



**Austintown Middle School  
Student Handbook  
2025-2026**

### MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

On behalf of the Austintown Local School District staff and administration we welcome you. This handbook is published so that all students in the Austintown Middle School have easy access to information that will allow for a safe and successful school year. It is essential that parents and students read the handbook, as all students will be required to adhere to its provisions. We are more than happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have, and we look forward to working with you throughout the school year. The number one priority is maintaining a safe and appropriate learning environment. All of the policies outlined in this handbook are intended to protect this learning environment and to ensure that the students of ALS have complete access to a rigorous and relevant school experience.

### AUSTINTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT

The rules and standards in this code are applicable to all students when they are on school grounds, property, involving school property, under the authority of school personnel, during a school activity, function, or at any such school-sponsored event or function, whether on property owned, rented, or maintained by the Austintown Board of Education or property owned, rented, or maintained by another party. Additionally, the provisions of this code shall apply to students if the prohibited act(s) takes place while on properties immediately adjacent to school property, within the line of sight of school property, on school buses or any other school vehicles, or if the act affects the operation of the schools. These rules and standards also apply to any misconduct regardless of where it occurs, that is directed at a district employee or official or the property of such employee or official.

Violations, by a student, of any one or more of the rules and policies in this code may result in disciplinary action(s) which may include, but are not limited to, detention, deprivation of privileges, parental contact, referral to legal authorities, emergency removal, disciplinary removal, in-school restriction, suspension, expulsion, permanent exclusion, or other disciplinary actions as deemed necessary to respond to inappropriate actions or behaviors.

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**Section 1: General School Information**

**A. Building Schedule:**

School Year Calendar linked [here](#).

AMS students are permitted to enter the building at 7:15 am, but students are not permitted to be in the hallways until 7:20 am.

*\*Car riders and walkers who arrive before 7:20 am will report immediately to the cafetorium where they will remain until 7:20 am.*

*\*\*Bus riders who get dropped off before 7:20 am AND are not eating breakfast must report to the large gym until 7:20 am.*

**Regular Schedule**

Period	<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
1	1st Period 7:35-8:45	1st Period 7:35-8:45	Exploratory 7:35-8:20
2	2nd Period 8:48 - 9:58	Exploratory 8:48-9:33	1st Period 8:23-9:33
3	Lunch 10:01-10:28	2nd Period 9:36-10:46	2nd Period 9:36-10:46
4	Exploratory 10:31-11:16	Exploratory 10:49-11:34	Lunch 10:49 -11:16
5	3rd Period 11:19-12:29	Lunch 11:37-12:04	Exploratory 11:19-12:04
6	4th Period 12:32-1:42	3rd Period 12:07-1:17	3rd Period 12:07-1:17
7	Exploratory 1:45-2:30	4th Period 1:20-2:30	4th Period 1:20-2:30

**2 Hour Delay Schedule**

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
1*	Core 9:35-10:20	Core 9:35-10:20	Exploratory 9:35-10:10
2*	Lunch 10:23-10:50	Exploratory 10:23-10:58	Core 10:13-10:58
3*	Core 10:53-11:38	Core 11:01-11:46	Lunch 11:01-11:28
4*	Exploratory 11:41-12:16	Lunch 11:49-12:16	Core 11:31-12:16
5*	Core 12:19-1:04	Core 12:19-1:04	Exploratory 12:19-12:54
6*	Core 1:07-1:52	Exploratory 1:07-1:42	Core 12:57-1:42
7*	Exploratory 1:55-2:30	Core 1:45-2:30	Core 1:45-2:30

**B. Grading Policy:**

The Austintown Local Schools' grading scale is as follows:  
A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = Below 60

**C. Homework Policy:**

Homework policies have been adopted by the Board of Education. Please refer to board policy for the latest information.

**D. Textbooks:**

The Board of Education furnishes textbooks without cost to the students. As books are issued, the serial number, the date of issue and the condition of the books are recorded by the teacher making the distribution. At the close of the school year, the books are to be returned to the teachers who issued them. Allowing for reasonable use, no fines will be assessed. However, if the book has been abused or lost, fines will be charged accordingly.

**E. Grade Reports:**

Grade reports (report cards) are available on Progress Book at the conclusion of each grading period. Hard copies of report cards are no longer sent home. Parents/guardians are permitted access to Progress Book, which allows for 24/7 supervision of student academic progress.

**F. Progress Book:**

All students and parents/guardians are provided with Progress Book accounts. Parents and students can login daily to view all homework assignments and current grades. AMS staff members will attempt to update grades weekly.

**G. Visitors:**

Students are not permitted to have guests. State law requires that guests enter via the main office and obtain permission from the principal upon entering. Additionally, the Austintown Local Schools will not permit visitors to go beyond the front desk without a state issued photo ID, which will be scanned by school security prior to the visitor receiving access.

If a person wishes to confer with a staff member, he/she should contact the school for an appointment prior to coming to the school in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.

**H. Student Telephone Usage Policy:**

School telephones are available for student use in the case of an emergency. Students requesting to call home for emergency purposes must first receive permission from school staff, school secretary, or school administration. Student cell phone use is not permitted during the school day (7:35 am -2:40 pm). Emergency messages from parents/guardians will be delivered to students via the main office.

**I. Bus Transportation Policy:**

Riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right. Students must abide by all regulations determined by the school bus policy and the bus driver. Questions regarding transportation can be directed to the Transportation Office. See also *Section 7: Transportation* for more information.

**J. Walking to School Policy:**

Students walking to and from school shall obey all local safety rules. Loitering on school grounds before or after school is prohibited. The use of a skateboard is not permitted as transportation to and from school. While walking to and from school, students are prohibited from trespassing on residents' property surrounding the school. Students who trespass may face disciplinary action.

**K. Early Arrival to School Policy:**

AMS students are permitted to enter the building at 7:15 am, but students are not permitted to be in the hallways until 7:20 am. Car riders and walkers who arrive before 7:20 am will report immediately to the cafeteria where they will remain until 7:20 am. Bus riders who get dropped off before 7:20 am AND are not eating breakfast must report to the large gym until 7:20 am.

**L. Counseling Services:**

Counselors are available at each grade level to assist students with educational and personal concerns. School counselors provide an opportunity for students to discuss their thoughts and feelings with a concerned adult in a confidential setting.

AMS School Counselors	Email	Phone
John Hudson 8th Grade Counselor	jHUDSON@austintownschooLS.org	330-797-3900 Ext. 2022
Michele DiMuzio 7th Grade Counselor	MDIMUZIO@austintownschooLS.org	330-797-3900 Ext. 2020
Amanda Krygowski 6th Grade Counselor	AKRYGOWSKI@austintownschooLS.org	330-797-3900 Ext. 2021

**M. Student Valuables:**

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property and should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft. Students are highly encouraged to bring a combination lock for their physical education locker if applicable. Students should also never share their locker combination with other students. The School is not liable for any loss or damage to personal property or valuables.

**N. Lost and Found**

The lost and found area is in the main hallway below the Student Services window. Students who have lost items should check there. Unclaimed items will be discarded or given to charity at the beginning of Winter Break and at the close of the school year. Jewelry, money, and/or electronics should be turned into the front office if found and can be claimed there.

**O. Fees and Student Expenses:**

All fees and student expenses are to be paid in the building in which the student attends. All obligations must be met by the end of the current school year. Students are responsible for asking for a receipt when paying expenses, fees, and other payments.

Course fees apply to the classes below:

Choir: \$5

Industrial Computer Tech (8th grade): \$10

**P. Safety Drills:**

Fire and tornado drills are required by law at regular intervals and are an important safety precaution. When the fire alarm sounds, everyone must promptly and quietly clear the building by the assigned route, which is posted in each classroom. When the tornado alarm sounds during a tornado drill, students are to report to their assigned stations and remain quiet. No one is to return to the building during a fire drill or to a classroom during a tornado drill until the signal is given by the school administration.

**Q. Bullying Policy:**

Harassment, bullying, and intimidation is defined by the Ohio Revised Code as an “**intentional**” written, verbal, graphic, physical or electronic act that a student or group of students exhibited toward the alleged victim **more than once**; and the behavior both causes mental or 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 (O.R.C. 3313.666) and that false reports will result in disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct that may include, but not limited to: detention, suspension, and/or expulsion depending on the circumstances. If you have been the victim, or know of a victim, who is suffering harassment, bullying or intimidation as defined above, please complete a Harassment / Bullying Incident Formal Report. Reports are available on the district website and in each school’s main office and should be turned in to the grade level principal of the victim. If you wish to report anonymously, please use the form on the district website. **The complete Board of Education Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy and the district’s formal reporting form are included at the end of this student handbook.**

**R. FERPA notification:**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days after the day the Austintown Local Schools receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask any Austintown Local School to amend a record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want

changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request].
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Austintown Local Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**See the list below of the disclosures that elementary and secondary schools may make without consent:**

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student:

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors,

consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))

- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student's State (SEA). Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4))
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to §99.38. (§99.31(a)(5))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under §99.37. (§99.31(a)(11))

### **S. Student Birthdays:**

We ask that parents observe the following with regards to student birthdays:

Do not have balloons, flowers or other things sent to the school to be delivered to the child during school time. These will not be delivered to the classroom and balloons are not permitted on the school bus. Food items are not permitted. Birthday invitations may not be handed out to a student's class or their teacher for delivery.

**T. 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 and extracurricular 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 and attendance rules apply to all field trips. Students may be denied participation in field trips if students do not meet established attendance and behavior expectations. Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips. Additionally, students will be denied participation in field trips if they owe outstanding fees to the district.

While the District encourages students to participate in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any eligible student whose parent/guardian does not give permission for the student to attend.

**U. Parent Teacher Conferences:**

Parents who wish to discuss their child's behavior or class work with teachers or school counselors may do so in one of two ways: Parents may schedule an appointment during the established fall conference day or call the student's grade level counselor and schedule a conference with a particular teacher. This is requested in order to avoid conflicts with the previously planned duties of the teacher or counselor.

**V. Enrollment for New and Transfer Students:**

Parents wishing to enroll new or transfer students should report to the Board of Education office. The following documentation must be presented: academic transcripts, report cards, birth certificate, immunization records, proof of custody or court order, and proof of residency in the district. Enrollment will not be processed without these documents.

