



Hempstead UFSD 21st Century Handbook 2025-2026





21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

CONTENTS

DIRECTORY.....2

SECTION I

21st CENTURY GREETINGS.....3

INTRODUCTION4-5

SECTION II

ENROLLMENT / ATTENDANCE.....6

SECTION III

HOLIDAY & INCLEMENT DAY POLICIES.....7

FAMILY PARTICIPATION7

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE7

PROGRAM LOCATION HOURS.....7

SECTION IV: BEHAVIOR POLICY.....8

SECTION V: COMMUNICATION.....8

SECTION VI: ADDITIONAL DETAILS

SNACK / SUPPER.....9

HEALTH & SAFETY.....9

EMERGENCY POLICY9

PERSONAL BELONGINGS.....9

CODE OF CONDUCT.....10

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT.....14



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

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New York

21st Century Community Learning Centers

SOARING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS



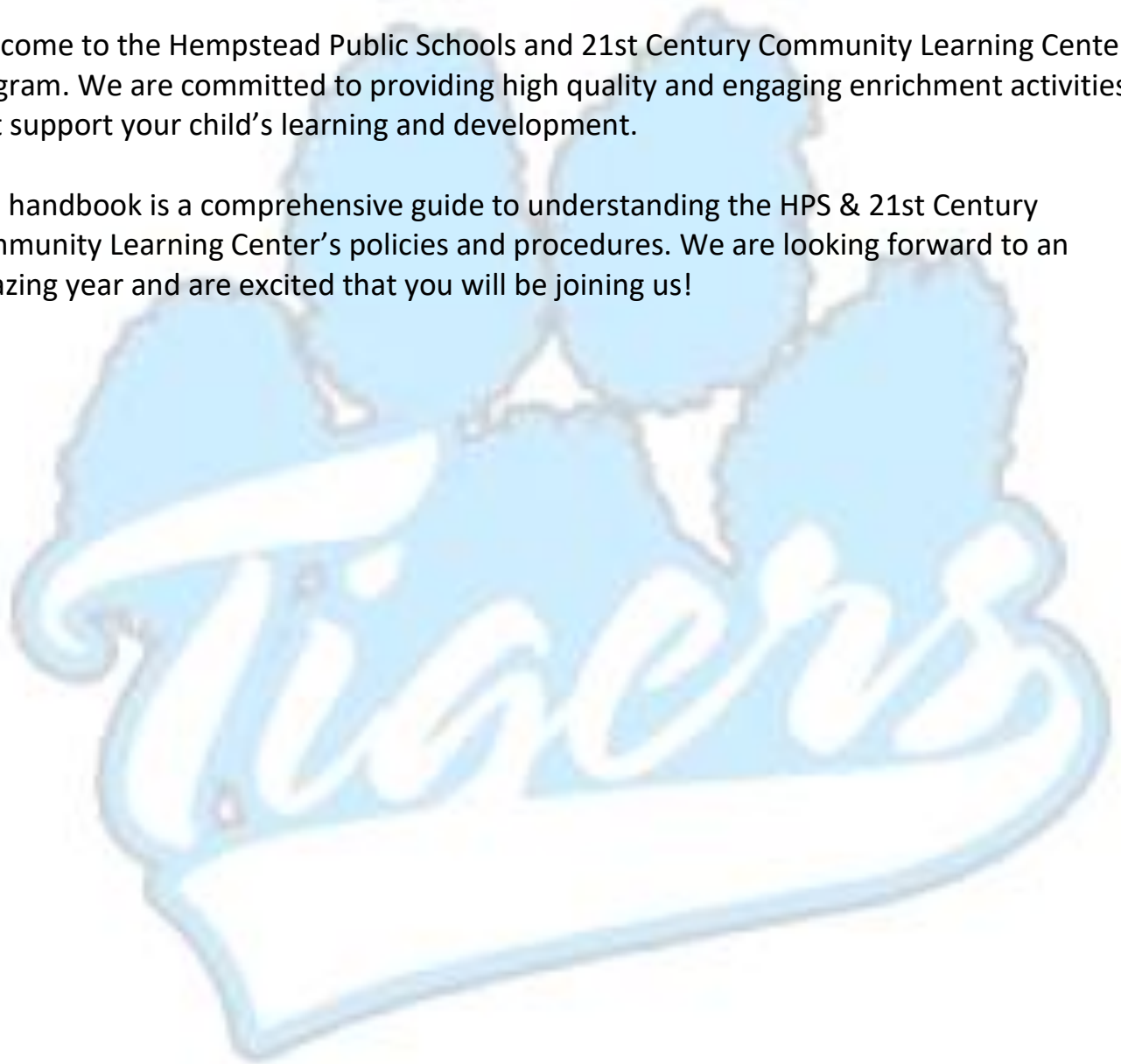


21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

Greetings

Welcome to the Hempstead Public Schools and 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. We are committed to providing high quality and engaging enrichment activities that support your child’s learning and development.

This handbook is a comprehensive guide to understanding the HPS & 21st Century Community Learning Center’s policies and procedures. We are looking forward to an amazing year and are excited that you will be joining us!





21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

What is 21st Century?

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers is an after school program offered FREE OF CHARGE through a federal grant administered by the United States Education Department. The program offers homework help, enrichment opportunities, snack and supper for all enrolled students.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant is for Grade K through Grade 8. Family and parent activities are offered quarterly at each elementary school and the middle school.

