing levels of punishment under the standards of the Student Code of Conduct. Students may be required to wear some school-provided clothing to complete a school day.

## **SECTION VIII – ACTIVITIES**

### **DISTRICT-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES (Policy 2430)**

The Newark City Schools provide students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be taken for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter. The board authorizes many student groups that are sponsored by a staff member.

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the school curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Newark Board of Education authorizes the superintendent, principals, and assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the district to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the district for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code took place.

In addition, student athletes are further subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing or appeal rights.

#### **NON-SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Non-school-sponsored student groups may meet in the school building during non-instructional hours. The application for permission to use school facilities can be obtained from the principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities, and that non-school persons do not play a regular role in the meeting. All school rules relating to student conduct and equal opportunity to participate apply to such activities.

Membership in any fraternity, sorority or other secret society as prescribed by law is not permitted. All groups must comply with school rules and must provide equal opportunity to participate.

Only a district-sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot on any materials or information.

#### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS**

The school encourages students to attend as many after-school events as possible, without interfering with their schoolwork and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students participating in the event.

It is strongly advised that students attending evening events as non-participants be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone. The board is not responsible for supervising unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

School rules apply at both home and away events for all Newark students.

Newark Schools participate in the "Respect the Game" program developed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association:

*"Respect the Game"* is not telling you to behave in a "sporting" manner, whatever that might be. It's not about telling you what to do at all.

*"Respect the Game"* is just a reminder of what you already know; school athletics is important and valuable.

As such, it's worthy of respect. And when people involved in high school sports treat each other badly, disrupt games, or generally behave in a manner unworthy of the game itself, they are devaluing what you, and all of us, care so much about.



When you remember this, you don't need anyone else to tell you how to behave. You'll know. With courtesy, dignity, and pride."

### **BIRTHDAY PARTIES**

Please check with your child's teacher regarding his/her birthday party policy. Students may not distribute invitations to personal birthday parties (held outside school time) unless every child in the class receives an invitation.