**W. Withdrawal from School:**

In order to withdraw from school, an official withdrawal form needs to be completed by the custodial parent or guardian. Student withdrawals must be done at the school the student currently attends.

**X. Facility Security**

For the security of the District's students, staff, visitors, school buildings, school grounds, and school equipment in compliance with State and Federal laws, the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment in appropriate public areas in and around the schools and other District facilities, and on school buses may be used.

Metal detectors and video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment on may be used school property in order to protect the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, visitors, and Board property, and other security devices that would assist in the detection of guns and dangerous weapons and/or other unauthorized objects (e.g., vape pens and other prohibited equipment/devices):

- A. in school buildings;
- B. on District property;
- C. at Board-sponsored/controlled events.

## **Section 2: School Clinic Information**

Students who are ill must first get a pass from their classroom teacher before going to the clinic. Failure to follow the correct procedure could result in the student being reported truant from class.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

State law requires a complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form signed by a parent or guardian be on file yearly with the school. Students will not be able to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities without the form being submitted. The Emergency Medical Authorization form is an online form that must be completed using Final Forms at the beginning of each school year. Not having updated information may hinder the care of the student.

Students with specific health care needs should be noted in Final Forms and the school clinic will review and provide services as needed.

### **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the clinic. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the clinic 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 must first get a pass from their classroom teacher before going to the clinic. Failure to follow the correct procedure could result in the student being reported truant from class. If the clinic is closed, the student should report directly to the main office.

An appropriate adult in the clinic will assess the student to determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

All medication should be given at home when possible. The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or if the child is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program. In the event that it is necessary for a student to receive medication during the school day, the following requirements must be met prior to the administration of medication.

**If it is necessary for the medical staff to administer medication during school hours, the following requirements must be met prior to the administration of medication:**

**A. ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION:**

1. A Medication Administration Record (MAR) Form or the appropriate School Action Plan (Asthma, Diabetes, Emergency Allergy, Seizure) must be completed and signed by both the healthcare provider and the parent/guardian.
2. The medication must be brought to the school clinic by the parent /guardian. Students are not permitted to carry or transport an emergency medication (i.e. Inhaler, EpiPen/Diabetes supplies/medications) unless previously authorized by the school, healthcare provider, and parent/guardian.
3. All prescription medication must be labeled appropriately by the pharmacist or healthcare provider and in its original container. The label must state the student's name, dosage, route of administration and time(s) to be taken and must match the Medication Administration Record (MAR).
4. A Medication Documentation Record (MDR) will be maintained noting the personnel administering the medication, as well as the date and the time of day that the medication was administered. This record will be maintained along with the prescriber's written request and the parent's written release.
5. Any change to the medication must be submitted on a new Medication Administration Record (MAR). If a prescriptive medication is to be discontinued, a written note must be provided by the healthcare provider.
6. The first dose of any new medication will not be administered at school in case of an allergic reaction.
7. If a prescriptive medication is to be discontinued, a written note must be provided by the healthcare provider. 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 a school year.
8. It is the student's responsibility (age appropriate) to report to the clinic at the designated time to receive the medication ordered.
9. New medication forms must be submitted for **each** school year and for **each** medication. Parents/guardians must pick-up any unused medication.

**B. ADMINISTRATION OF NON-PRESCRIBED (OVER THE COUNTER) MEDICATION**

Parents may authorize administration of a non-prescribed medication. Physician authorization is not required in such cases.

1. A Medication Administration Record (MAR) must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian.
2. The medication must be brought to the school clinic by the parent /guardian. Students are not permitted to carry or transport medication unless previously authorized by the school, physician, and parent/guardian and is an emergency medication (i.e. Inhaler, EpiPen).
3. All non-prescription medication must be in its original container and labeled with a permanent marker indicating the child's name. Medication not in its original container will not be administered to the student.
4. The recommended dosage on the box of non-prescription medication will be reviewed and compared to the parent/guardian's request. If the dosage exceeds the amount recommended on the medicine container/box, it must be requested by a healthcare provider's order on a Medication Administration Record (MAR).
5. A Medication Documentation Record (MDR) will be maintained noting the personnel administering the medication, as well as the date and the time of day that the medication was administered. This record will be maintained along with the parent's written request/release.
6. Any change to the medication must be submitted on a new Medication Administration Record (MAR).
7. The first dose of any new medication will not be administered at school in case of an allergic reaction.
8. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a medication is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
9. New medication forms must be submitted for **each** school year and for **each** medication. Parents/guardians must pick-up any unused medication.
10. Cough drops will not be given out in the clinics. Clinic staff can use a warm salt-water gargle to ease scratchy throats. Students may bring cough drops to school with a note from the parent/guardian. However, the cough drops, along with the note, will be stored in the clinic.

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 completed and on file in the clinic.

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

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 for authorization. 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 School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

### HEAD LICE

Head lice infestation is a common problem among school-aged children and it is present in every school system. In an effort to control this condition and protect all students, Austintown Local School District maintains a "no live lice" policy to control the spread of head lice among classmates. This means that students will not be admitted to school if there are any visible signs of lice. The current no lice policy will be enforced in the following manner:

1. If a child is found to have lice, the parent/guardian will be called to take the child home and treat the infestation until all lice have been removed. The school will provide information about treatment.
2. The student may return the following day if he/she has been treated and all lice have been removed.
3. Parents/guardians are required to accompany the child when returning to school and the clinic staff will check the child's head. If any live lice are found, the parent/guardian must take the child back home to complete the removal.
4. For a few weeks after the child returns, head checks will be performed to monitor the possibility of reinfestation.

Most parents/guardians successfully treat this health issue, if and when it occurs, with assistance from the school clinic staff. It is in your best interest to work together with the medical assistant in the clinic to help your child return to school as soon as possible. For difficult cases, the school nurse can be consulted.

(Updated 3/13/2023)

**CONTROL OF CASUAL CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The School's professional staff may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific communicable diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, Covid-19, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will be limited to the contagious period as specified in the School's administrative guidelines.

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

The School District has an obligation to protect staff and students from non-casual 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.

Non-casual contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents will 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.

**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 bloodborne 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 situations, 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 clinic. **Students must complete requisite documents (e.g., Form 8453.02 F1 Exposure Report).**

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 local urgent care health service. The student's parents are encouraged to consult with the student's physician concerning any necessary post-exposure treatment.

- The student's parent/guardian 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 local urgent care health service.

- The student's parent/guardian 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.

### IMMUNIZATIONS

In order to minimize the spread of preventable illnesses in schools and to provide students with a healthier learning environment, the Board requires students be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, mumps, and meningococcal A, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements.

**In the event of an outbreak of any of the vaccine preventable life-threatening diseases, any child who does not have the necessary immunizations will be excluded from school for the duration of the outbreak. (Unless you provide a statement, signed by a physician, verifying the student has had the disease in question, the student cannot attend school). This action is necessary to protect your child, the students and staff of the school.**

The Board may also require tuberculosis examinations in compliance with the law.

Students eligible for kindergarten and students new to the district must present written evidence of similar immunizations, or written evidence to indicate they are in the process of receiving immunizations, to be completed no later than the day of entrance. **All students entering the 7th grade will be required to have one dose of meningococcal vaccine** (also known as MCV4, Menveo or Menactra) in addition to **one dose of Tdap** (Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) prior to entry. **Students failing to complete immunizations within 14 days after entering are not permitted to return to school, until proof of receiving immunizations has been received (Section 3313.671 ORC).**

Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the middle school clinic.

### Guidelines for Sick Children

The Austintown Local School District nurses realize there are times when it is in the best interest of your child to keep him/her home from school due to illness. We try to provide a healthy environment for your child, other students and staff members in the school. The goal of the *Guidelines for Sick Children* is to assist you with the decision to keep your child home from school due to illness or infection. **\*\*A note from your physician may be required for your child to return to school if diagnosed with a contagious illness or hospitalized due to an illness.**

#### Students should not attend school if:

- **The student has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.** The student may return to school after having a normal temperature for at least 24 hours without the aid of any fever-reducing medications (ex. Tylenol or Motrin). For example, if his/her temperature is lower because you have given a fever-reducing medication, it is not yet OK to send your child.
- **Antibiotics are prescribed.** The student may return to school a minimum of 24 hours after taking the antibiotics and temperature is normal without taking any fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours (for example, Strep Throat).
- **The student is vomiting.** The student may return to school approximately 24 hours after the last vomiting episode and is able to tolerate a normal diet.
- **The student has diarrhea.** The student may return to school approximately 24 hours after the last diarrhea episode and is able to tolerate a normal diet.
- **The student has an undiagnosed rash.** A rash may indicate contagious illness. Therefore, a student will be excluded from school until a physician/nurse practitioner evaluates and determines the nature of the rash. A note is required from the physician/nurse practitioner upon return to school.
- **The student has a communicable disease or illness.** (Ex: Pink eye, Influenza, Pneumonia, Strep Throat, Chicken Pox, Impetigo, Scabies). A note from your physician may be required for your child to return to school if diagnosed with a contagious illness or hospitalized due to an illness.
- **The student has severe cold symptoms, upper respiratory infection, a persistent cough, a runny nose that they cannot manage by themselves and/or contain with tissues, or other symptoms that interfere with or affect school participation.**
- **Your child seems tired/lethargic, pale, or has a poor appetite.** Some viral illnesses may take longer before your child is well enough to return to school.

### **Section 3: Food Service Information**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION IS UPDATED YEARLY IN THE SUMMER. EXPECT CHANGES OR UPDATED INFORMATION, WHICH WILL BE COMMUNICATED AFTER JULY 1ST ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.**

FOLLOW US [@AFFoodServices](#)

The Austintown Schools Food Service Department is a self-funded entity. Our success comes from your support!

#### **Contact Information**

Food Service Director: Alexis Weber, RDN, SNS

Food Service Office Coordinator: Cindy Todd - ext 1315 (general information)

Food Service Tech: Stephanie Pavlich - ext 1316 (meal accounts and meal benefits)

Phone: (330) 797-3900 ext. 1315

Email: [AFFoodServices@austintownschools.org](mailto:AFFoodServices@austintownschools.org)

Website: [AFFoodServices.com](http://AFFoodServices.com)

Facebook: Follow us [@AFFoodServices](#)

LINQ Connect Online Meal Payments: [LINQConnect.com](http://LINQConnect.com)

**Please visit our website [AFFoodServices.com](http://AFFoodServices.com) for further information**

#### **Student Meal Accounts**

Each student in the Austintown School District has a student ID number and meal account that is created during the enrollment process. This number can be obtained through Progress Book or by contacting your building secretary. Students will enter their student ID number on a keypad to access their account in the cafeteria. AES and AIS students will also be enrolled into our biometrics finger scanning system and can choose to scan or use the keypad. Please visit our website for more information on biometrics. To opt out of biometrics, please contact our office.

#### **NEW for 2024-2025 – FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS Community Eligibility Provision**

We are pleased to inform you that school breakfast and lunch meals will be **FREE** for all students beginning this 2024-2025 school year. New changes to the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs have afforded us the opportunity to offer all meals at **NO COST for all students** for 2024-2025.

No action is needed for your student(s) to participate and receive free school meals. Students can simply come through the meal service line to receive one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal each school day. Extras and a la carte items are still available for purchase.

Academic fee waivers will still be available via an Income Form or Direct Certification letter. Should your family normally qualify for free or reduced priced meal benefits, we do encourage you to complete an Income Form, **after July 1st 2024**.

Income Forms can be completed at <https://lingconnect.com/>.

If eligible, Income Forms and Direct Certification through the state can be used to waive school fees. Income Forms also help us provide programming throughout our district. **Filling out an Income Form will have no impact on your student receiving free meals. Free meals are available to all students regardless of an Income Form being completed.**

Once the Income Form is processed, the Food Services Office will notify you via postal mail detailing the results of your Income Form. Please save this letter for your records. NOTE: Income Forms submitted during the summer will be processed in August, before school begins.

If you have any further questions, please contact Stephanie Pavlich at 330-797-3900 ext. 1316.

### **Making Cafeteria Purchases & Account Restrictions**

We serve any student that presents in the lunch line. Only complete meals are free at breakfast and lunch, so we encourage students to select enough meal options to make a complete meal.

We do sell extras and a la carte items for purchase at an additional cost. Students are able to purchase whatever they choose, even in grades K-2, as we do not limit what your child can purchase or how much they spend. Contact Food Services directly if you wish to restrict or control what purchases are made on your student's meal account, (330) 797-3900 ext. 1315.

### **Menus and Pricing**

Each student is allowed one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal each school day. Students may choose to purchase a second meal if they wish. The prices below represent the cost of second meals and milk purchased a la carte. Additional a la carte pricing can be found on our website at [AFFoodServices.com](http://AFFoodServices.com).

#### **2024-2025 Meal Prices (subject to change)**

<b><u>School</u></b>	<b><u>Lunch</u></b>	<b><u>2nd Lunch</u></b>	<b><u>Breakfast</u></b>	<b><u>2nd Breakfast</u></b>	<b><u>Milk</u></b>
Fitch High School	Free	\$3.25/\$4.00	Free	\$2.00	\$0.50
Middle School	Free	\$3.00	Free	\$2.00	\$0.50
Intermediate School	Free	\$3.00	Free	\$2.00	\$0.50
Elementary School	Free	\$3.00	Free	\$2.00	\$0.50

Each school has a monthly menu while considering age appropriate options and variety. Lunch and breakfast prices are based on a complete meal (see Offer vs. Serve). While we have a featured hot entree each day, every building offers many different entree options each day for students to choose from. There is always something available that your student will like. Please see your school's menu for more information.

Visit [AFFoodServices.com](http://AFFoodServices.com), on your computer or smartphone, to access monthly breakfast and lunch menus. Online menus are interactive and display nutrition and allergen information by simply hovering over or selecting menu items. You can also have the menus emailed to you monthly by signing up for the Going Green Menus option on our website.

**Offer vs. Serve**

The USDA recognizes 5 food groups important at each meal: grains, meat/meat alternatives, fruit, vegetable, and dairy. Each of our schools participates in Offer vs. Serve, where our students select each component of the meal they want instead of our staff serving the whole meal. Students must select at least 3 components (with at least one fruit/vegetable component) to create a complete meal. We offer several different selections of each meal component for students to choose from. Our staff is here to guide students on selecting a complete meal.

**Meal Account Information and Payments**

[LINQConnect.com](http://LINQConnect.com)

We encourage parents to create a free LINQConnect account to access student meal accounts, set low balance email and text alerts, and view transaction history. Parents can use LINQConnect to add funds to your student meal accounts (there is a processing fee).

We also accept cash or check payments in the meal service line. You can send cash or check in a sealed envelope labeled with your student ID number and full name to their school cafeteria. Make checks payable to the school cafeteria, for example: AES Cafeteria.

**Food Allergies**

*Please see our Food Allergy Information Form on our website.*

Promptly complete the Food Allergy & Intolerance Information form on Final Forms for all your students. This instantaneously notifies the Food Service Office of your student's food allergies, which will be marked on your student's meal account. We do not receive this information from the clinic. Food preferences and substitutions are not observed. Each cafeteria offers several menu choices for our students for each meal component. Please call our office to discuss the specific allergies of your student.

## **Section 4: Student Dress Code Policy: (Grades 6-12)**

The purpose for implementing this student dress code policy for students in grades 6 through 12 is to strengthen the learning environment for classroom instruction and academic performance, prevent disruption to the educational process, prevent distraction to students, staff and the educational process, facilitate learning, increase the atmosphere for school pride and personal appearance, and enhance the image of students and the schools in the Austintown community.

This dress code policy shall be in effect during the regular school year and during any summer educational programming.

As discussed below, parents who believe that their child cannot comply with the dress code because of religious beliefs or religious dress must submit a written request for exemption with an explanation of how the religious belief/religion prevents compliance with the policy to the school principal at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

### **General**

Attire that is not in compliance with this dress code policy is not permitted. In addition to the clothing items expressly prohibited under this policy, principals and the school administration have discretion to address any attire that is offensive, degrading, vulgar, contrary to the educational mission of the school, disrupting the learning environment or that infringes upon the rights of others.

All clothing must be of appropriate size and fit neatly. Any clothing that is too tight, revealing or saggy/baggy, including but not limited to low necklines, midriff tops and form-fitting tops or bottoms, are not permitted.

Backpacks of any kind, including mini backpacks, totes and drawstring gym sacks are not permitted to be used or worn during school hours. Bags are permissible for transporting books and gym clothing to and from school but must be secured in lockers during normal school hours. Lunch containers are permitted for appropriate usage during lunch and breakfast times in the cafeteria.

### **A. Hair:**

Hair styles which are disruptive/distracting to the educational process or pose a safety hazard are not permitted.

### **B. Jewelry and Accessories:**

1. Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not to be worn to school. This includes, but is not limited to, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, spiked dog collars, chained wallets, two or three finger rings that are connected and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist.
2. Chains and sharp objects such as spikes are not allowed on clothing or book bags.
3. No head coverings are permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, sweatbands, skull caps, sunglasses, headsets or any other head covering. Combs, rakes or picks should not be worn in the hair. Exception requests, including those based upon religious beliefs, must be made in

writing to the school principal along with an explanation of how the religious belief/religion prevents compliance with the ban on head coverings at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance where practicable.

4. Body piercing (other than permissible types of ear piercing and nose piercing) and displaying jewelry in areas such as the eyebrows, lips and tongue are not permitted.
5. Stretching of the mouth/lips/and/or earlobe as well as the following types of earrings, ear/body jewelry and ear/body piercing are not permitted: flesh tunnels, flesh plugs, ear/lip stretchers, ear/lip expanders, ear/lip stretchers and similar ear/lip stretching devices or jewelry.

### **C. Gang-Affiliated Attire/Accessories:**

A gang, as defined in this policy means any organization, association or group of three or more which has a unique name or identifiable signs, symbols or marks, and whose members individually or collectively engage in criminal or violent behavior to persons or property, or who create an unreasonable and substantial disruption or risk of disruption of a class, activity, program or other function of a school.

Any gang attire, symbols, signs or other things which are evidence of membership in, or affiliation with, recruitment or desire to be affiliated with any gang are prohibited. Gang related attire/accessories include but are not limited to the following:

1. Any article of clothing bearing gang symbols, names, initials, insignia or anything else that signals gang affiliation;
2. students rolling up one pant leg;
3. long bulky chains and necklaces, gang style belt buckles, large oversized pendants on necklaces and chains and
4. draping articles of clothing, towels or other objects out of pant pockets or over the shoulder or neck area.

As gang styles and clothing continually evolve and change, additional styles and apparel may be considered gang-affiliated, as identified in consultation with school officials and law enforcement authorities.

### **D. Tops:**

All tops must cover the chest, stomach, back and shoulders.

Crop tops and see-through fabric shirts such as loose knits, lace, and burnout fabric must have a shirt underneath to cover areas of exposed skin.

Tank tops, bare shoulder tops, and open back tops cannot be worn unless another shirt is worn under top to cover areas of exposed skin.

**E. Bottoms:**

All bottoms must be worn at the waist. The waist is defined as the area between the bottom of the rib cage and top of the hip bone. Wearing bottoms which expose skin or undergarments or wearing oversize/draping baggy style pants is prohibited. No sagging is permitted.

Yoga pants, leggings, or other stretch knits and/or spandex bottoms are permitted only with a shirt that falls below the waist and buttocks.

The hemline on shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses and jumpers must extend to the mid-thigh region.

Students are not permitted to wear pajama bottoms or pajama bottom-style pants.

Jeans or pants that have holes from the mid-thigh region to the waist must be worn with something underneath that is not "see through" such as leggings. Nude colored nylons are not acceptable.

**F. Footwear:**

Students are permitted to wear any style of footwear, made of canvas, plastic, rubber, leather, fake/faux leather or leather-like synthetic compound with either a rubber sole or leather sole, which includes: dress shoes, casual shoes, athletic shoes, boots and closed-toe sandals. Footwear may have a back or be in nature. Boots may extend no higher than the bottom of the knee.

"Open-toe" footwear, flip flops, or slides of any kind of material (leather, transparent plastic, rubber, wood, etc.) are strictly prohibited. Flip flops are defined as flat and backless consisting of a flat sole held loosely on the foot by a Y-shaped or V-shaped strap, like a thin thong, that passes between the first (big) and second toes and around either side of the foot. Slides are defined as flat and backless consisting of a flat sole held loosely on the foot by an across-the-foot strap. Shower shoes are strictly prohibited. Shower shoes are defined as those meant to be used near pools, bathrooms, or other wet places, and are made of plastic or rubber. Shoes with wheels are strictly prohibited.

**G. Dress Code Exceptions:**

Exceptions to the dress code shall include the following:

1. Students participating in a nationally recognized youth organization (such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts) may wear their uniforms on those days such organizations have a scheduled function.
2. Other exceptions are made only upon the prior approval (with at least 24 hours advance approval where practicable) of the building principal. Such exception requests must be made in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance where practicable and must include a reason/explanation for the request.

**H. Religious Exemptions:**

Requests for exemptions from the dress code based upon one's religion or religious beliefs, including an explanation of why the religion/religious belief prevents compliance with the dress code, must be made at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance where practicable in writing to the principal.

**I. Dress Code Violation:**

This dress code policy shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct and any other student handbooks or discipline policies. Principals are responsible for ensuring that the dress code policy is implemented and enforced.

Students who violate this dress code policy shall generally be progressively disciplined unless circumstances warrant otherwise. **Any time a student violates the dress code policy, he/she will be required to promptly change into alternative acceptable clothing or otherwise promptly correct the violation. Students who cannot promptly correct the dress code violation, or who refuse to do so, may be sent to In-School Restriction or home at the discretion of school administration.**

Additionally, a student's first dress code violation will result in a warning being issued to the student with the student's parents/guardians being notified of the warning unless circumstances warrant more severe discipline. Repeated violations may result in other disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct, which may include, but not be limited to, detention, in-school restriction, suspension and/or expulsion depending on the circumstances.

## **Section 5: Student Attendance Guidelines and Procedures:**

A child between six and eighteen years of age is "of compulsory school age" for the purpose of sections 3321.01 to 3321.13 of the Revised Code. 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).

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 his/her 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 / HABITUAL TRUANCY**

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is not acceptable.

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. Habitual truancy can also result in:

- ***An absence intervention plan***
- ***Provide counseling to the student***
- ***Request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program***
- ***Request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program***
- ***Take appropriate legal action***
- ***Assignment to an alternative school***

## TYPES OF ABSENCES

As a result of House Bill 410 and in accordance with Board policy, student absences fall into two distinct categories:

### 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:

- Personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- Appointment with a health care provider
- Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- Quarantine of the home
- Death in the family
- Necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- 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.
- Such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
- Medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751
- Service as a precinct officer at a primary, special or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy 5725
- College visitation
  - The District requires verification of the date and time of the visitation by the college, university, or technical college.
- 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
- Absences due to a student being homeless

### 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. (Please refer also to "Truancy" in this handbook.)

### NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

If a student will be absent, the parents must notify the School at (330) 797-3900 within 120 minutes of the beginning of the school day and provide an explanation. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written excuse within 5 school days 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 may not be permitted to make-up missed class work. The student may 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.

**Within 120 minutes after the beginning of each 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 by:**

- **An automated telephone call via a system that includes verification that each call was actually placed, and either the call was answered by its intended recipient or a voice mail message was left by the automated system relaying the required information and/or**
- **A text-based communication sent to the parent's, guardian's, or other person's electronic wireless communications device;**

### EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

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

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

**A medically excused absence occurs any time a student is out of school due to illness or medical visit (physician, dentist, mental health, etc.). A medical excuse for personal illness will be accepted in the form of a doctor's note within five (5) school days of the absence. A student may have up to five (5) medically excused absences without a doctor’s note, but with a written note from a parent/guardian. This policy will be extended beyond five (5) days if the student or someone in the student’s family is in quarantine due to recognized pandemic/epidemic (e.g., COVID-19) or experiencing symptoms of the pandemic/epidemic.**

### HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

The School may arrange for individual instruction at home for students who are unable to attend school 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 principal/guidance counselors.

### MAKE-UP OF 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 their teachers 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 should make arrangements with the teacher to take the test at another time. If s/he misses a State-mandated assessment test or other standardized test, the student should consult with their guidance counselors to arrange for administration of the test at another time.

### **HOMEWORK REQUEST GUIDELINES**

If an absence of three (3) consecutive days or more results due to illness, assignments may be requested by emailing the student's teacher or logging into the student's Google Classroom account.

### **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 teachers beginning with the first day of suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns from school.

Students will be given the opportunity to make-up work missed due to suspension. The make-up work must be completed and presented to the teacher upon his/her return to school. Tests missed during the period of suspension may be made up by the students by contacting the teacher on the day of his/her return to school. The teacher, at his/her convenience, may administer the test or assign alternate written work in lieu of the test missed. The student will be given at least partial credit for properly-completed assignments and will receive a grade for any made-up tests.

### **EARLY EXCUSAL**

When an emergency situation arises which cannot be scheduled at another time, a student may be excused for part of a day. A matter of convenience is not to be interpreted as an emergency situation.

Parents are responsible to send notice, including the name and telephone number of the licensed practitioner or other party involved; a note signed by the custodial parent containing the same information is acceptable. Otherwise, the parent or guardian must make a request in person.

Students should present the notice to the Attendance Office immediately upon arrival to school, or the excusal may be denied.

To reflect the changes in the law per HB 410 and the obligations of the school district, early excusals are considered "hours" towards absences. The amount of time missed due to early excusals will contribute to the total absence hours and potentially cause a student to be a habitual truant.

### **VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

It is recommended that parents not take their child out of school for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents should discuss the matter with the Principal to make necessary arrangements. It may be possible for the student to receive certain assignments that may be completed during the trip.

**TARDINESS TO SCHOOL**

Tardiness to school contributes to loss of instructional time, which can adversely impact student achievement. Students arriving after the 1st period bell are considered tardy to school. If a student is late arriving at school, s/he must report to the Attendance Office before going to his/her first assigned location.

<i># of Unexcused Tardies (Each 9-Weeks)</i>	<i>Interventions</i>
8	(1) Detention
10	Saturday School
12+	The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.

*The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.*

## **Section 6: Student Code of Conduct**

Under the Student Code of Conduct, applicable Board policy, and administrative guidelines, the term "school" refers to all instances when a student is under the authority of the school; the term "property" refers not only to school-owned property but to any property, public or private, which may be damaged during the period when the student is under the authority of the school. The rules and standards set forth apply to misconduct on school premises, or on school buses or any other school vehicle, or involving school property, or at any school-sponsored event/function, or within sight of school premises and connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property. The rules and standards also apply to any misconduct, regardless of where it occurs, that is directed at a district employee or Board official or the property of such employee or Board Official. Students are considered to be subject to the authority of the school when they are on school buses or any other school vehicle or at school related or school sponsored events even though those activities may not take place at an actual school. Some examples include athletic meets and games, field trips, contests, and concerts. Offenses, which occur at such events, will be subject to the same penalties as offenses that occur in school.

### **Austintown Local School's Student Responsibility and Discipline**

Each individual who attends Austintown Local Schools will be offered many opportunities to exercise self-control and respond to individual responsibilities. School discipline policies are applicable to all students if the prohibited act(s) take place during a school activity, function, or any such school-sponsored event/function; while on property immediately adjacent to or within the line of sight of school property; on school buses or other vehicles; off of property owned or controlled by the Board of Education but that is connected to activities that occurred on school property; misconduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or his/her property; or misconduct that affects the operation of the school.

Austintown Local Schools maintain a zero tolerance policy for violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, including excessive truancy, menacing and harassment, whether verbal, physical, electronic or written. Appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken if necessary. Any violation may result in disciplinary action, such as detention, deprivation of privileges, parental contact, referral to legal authorities, emergency removal, in-school restriction, home referral, out of school suspension, and expulsion from school.

#### **A. Academic Dishonesty:**

A student shall not engage in any act of cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, the removal and/or alteration of any school record. Plagiarism and cheating will be addressed in a confidential manner and parent/guardian will be notified by the classroom teacher. Any infraction of this policy will result in disciplinary action and academic consequences.

#### **B. Alcohol, Drugs, Nicotine Products, & Associated Paraphernalia:**

Policy- The Austintown Local School District recognizes its responsibility in providing an environment conducive to the development of students to their maximum level of learning. Behaviors related to alcohol and drug abuse disrupt the educational environment for all within the classroom or school. Through this policy, we hope to maintain a balance of compassion for anyone suffering from alcohol and drug abuse and also protect the educational integrity of our schools. It is mandatory that students be in compliance with the standards of

conduct set forth in this policy. Failure to comply with the rules pertaining to the possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or other intoxicants, including steroids and/or counterfeit (look-alike drugs), and drug paraphernalia at school or as a part of any school activity or while under the authority of the school will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion. The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.

**Tobacco/Tobacco-Like Product/Nicotine:**

The use, possession, consumption, purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco products or tobacco substitute products or paraphernalia in a school building (owned, leased or contracted for by the Board), on school premises, on or near a school campus, a school bus or other vehicle, or at any Board-sponsored event or at any sanctioned school activities on or off the school campus is prohibited. Tobacco products or paraphernalia include, but are not limited to: cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other matter or substances that contain tobacco, papers used to roll cigarettes, tobacco substitutes and/or electronic “vapor” or other substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes, or other lighted smoking devices for burning tobacco or any other substance.

**Tobacco/Nicotine:**

A student shall not possess, smoke, or otherwise make use of tobacco of any kind in the school building, on school buses, at school sponsored activities, or on school property at any time. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and/or expulsion. The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.

**Narcotics, Alcohol, Drugs, and Paraphernalia:**

A student shall not use, sell or distribute, possess, buy, or help broker or facilitate the sale or exchange of, be under the influence of, or smell of, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or narcotics on school property or at any school sponsored event at any time. A student shall not use, possess, offer to sell, distribute or help broker or facilitate the sale or exchange of counterfeit or look-alike drugs. Possession of any type of drug paraphernalia is similarly prohibited. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and/or expulsion. Law enforcement will be notified as appropriate. The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences. Solely at the discretion of the administration, discipline, in part, may be waived for alcohol violations if the student successfully completes a professional program/assessment by a certified alcoholism-counseling agency at the family’s expense

**Prescription or Nonprescription Drugs:**

A student shall not use, sell or distribute, buy or possess prescription or nonprescription drugs without following the procedures for use of such drugs at school. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and/or expulsion. Law enforcement will be notified as appropriate.

### Vaping/Nicotine Intervention and Discipline

The AMS administrative team plans to use a range of intervention/discipline strategies when addressing student using any form of vape/nicotine products

First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Possible Suspension	Possible suspension	Suspension
Education session with vape/nicotine specialist	Required Austintown PD/JJS involvement	Meeting with the Superintendent

#### **C. Assault:**

A student shall not engage in deliberate or reckless attempt to cause, or the actual causing of, physical pain or injury to another or the deliberate or reckless attempt by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent physical pain or injury. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion. Law enforcement will be notified as appropriate.

#### **D. Computer Use Violation:**

Students are encouraged to use school computers/network and the Internet connection for teacher assigned, educational work. Unauthorized computer usage is prohibited. Failure to use computers/network for authorized educational work only will result in disciplinary action. All students must have a signed Acceptable Use Policy form in order to use school computers. All students must also adhere to the Student Electronic Device Guidelines. See Section 6, Electronic Device Guidelines, for more information and discipline consequences.

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#### **E. Display of Affection:**

Public display of affection is considered inappropriate conduct. A student shall not exhibit inappropriate display of affection in school buildings, on school property, on school buses, or while in attendance at school-sponsored events. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, warning issued, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

#### **F. Disruption of Educational Process:**

Students shall not by use of violence, noise, threat, intimidation, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption or any lawful mission, process, or function of the school. Neither shall they engage in such conduct for the purpose of causing the disruption of the school if such a disruption or obstruction is reasonably certain to result.

Students shall also not urge other students to engage in such conduct for the purpose of causing the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school if a substantial and material disruption is reasonably certain to result from their urging.

Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**G. Distribution or Sale of Unauthorized Materials:**

A student shall not distribute or sell unauthorized materials on school property. Unauthorized materials are defined as any material goods, literature, pictures, food items, or any other objects/items that are not approved first by the administration. This policy includes the sale or distribution of information. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**H. Fighting/Physical Exchange:**

A student shall not engage in any fight, hit, punch, kick, push, physical confrontation or engage in any other act of violence or force that causes harm or threatens to cause harm to another person. A student shall not instigate or encourage fighting.

If a student, who is engaged in a fight, and, in the course of fighting, strikes, pushes, and/or physically restrains a staff member who is attempting to intervene, such actions may be regarded as a separate violation, specifically an assault and may result in a police report and appropriate disciplinary consequences. In such instances, the staff member retains the right to pursue legal remedies in the civil and criminal courts independent of the actions(s) taken by the school district. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**I. Fireworks, Explosives, Incendiary Devices:**

Students shall not possess, handle, transport, sell, conceal, use, or threaten use of, ignite, or explode fireworks/explosives/incendiary devices of any kind while on school-owned premises, at school-related functions off school grounds, on a school bus, or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. These are considered destructive devices and weapons (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Sections 921-924.), which includes but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas; bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce; mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to in-school restriction, out of school suspension, and expulsion.

**J. Forgery/False Impersonations:**

A student shall not make false accusations or give false information on any school forms or correspondence or other communications directed to the school or school personnel. This includes forging names on passes, excuses or notes and impersonating a school official in written or electronic form on or off campus. Impersonating a faculty member in writing, electronically, and in all forms of communication, including online and social networks, is prohibited. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**K. Hazing (Initiations):**

Initiations of any sort are prohibited. Initiations and/or hazing are those activities into which students are coerced in order to become part of a group or activity to avoid harm. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**L. Horseplay:**

Horseplay includes any actions by a student that unintentionally endangers another student or students, and/or form of rough play between two or more students. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**M. Inducing Panic:****Threats (explicit or implied)-**

Students shall not threaten any other student or staff member in the school setting. This will also include before and after school activities. If an individual believes he or she has been threatened by another member of the school community, they should report it immediately to a principal, school counselor or teacher. School administration will then investigate the situation as necessary. Parents will be informed as needed. Should the accused party be proven as an offender, appropriate action will be taken. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, for students, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**“Hit List”-**

No students shall induce panic or otherwise cause serious public inconvenience or alarm by or making a false “hit list.” Threatening to commit an offense of violence, as that term is defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.01 (A) (9). Examples include, but are not limited to, threatening to kill, assault, kidnap, rape, or rob someone. Committing any offense with reckless disregard of the likelihood that its commission will cause serious public inconvenience or alarm. For purposes of this policy, reckless disregard means disregarding a known risk that the student’s conduct is likely to cause serious public inconvenience or alarm, and being heedlessly indifferent to the effects on others the action taken by the student.

**Threats Made Outside of School-**

If a threat was made by a student to another student or staff member outside of school hours, but results in a substantial disruption or induces panic during school hours, the student may be subject to discipline. Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.01 (A) (9) examples include, but are not limited to, threatening to kill, assault, kidnap, rape, or rob someone, to commit extortion, to provoke a riot, to commit arson, or to discharge a firearm at or into a school. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, for students, but is not limited to out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**Bomb Threat, False Alarm-**

No students shall induce panic, cause the evacuation of any school building or otherwise cause serious public inconvenience or alarm by: Initiating or circulating a report or warning of an alleged or impending fire,

explosion, crime, or other catastrophe, knowing that such a report or warning is false. Examples include, but are not limited to, pulling a fire alarm when the student knows there is no fire or making a bomb threat when the student knows that there is no bomb. Threatening to commit an offense of violence, as that term is defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.01 (A) (9). Examples include, but are not limited to, threatening to kill, assault, kidnap, rape, or rob someone, to commit extortion, to provoke a riot, to commit arson, or to discharge a firearm at or into a school. Committing any offense with reckless disregard of the likelihood that its commission will cause serious public inconvenience or alarm. For purposes of this policy, reckless disregard means disregarding a known risk that the student's conduct is likely to cause serious public inconvenience or alarm, and being heedlessly indifferent to the effects on others of the action taken by the student. Under Ohio law, any person who "induces panic" is guilty of a felony, regardless of whether anyone is hurt or their school suffers economic harm.

**N. Insubordination/Defiance/Uncooperative Behavior:**

Students are expected to comply with the directions of teachers, substitute teachers, school aides, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, principals or other authorized school personnel in a spirit of cooperation and courtesy. Refusing to follow a reasonable request to a specific direction/instruction of an adult through disobedience, defiance, unruliness or noncompliance which includes, but is not limited to, walking away when adult is talking, talking back to an adult, refusal to work in class, refusal to report to the office, repeated misbehavior after warning, or refusal to turn over electronic communication devices to school personnel when requested. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**O. Intimidation / Harassment / Bullying** – *(a full copy of the district's anti-harassment and bullying policy is contained at the end of this handbook).*

In accordance with section 3313.666 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Austintown Local School District strictly prohibits harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student including on school property, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored event. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means either-**

- a. Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student has exhibited towards another particular student more than once and the behavior both:
  - i. Causes mental or physical harm to the other student or staff members
  - ii. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student.
- b. violence within a dating relationship.

**Electronic act** - means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device. Students found responsible for harassment, intimidation, or bullying through written, verbal, physical, or electronic acts can be administered discipline consequences ranging from, but not limited to detention, suspension, expulsion and/or the involvement of local authorities.

**False Reports**

In accordance with section 3313.666 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Austintown Local Schools strictly prohibits students from deliberately making false reports of harassment, bullying, and/or intimidation. Students who deliberately make a false report may be subject to discipline consequences ranging from, but not limited to, detention, suspension, expulsion and/or the involvement of local authorities.

**P. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence:**

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 principals. Failure to report such knowledge may be subject to student discipline including, but not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**Q. Leaving School Grounds:**

Leaving the school building or grounds, unless as a function of a supervised school activity or with administrative permission, is prohibited. Students are to remain in the building for the time of arrival until the official time of dismissal. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**R. Misconduct at School Assemblies and During-School Activities:**

A variety of programs will be offered for the benefit of students, including pep assemblies, educational assemblies, and entertaining assemblies. Some will be open to all, others to restricted groups of relevance, depending on the nature of the program. Attendance at all school assemblies and school-related activities is a privilege, not a right. All students are expected to conduct themselves so as to show respect for the participants and others in the audience. Failure to comply with all school rules will mean ejection and restriction from future assemblies or activities.

**S. Misconduct at School Functions and After-School Activities:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner so they do not bring discredit to themselves, their families, our school, or our community. Inappropriate conduct such as booing, rowdiness, physical confrontation, disrespect for officials, or refusal to follow instructions or directions will not be tolerated at home or away events. Students will be removed from school functions/after-school activities, no refund will be given and denied admittance thereafter for not cooperating fully with school officials and officers of the law. Suspended or expelled students are not permitted to attend any school activity or event if at home or away. School officials have the same authority over students at after-school activities or functions as they have during a regular school day. Additional disciplinary action may be issued as well including, but not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**T. Nuisance or Hazardous Items:**

Any item that, in the judgment of administration, disrupts, interferes with, or poses a safety hazard to the educational environment, is prohibited. Items may include, but are not limited to, whistles, laser pointers, balls or other toys, extreme hot pepper food items, spike jewelry, chain accessories, dog collars. Items will be held in the office and may require a parent to pick them up. Students may be subject to disciplinary action.

**U. Pornography:**

Possession, distribution, sharing, or viewing sexually explicit material is strictly prohibited. Such actions may also constitute a criminal offense. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion. Law enforcement will be notified as appropriate.

**V. Profane, Obscene or Vulgar Language/Gestures:**

A student shall not use profane, obscene or vulgar language or gestures while under the authority of the school, while on school grounds, school buses or vehicles, or while engaged in or present at any school sponsored event or activity. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**W. Rioting /Conspiracy to Riot:**

A student shall not cause any disruption of any classroom or school activity or the operation of the school or the educational process and shall not engage in any act that is potentially harmful to the health, welfare and safety of the student himself/herself, other students or staff. This shall include the incitement of others toward acts of disruption. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**X. Searches of Lockers, School Property, Personal Belongings, or Person:**

Administrators may search a student or his/her property (including purses, backpacks, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or school rules.

Student lockers are the property of the District and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other District property including desks or other containers. School authorities may conduct random searches of the lockers, and their contents, at any time without announcement.

Unannounced and random canine searches may also be conducted.

**Y. Sexual Harassment Policy:**

Inappropriate displays of affection or sexual conduct will not be tolerated. There can be no acceptance or tolerance in the school setting for inappropriate, unwelcome and at times vulgar or illegal harassment or advances of a sexual or other nature. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1. Sexual flirtation, touching, advances, or propositions or pressure to engage in sexual activity.
2. Verbal or physical abuse of a sexual nature.
3. Graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's clothing or body or otherwise graphic or suggestive comments.
4. The use of sexual degrading words to describe an individual.
5. Displaying sexually aggressive objects or photographs.
6. Exposing private parts to another individual.
7. Sexually explicit or obscene jokes.

If a student believes he or she is a victim of such actions by another member of the school community, they should report it immediately to a principal, guidance counselor or teacher. The principal or assistant principal

should be contacted if the original referral was not made there. School administration will then investigate the situation as necessary. Parents will be informed as needed. Should the accused party be proven as an offender, appropriate action will be taken. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, for students, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

### **Z. Skipping Class:**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Skipping class includes, but is not limited to skipping an entire class, showing up more than 5 minutes late to class, leaving class without permission, or missing a large portion of class without a reasonable and verifiable excuse.

Students who violate the Skipping Class Policy shall generally be progressively disciplined in accordance with the progression set forth below unless circumstances warrant otherwise. The following discipline is cumulative per year and per course, but administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.

#### **Progression of Discipline for Skipping Class**

# of Times Skipping Class	Interventions
1	1 day in School Restriction (ISR)
2	2 days in School Restriction (ISR)
3 and beyond	Out of School Suspension

*The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.*

### **AA. Tardy to Class**

Students must be in class by the official start time of each class period, which includes Falcon Period and lunch. If a student arrives late to class, without a pass, he/she will be considered tardy to class. The following progression of discipline will be followed: Students who violate the Tardy to Class Policy shall generally be progressively disciplined in accordance with the progression set forth below unless circumstances warrant otherwise. The following discipline is cumulative per semester and per course, but administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.

#### **Progression of Discipline for Tardy to Class**

# of Unexcused Tardies to Class	Interventions
3	Teacher-assigned detention
4	In School Restriction (ISR)
5 and beyond	Referral to grade level principal

*The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.*

**BB. Theft:**

Students shall respect the personal ownership rights of others. In addition to imposing discipline, school administration may report theft(s) to local authorities. Theft is the unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**CC. Theft- Knowingly Receiving or Possessing Stolen Property:**

Receiving or possessing property of another person, without their knowledge or consent is considered theft and is subject to disciplinary action. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**DD. Trespassing:**

Although schools are public facilities, the law allows the Board to restrict access to school property. Being present in any Board-owned facility or portion of a Board-owned facility when it is closed to the public or when the student does not have authorization to be there; or unauthorized presence in a Board-owned vehicle; or unauthorized access or activity on a Board-owned computer, into district, school, staff or computer files, into a district or district file server, or into the network, 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 from the principal.

**EE. Weapons:**

A student shall not use, possess, handle, transmit, sell or conceal any object that can be classified as a weapon or dangerous instrument while on school-owned premises, at school-related functions off school grounds, on a school bus, or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. Weapons and dangerous instruments include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, metal knuckles, laser pointers, straight razors, explosives, noxious irritants, pepper spray, poisons, and other dangerous substances, along with any item that is a "look alike" of any of the above, or any object which is used or may be used to inflict physical harm. "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 18 U.S.C.A. Sections 921-924.). The definition of a "knife" includes, but is not limited to a cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, for students, but is not limited to, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**FF. Weapons- 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. Committing such an offense will result in disciplinary action with a range of application based on the severity of the offense and can include, but is not limited to, detention, in-school restriction, out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

**GG. Vandalism/Abuse of School Property and School Facilities:**

All students have the opportunity to use textbooks, computers, library materials, school furnishings, school equipment and many other items, without charge. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage, destruction or defacement to either school property or private property on school premises or during school activities conducted on school grounds or at any school sponsored event or connected activity regardless as to where it occurs. Any person destroying, defacing or otherwise causing damage to school property or school facilities may be disciplined including but not limited to being suspended or expelled from school. In addition, full retribution for actual value of damaged, destroyed or stolen items will be expected.

#### **HH. Violation of Federal or State Statutes:**

Students shall not violate federal or state statutes, rules, or regulations on school premises or at school activities, including, but not limited to, required immunizations.

#### **II. Violation of a Law of the State of Ohio:**

While students are under the auspices of the Austintown Local Schools, violation of State Law will be handled through the school and/or the appropriate legal authorities, as appropriate to the circumstances

### **Consequences and Disciplinary Actions:**

#### **A. Before/After-School Detention:**

Students are notified of the infraction and are to serve the detention on the date and time of the detention listed on the detention slip. Before and after-school detentions are on Tuesday and Thursday. Failure to serve the assigned detention will result in that detention being rescheduled one time. Failure to serve the rescheduled detention will result in additional disciplinary action including, but not limited to, in-school restriction and suspension.

#### **B. In-School Restriction (I.S.R.):**

Students assigned to I.S.R must successfully complete all assignments in order to return to his/her regular schedule. If not, additional I.S.R. will be assigned until all work is successfully completed. The schedule for I.S.R includes goal setting, daily assignments, core curriculum work, lunch, school service, behavioral improvement, self-evaluation and return of all daily assignments to staff mailboxes.

#### **C. Saturday School**

Students will be assigned to attend continuously on a designated Saturday. The expectations of Saturday School include strict adherence to acceptable daily personal behavior, core curriculum work, and completion of daily assignments, adherence to lunch and restroom guidelines, and adherence to the electronic device policy. Students assigned to Saturday School must successfully complete all assignments and expectations in order to return to his/her regular schedule. Students that miss any portion of his/her assigned time or fail to adhere to the rules/expectations will be assigned additional Saturday School day(s), or and/or suspension from school. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with District guidelines on suspension and expulsion. Transportation to and from Saturday school is the student/parent's responsibility.

#### **D. Out-of-School Suspension (O.S.S.):**

Students and parents will be notified of the suspension via the Notice of Intent to Suspend Form. Suspensions may cross semester lines, but may not be carried from one year to the next. Students are not permitted on

school grounds while serving an out-of-school suspension. Students may not attend any school functions, home or away, while serving an out-of-school suspension.

### **E. Permanent Exclusion and/or Expulsion:**

Students and parents will be notified of a suspension pending expulsion via the Notice of Intent to Suspend Form. Students and parents will receive a letter from the Superintendent or Director of Instruction regarding a hearing to discuss possible expulsion. Students are not permitted on school grounds while serving an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion. Students may not attend any school functions, home or away while serving an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion.

## **Section 7: Transportation**

### **A. Walking to School**

Students walking to and from school shall obey all local safety rules. Loitering on school grounds before or after school is prohibited.

### **B. Bus Transportation to School**

The School provides transportation for all students who live farther than 1 mile from school. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the Transportation Office at (330) 797-3900.

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, except as approved by the Principal.

### **C. Bus Conduct**

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

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

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

Each student shall:

1. stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation;
2. refrain from crossing a road until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
3. go immediately to a seat and be seated.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the bus 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:

1. remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;
2. keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school transportation at all times;
3. not push, shove or engage in scuffling;
4. not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into, or from the vehicle;

5. keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
6. be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
7. not use nuisance devices (e.g., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endangers students or employees;
8. not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment (including, but not limited to emergency and/or safety equipment).

#### Exiting the school vehicle

Each student shall:

1. remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
2. cross the road, when necessary, at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
3. be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.

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

#### **D. Video Recordings on School Buses**

The 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 video, the video recording will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

#### **E. Penalties for Infractions**

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code. Failure to comply with school bus safety rules 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, suspension from transportation, and/or expulsion.

As transportation is a privilege and not a right, transportation may also be temporarily or permanently revoked for violations of bus rules.

## **Section 8: Student Electronic Device Guidelines:**

The following policy and discipline procedures regarding student possession of portable electronic communication devices, applies to all Austintown Local School students and supplements the Board Policy regarding electronic device usage.

### **AUSTINTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS ELECTRONIC DEVICE GUIDELINES**

A "Bring Your Own Device" Program permitting students to bring their own Internet connected devices to the Austintown Local Schools, grades K -12, began with the start of the 2013-14 school year. During the 2014-15 school year, the Austintown Local Schools purchased chromebook learning devices for all students in Grades 6 through 12. Students in Grades K-5 now also have a vast amount of chromebooks at their disposal on carts.

Thus, Austintown Local Schools NO LONGER operates on a "Bring Your Own Device" mode effective August 21, 2015. Board of Education Policy JFCK shall be the sole authority on handling all matters related to electronic device usage by students in the Austintown Local Schools.

#### **Chromebooks**

Students in Grades 6 through 8 will receive an Austintown Local Schools issued Chromebook. There will be no Middle School/High School general supply fee, however each student will be assigned a \$50 Insurance Plan for Chromebooks. Families electing not to keep the \$50 Insurance Plan will have the option to **unenroll up until 3:00 pm on the 2nd Friday in September** (or three weeks from the student's enrollment date for anyone who enrolls into the district after the first day of school) and will assume full responsibility for the full cost (\$250) of the device if lost, stolen, or damaged. Three (3) accidental screen damages/repairs will be covered under the \$50 Insurance Plan. Cost of other damages/repairs thereafter will be the responsibility of the family. Chromebooks should be charged and in school with students each day as they are a vital component in the instructional framework and assessment model of the Austintown Local Schools.

### **Chromebook Responsibilities**

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

- I will return the Chromebook when requested, or upon my withdrawal from Austintown Local Schools, or surrender the fair market value of the device.
- When using my Chromebook at home, school, or anywhere else, I will follow the policies of Austintown Local Schools and abide by all local, state, and federal laws.
- I will treat my Chromebook with care by not dropping it, getting it wet, leaving it outdoors, or using it with food or drink nearby.
- I will recharge the Chromebook battery each **night**.
- I will bring my Chromebook to school each day. I am also responsible for bringing my Chromebook to all classes.
- I will not place decorations or magnets on my Chromebook.

- I understand that my Chromebook is the property of Austintown Local Schools. All accounts, programs, and files are subject to inspection and search at any time, without notice.
- I will not lend my Chromebook to anyone.
- I will keep all accounts and passwords assigned to me secure.
- I agree that e-mail or any other digital communication, including social media, should only be used for appropriate, legitimate, and responsible communication.
- I agree not to share personal information about myself (full name, address, etc.), family, friends, or anyone else.
- I agree not to search for, download, display, post, or distribute vulgar, offensive material, or images, as described in applicable district policies (Acceptable Use, Internet Use, Rights and Responsibilities of Students).
- I understand that at school, sound must be muted or headphones used, unless permission is obtained from the teacher.
- I will use printers in the library and computer labs, with teachers' permission. All printing should be limited to educational purposes.
- I understand that all files stored on my Google account, including but not limited to, documents, pictures, and videos, must be appropriate. I also understand that screensavers and backgrounds set on the Chromebook, must be appropriate.

### **Parent/ Guardian Responsibilities:**

I will review materials provided by the school to ensure that I understand the school's responsibility, my student's responsibility, and my responsibility. We will discuss at home, acceptable and unacceptable uses of the Chromebook, according to district policies.

- I understand that Austintown Local Schools has made all reasonable attempts to provide a safe computing environment for students, within the district's network. Students using their district-assigned Chromebook are responsible and accountable for appropriate use of the internet, regardless of where or when internet access occurs.
- I will supervise the use of the Chromebook at home, making sure that it is used and stored appropriately.
- I will not attempt to repair the Chromebook, nor will I attempt to clean it with anything other than a soft, dry cloth.
- I understand that if damage is deemed to be negligent, I will be responsible for the damages either through private insurance or direct payment to Austintown Local Schools.
- I will make sure my child recharges the Chromebook battery, nightly.
- I will make sure my child brings the Chromebook to school every day.
- I agree to make sure that the Chromebook is returned to the school, when requested, and/or upon my child's withdrawal from Austintown Local Schools.

## CHROMEBOOK REPAIR PRICE LIST

Screens	\$50
Chargers	\$30
Keyboards	\$150
Cases	No Charge

### A student who has insurance:3 damaged chromebooks are covered

- 3 Damage chromebooks are covered
- 4th damage device he/she will be charged to repair the specific damaged
- Any vandalism/intentional damage to the Chromebook will incur the cost of \$250 to replace

### A Student who does not have insurance:

- They pay for any damage done to the device per price list above
- Any unrepairable Chromebooks or intentional damage/vandalism to Chromebooks will incur a charge of \$250 to replace

### Student Guidelines: Please See House Bill 250 in reference to School Cell Phone Usage

Students are permitted to use personal electronic devices (mobile phones, MP3s, iPods, iPads, tablets, and eReaders) before school from 7:00-7:20 am and after school starting at 2:40 pm. *No voice communication, taking photos or videoing permitted.*

Electronic devices may be used on the bus, only when seated. Earbuds must be out of ears and devices put away when boarding and/or exiting the bus. *They are permitted only for the quiet usage on a single student basis with headphones or earbuds. No voice communication, taking photos or videoing permitted.*

Permissibility of each type of electronic device is described as follows from 7:35 am - 2:40 pm (first bell to last bell). **All mobile phones, MP3s, iPods, iPads, tablets, and eReaders must be TURNED OFF AND STORED IN THE STUDENT'S LOCKER during the school day.**

**Permissible Electronic Devices from 7:35-2:30 pm**

Location	Chromebook	Smart Watches	Headphones /Earbuds
<b>Classroom</b>	As directed by the teacher with the primary usage always relating to instruction.	Can be worn, but only used for checking the time.	As directed by the teacher with the primary usage always relating to instruction. Used only with Chromebook.
<b>Hallways</b>	No	Can be worn, but only used for checking the time.	No
<b>Lunch Serving Line</b>	No	Can be worn, but only used for checking the time.	No
<b>Lunch Room</b>	As directed by grade level principal	Can be worn, but only used for checking the time.	Used only with Chromebook
<b>NOTES:</b>			When use is permitted, headphones and earbuds must be at a volume that does not disrupt others.

**Misuse of Permissible Electronic Devices:**

The misuse of permissible electronic devices in a manner distracting to other students or school personnel is not allowed. The misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Use of any electronic device, besides a Chromebook, in a classroom.
2. Violation of the Austintown Local Schools' Acceptable Use Policy.
3. Listening to video or audio without headphones or earbuds.
4. Use of headphones/earbuds at a volume level where others can hear.

**Prohibited Electronic Devices:**

Recording devices, radios, pagers, laser pointers, and other electronic devices are deemed distracting to the educational environment. As such, these devices are not permitted in any Austintown Local School buildings and/or school buses.

**Mobile Phones: House Bill 250**

1. Use of mobile phones for any voice communication is not permitted during school hours, including the time spent in transportation on school buses, unless otherwise directed by school personnel.
2. Mobile phones must be turned off between 7:20 am and 2:30 pm.
3. Mobile phones may possess advanced functions including Internet access, eReader, and video/audio functions, however these functions may not be utilized between 7:20 am and 2:30 pm.

**Restrictions and Expectations:**

The following actions are strictly prohibited and will result in possible consequences ranging from, but not limited to, detention, suspension, expulsion and/or the involvement of local law enforcement:

1. the video/audio recording or photography of students or staff members without their consent
2. accessing, sharing, disseminating inappropriate content including pornography, material with abusive language, drug/alcohol/weapon related content, or any information that can be deemed harmful or shocking to minors
3. using technology for interactive communication in the form of posts on social media websites, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Tumbler, Skype, and other blog/chat/messaging sites, during the hours of school operation to include time spent in transportation unless directed by school personnel for educational purposes
4. any and all harassment/bullying and intimidation behaviors per the Ohio Revised Code definition which follows:

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means either:

- a. any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student has exhibited towards another particular student more than once and the behavior both:
  - b. causes mental or physical harm to the other student
  - c. is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student
- or-
- d. 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. Students found responsible for harassment, intimidation, or bullying through written, verbal, physical, or electronic acts can be administered discipline consequences ranging from, but not limited to detention, suspension, expulsion and/or the involvement of local authorities. ORC 3313.666

**Consequences for inappropriate use of electronic devices:**

Violation of the appropriate use of electronic devices, as described above:

1. may result in detention, In School Restriction, or Out of School Suspension; and
2. student may be required to turn the device over to school personnel and the student and/or parent/guardian may pick up the device from the School Office at the end of the school day. If instructed to turn over a device, students are expected to do so without argument or confrontation.

**Standard Discipline Sequence:**

The following is a guide for assignment of discipline. Note that the administration reserves the right to assign discipline ranging from detentions, In School Restriction, Out of School Suspension and/or the involvement of local law enforcement agencies.

<b>Infraction Level</b>	<b>First Infraction</b>	<b>Second Infraction</b>	<b>Third Infraction</b>
<b>Level 1</b> <b>Sight violation – a student is seen violating a usage rule and responds with respect and in accordance with the policy.</b>	-Teacher assigned detention -Device is confiscated and will be returned at the end of the day.	-In School Restriction/Saturday School -Device is confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.	-Principal Discretion -Device is confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.
<b>Level 2</b> <b>Sight violation – a student is seen violating a usage rule and responds with disrespect or in an argumentative manner.</b>	-In School Restriction -Device is confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.	-Principal Discretion -Device is confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.	
<b>Level 3</b> <b>Any violation involving but not limited to: harassment, intimidation, threats, video, audio, or image recording/dissemination, pornography, fighting, or violence.</b>	-Out of School Suspension -Device is confiscated and must be picked up by a parent or guardian. -Possible involvement of law enforcement.		

*The administration maintains discretion in the application of these consequences.*

**Internet Connection:**

Wireless Internet connection will be provided by the Austintown Local Schools for students to connect their Chromebooks to the Internet. Students must have a completed Acceptable Use Policy signed and on file at his or her respective school building. Accessing and/or sharing inappropriate web content will result in confiscation of the electronic device until a parent/guardian retrieves it from the school, and possible consequences ranging from but not limited to detention, suspension, expulsion and/or the involvement of local law enforcement.

**Lost or Damaged Device:**

The Austintown Local Schools assume no responsibility for the theft, loss, or damage of an electronic device brought to school or on the district’s buses. Students bring these devices to the Austintown Local Schools at their own risk.

**Transporting Devices:**

Use of bags and cases to transport electronic devices to and from the Austintown Local Schools is encouraged. Students may use laptop bags to carry Chromebooks to and from class. However, the bags may not be used to carry books or other personal items.

### **Cheating and Academic Integrity in the Age of AI**

The purpose of this policy is to promote a fair academic environment and uphold the values of honesty and integrity among students, specifically addressing the challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

Using AI tools or any other means to cheat or gain an unfair academic advantage is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Submitting Work Generated by AI:

- Students must not submit assignments, essays, or projects created entirely or partially by AI programs.

2. Using AI for Answers on Tests or Quizzes:

- Utilizing AI-based applications to answer questions during tests, quizzes, or assessments is forbidden.

3. Plagiarism:

- Submitting work that includes AI-generated content without proper citation is considered plagiarism and violates academic integrity.

4. Collaboration with AI:

-Collaborating with AI to create answers or solutions that are to be submitted as individual work is unacceptable.

### **Rationale:**

This policy aims to maintain a culture of honesty, fairness, and respect for all students. Cheating undermines the educational process and devalues the hard work of those who complete their assignments with integrity.

Additionally, reliance on AI undermines critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for students' growth.

Consequences:

1. First Offense:

- A warning and a discussion with the student about academic integrity, along with a requirement to redo the assignment.

2. Second Offense:

- A zero on the assignment or assessment in question, accompanied by a meeting with a teacher and a parent/guardian.

3. Third Offense:

- Referral to the principal's office, potential academic probation, and parental notification.

**Policy Exemptions and Exclusions:**

Building and District Administrators reserve the right to define classrooms and areas within the district at any time, such action is necessary, as non-use areas. The district reserves the right to revise or amend this policy at any point to ensure a safe and appropriate educational environment.

This policy does not apply to medically required electronic communication devices such as hearing aids and augmentative speech aids or to any electronic communication device, which is mandated in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or on a student's Section 504 plan. If use of an electronic communication device is not mandated in an IEP or on a Section 504 plan, but is required in individual instances to assist a student with the student's education, permission must be obtained in writing from a building administrator prior to use of the electronic communication device at any time otherwise prohibited by this policy. All assistive technology devices are permissible for use in the Austintown Local Schools in accordance to IEP and 504 accommodations.

**Section 9: Student Athletic Policy:****A. Athletic Code of Behavior:**

Student participation in athletics and related athletic activities is a privilege. As a participant, the student is expected to conduct himself/herself in an exemplary manner at all times. It is important that the students, parents, and all interested persons be aware of the necessary rules and regulations associated with participation in any extracurricular activity. Each coach or advisor must have a meeting at the beginning of his/her season with participants so that rules, regulations and procedures of discipline are understood. Parents are encouraged to attend these meetings.

**B. Athletic Guidelines:**

Below are the rules and regulations that must be followed:

1. Criminally related activity is prohibited and will be dealt with on an individual basis.
2. The coach or advisor will handle all discipline problems.
3. A member of an interscholastic athletic team and/or related squad represents more than himself/ herself. He/she also represents the team, school and community. His/her appearance and conduct must reflect this responsibility.
4. Each coach or advisor will enforce grooming rules, as is necessary for the particular sport or activity in order to maintain good health standards in the locker rooms and in the use of equipment.
5. All Students in grades 7 through 12 who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics must abide by the rules and regulations as set forth by the Austintown Board of Education, Austintown Middle School, Austintown Fitch High School and the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

**C. Interscholastic and Extracurricular Activities Eligibility:**

The Board recognizes the value of interscholastic extracurricular activities for students in grades 7-12 as an integral part of the total school experience. Since participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is a

privilege and not a right, students are expected to demonstrate competence in the classroom as a condition of participation.

Interscholastic extracurricular activities are defined as school-sponsored student activities involving more than one school or school district.

As a condition for the privilege of participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities, a student must have attained a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale in the immediately preceding grading period.

A student enrolled in the first grading period of the ninth grade after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled in the eighth grade. In addition, as a condition for the privilege of participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities, a student must have attained a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale in the immediately preceding grading period.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, the student in grade seven or eight must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period, and received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) courses in the immediately preceding grading period.

Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility requirements results in extracurricular interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.

If a student received home instruction in the grading period preceding participation, the student must meet any academic requirements established by the State Board of Education for the continuation of home instruction to be eligible to participate in the program.

If a student did not receive home instruction in the grading period preceding participation, the student's academic performance during the preceding grading period must have met any academic standards established by the District for eligibility to participate in the program.

Any student who commences home instruction after the beginning of the school year, and at that time was considered ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for failure to meet academic requirements or any other requirements, will be ineligible to participate in the same semester the student was deemed ineligible

## **Section 10: Academic Information:**

### **A. Physical Education Attendance and Participation:**

1. Grade level principals have the final decisions on any removal.
2. Students with extenuating circumstances, such as extensive excused absences due to illness or injury, will be asked to complete equivalent written work for each day/unit missed. The

assignment will be determined by the physical education teacher and the grade level principal.

### **B. Educational and Career Planning:**

Pamphlets, brochures, and books are available for student use located in the counselor's waiting area.

Beginning in the eighth grade and continuing through high school, all students develop an Individual Career Plan with the assistance of counselors and teachers.

### **C. High School Credit 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Classes, and Honors Algebra:**

In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students may have the opportunity to take Industrial Computer Tech, and Art History as exploratory classes. These classes are worth one semester (0.5 credit) of high school credit and will contribute to the student's Grade Point Average (GPA) upon entering high school.

Honors Algebra is also offered as a high school credit and will contribute to the student's Grade Point Average (GPA) upon entering high school. It is worth 1 full-year Math credit.

### **D. Awards:**

Student can earn the following awards per grading period (criteria included):

High Honors- students earns no less than an A in every class

Honor Roll- students earns at least 3 A's and no other grade lower than a B

Honorable Mention- student earns no grade lower than a B

Perfect Attendance- Student does not miss any scheduled school time (excused absences, tardies, early excusals and early dismissals do count against this)

### **E. Promotion, Academic Acceleration, Placement and Retention Board Policy (po5410):**

The Board of Education recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It is the Board's intent 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.

The promotion and retention provisions of this policy shall be in compliance with the terms of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee (Policy 2623.02).

#### **Promotion:**

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

- A. completed the course and State-mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- B. in the opinion of the professional staff, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- C. demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him/her to move ahead in the educational program of the next grade;
- D. demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

**Academic Acceleration:**

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. An acceleration evaluation committee will 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).

Any student residing in the District may be referred by a staff member or a parent/guardian to the Principal of his/her school for evaluation for possible accelerated placement. Students may refer themselves or a peer through a staff member who has knowledge of the referred child's abilities. Copies of referral forms for evaluation for whole-grade or individual subject acceleration will be available at each school building.

Students referred for accelerated placement will be evaluated in a prompt manner. The Building Principal will schedule the evaluations. Normally, changes in a student's schedule will occur only at the start of a grading period.

Before a student is evaluated for accelerated placement, the Principal (or his/her designee) shall obtain written permission from the student's parent/guardian.

Evaluations related to referrals that occur during the school year will ordinarily be completed and a written report issued within forty-five (45) calendar days. Evaluations related to referrals that occur at the end of a school year or during the summer will be completed and a written report issued either before the end of the school year, if possible, or within forty-five (45) calendar days of the start of the next school year.

Upon referral, the student's Principal (or his/her designee) shall convene an acceleration evaluation committee to determine the appropriate learning environment for the referred student. This committee shall include the following:

- A. a parent/guardian, or a representative designated by that parent/guardian
- B. a gifted education coordinator or gifted intervention specialist, or if neither is available, a school psychologist or guidance counselor with expertise in the appropriate use of academic acceleration may be substituted

- C. a Principal or Assistant Principal from the child's current school
- D. a current teacher of the referred student
- E. a teacher at the grade level or course to which the referred student may be accelerated

The acceleration evaluation committee shall be responsible for conducting a fair and thorough evaluation of the student. The acceleration evaluation committee will consider the student's own thoughts on possible accelerated placement in its deliberations. In the event that career-technical programs are considered for acceleration, a career-technical educator shall be consulted as a part of the evaluation.

Students considered for whole-grade acceleration will be evaluated using an acceleration assessment process approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

Students considered for individual subject acceleration will be evaluated using a variety of data sources, including measures of achievement based on State academic content standards (in subjects for which the State Board of Education has approved content standards) and consideration of the student's maturity and desire for accelerated placement.

The acceleration evaluation committee shall issue a written decision on the outcome of the evaluation process to the principal and the student's parent/guardian. This notification shall include instructions for appealing the decision.

Appeals must be made in writing to the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days of the parent/guardian receiving the committee's decision. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall review the appeal and notify the parent/guardian of his/her decision within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent or his/her designee's decision shall be final.

If the student is recommended for whole-grade or individual subject acceleration, the acceleration evaluation committee will develop a written acceleration plan. The parent/guardian shall be provided with a copy of the plan. The plan shall specify:

- A. placement of the student in an accelerated setting;
- B. strategies to support a successful transition to the accelerated setting;
- C. requirements and procedures for earning high school credit prior to entering high school (if applicable);  
and,
- D. an appropriate transition period for accelerated students.

A school staff member will be assigned to oversee implementation of the acceleration plan and to monitor the adjustment of the student to the accelerated setting.

At any time during the transition period, a parent/guardian of the student may request in writing that the student be withdrawn from accelerated placement. In such cases the Principal shall remove the student from the accelerated placement without repercussions.

At any time during the transition period, a parent/guardian may request in writing an alternative accelerated placement. In such cases, the Principal shall direct the evaluation committee to consider other accelerative options and to issue a decision within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the request. If the student will be placed in a different accelerated setting from that initially recommended, the student's acceleration plan shall be revised accordingly, and a new transition period shall be specified.

At the end of the transition period, the accelerated placement shall become permanent. The student's record shall be modified accordingly, and the acceleration implementation plan shall become part of the student's permanent record to facilitate continuous progress through the curriculum.

**Retention:**

A student may be retained at his/her current grade level when s/he has:

- A. in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to demonstrate proficiency in the core subjects of mathematics, science, social studies, English language arts (reading);
- B. 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;
- C. scored below proficient level on any State-mandated test.

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

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for promotion, placement, and retention of students that:

- A. require the recommendation of the relevant staff members for promotion, placement, or retention;
- B. require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level;
- C. assure that efforts will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before s/he is retained;
- D. require that a student be retained if s/he is truant for ten percent (10%) or more of the required school days and has failed at least two (2) courses of study, unless the principal and the teachers of the failed subjects determine that the student is academically prepared to be promoted;
- E. assign to the Principal the responsibility for determining the promotion, placement, or retention of each student;
- F. provide parents the opportunity to request the promotion, placement, or retention of their child;
- G. provide parents the opportunity to appeal the decision about their child's promotion, placement, or retention.

**Adopted May 20, 2021**

Legal            R.C. 3313.608, 3313.608(D), 3313.609, 3313.647, 3324.10  
                       A.C. 3301-35-02(B)(5)

## **Section 11: Student Clubs and Activities**

### **A. Clubs**

Students can participate in a variety of clubs or extra curricular activities including, but not limited to: Falcon Chorale, Jazz Band, Ski Club, Builder's Club, R.D.E., Drama Club, and more. More information on these and other clubs or teams is available on the AMS school website.

### **B. WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)**

WEB, which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs" is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 6th graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6th grade success.

More and more studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in middle school, their chances for success increase dramatically. WEB provides the structure for 6th graders to receive support and guidance from 8th graders who have been through the challenges that middle school poses and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming.

WEB also acts as an anti-bullying program for your school by providing it with a cadre of student leaders who look for bullying behavior and help stop it. WEB gives older students permission to be aware of and report any negative behavior they see, creating a safer school for everybody.

Source: [www.boomerangproject.com](http://www.boomerangproject.com)

## **Section 12: Board Policy on Hazing and Bullying:**

### **po5516 - STUDENT HAZING**

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

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any class, team,

or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

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

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

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

**Adopted May 20, 2021**

Legal

R.C. 2307.44, 2903.31, 2903.311, 3313.661

#### po5517.01 - **BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR**

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored,

school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

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

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

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

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

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

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

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

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 (AG 5517.01) 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 Director or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial 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, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial 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 Director 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 Director 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 and its related administrative guidelines 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 website (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 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 administrative guidelines. All training regarding the

Board's policy and administrative guidelines 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 to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for this purpose.

Students in grades seven (7) 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. Parents, who submit a written request to the Building Director 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, to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for these purposes. 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.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

**Adopted May 20, 2021**

Legal

R.C. 3313.666, 3313.667