The 21st Century program provides the following opportunities for students:

- Assistance in completing homework with the support of a teacher and teaching assistant.
- Create new friendships, learn relationship building and communication skills
- Strengthen relationships between students and staff
- Learn in a small group setting and have fun in a safe space

The goals for the 21st Century After-School Program are:

1. Students who participate in the program will meet or exceed I-Ready grade level academic achievement standards in reading and math.
2. Students who participate in the program will improve their school attendance and behavior in school.
3. Students who participate in the program will demonstrate additional positive educational, social, and behavioral changes.



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

Hempstead Public Schools 21st Century Community Learning Centers students are offered the following activities/resources:

- Small group tutoring activities that are aligned with state academic standards.
- Homework help from certified teachers and teaching assistants.
- Enrichment
- Snack & Supper each program day.
- A broad array of enrichment activities that complement their regular academic programs.
- Activities include:
 - STEAM
 - Social-Emotional Learning
 - Leadership
 - Physical Wellness
 - Dance
 - Anti-Bullying
 - Basketball
 - Flag Football at A.B.G.S.

Liberty 21st CCLC Quality Standards and Expectations

- Activities reflect and promote the mission of the program
- Daily schedule provides activities that are engaging, varied and flexible.
- Program activities enhance the positive development of youth.
- The program builds upon community resources.
- The program offers opportunities for age-appropriate learning, physical activity, skill building and development.



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

SECTION II: ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

The 21st Century program is offered FREE OF CHARGE to students (and their families). Be sure to return the 21st Century enrollment form promptly.

Attendance is a very important part of our program. For your child to get the most out of the program, he/she is encouraged to attend daily.

The core service of the Hempstead Public Schools 21st Century Program is academic achievement, enrichment and recreational activities. It is imperative that all student participants have regular attendance in order to receive the full benefit of the program. Each campus will track the attendance of all participants. Students are encouraged to attend regularly.

To achieve the full impact of the program it is suggested that students do not leave the program before its designated closing time. In the event that a student is going to stop attending the 21st Century Program, it is the expectation that notice is given to the building principal.



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

SECTION III

HOLIDAY & INCLIMENT DAY POLICIES

During the regular academic year, the 21st Century program follows the calendar of the school district. On days when there is no school, including snow days, the After School Program will be cancelled. If school is released due to bad weather, the program will not be provided after school hours. On school days when regular classes are in session, but bad weather is predicted for late afternoon, the afternoon program hours may be cancelled, and parents will be notified. If it is a scheduled early dismissal day there will be no program after school. Parents/Guardians can always contact their child's school for any updates.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Family involvement is a very important component of your child's education; we encourage each adult family member to participate in this program as much as her/his schedule allows. Family Engagement activities are scheduled quarterly. Invites will be sent with students for parents to RSVP.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

Students will be dismissed to go home as per their daily routine throughout the school year. If there are changes in emergency contact information please inform the building administrator.

PROGRAM LOCATION HOURS

A.B.G.S Middle School: Monday – Friday, 2:45 PM to 5:45 PM

Barack Obama School Elementary School: Monday – Friday, 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM

David Paterson Elementary School: Monday - Friday, 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM

Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School: Monday – Friday, 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

SECTION IV: BEHAVIOR POLICY

To provide a safe and secure environment for everyone, the following expectations have been developed which will be in effect at all times.

1. Follow Code of Student Conduct rules listed in the Hempstead Union Free School District Parent Handbook. (p.44)
2. Follow the directions/instructors the first time they are given.
3. Show respect and treat others with kindness.
4. Ask permission to leave an area.
5. If a student has a discipline issue, parents will be informed of their child's behavior.

SECTION V: COMMUNICATION

Keep the lines of communication open. Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding our 21st Century program, please contact the Building Administrative Team at your campus. You may also reach out to the Funded Programs Dept at 516-434-4829.



New York

21st Century Community Learning Centers

SOARING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS





21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

SECTION VI: ADDITIONAL DETAILS

SNACK

Throughout the year, a nutritious snack will be provided daily. Snack is provided during the Homework Help.

SUPPER

Supper is served daily at 5:30p.m. The meals served meet the requirements for a balanced meal. The menu will be sent home with students each month and posted at the entry of all campuses.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Our staff provides a safe and healthy environment for all youth. A school administrator and nurse are on site during program hours. All visitors must be cleared by a safety officer to enter the campus, please ensure to have valid identification available.

EMERGENCY POLICY

Each campus has a valid NYS school safety plan. The administrator on duty will provide emergency protocols and procedures. In case of an accident or illness, the parent/guardian of the child will be called. Please be sure we have your correct phone numbers and address on file.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students should keep personal belongings, including cell phones and other electronic devices, in their backpack/locker. These devices shouldn't be used during program hours unless there is an emergency, or a student has permission from the teacher in the classroom.



New York

21st Century Community Learning Centers

SOARING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS





21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

CODE OF CONDUCT

5300.25 PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of applicable law such as Public Law 106-554

(Children's Internet Protection Act) and the district's acceptable use policy.

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Missing or leaving school without permission.
3. Failing to attend detention.
4. Excessive tardiness.

HEMPSTEAD 10 5300

Subsection 5300.25

C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
2. Inappropriate public sexual contact.

D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, throwing objects, pushing, and scratching, and brushing against) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, throwing object, pushing, and scratching, and brushing against) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
 3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
 4. Displaying a weapon. Use or threatening to use any weapon.
 5. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
 6. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
- E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include, but not limited to:
1. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
 2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
 3. Defamation which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
 4. Discrimination which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
 5. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be, or which, a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.



21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

6. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
7. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
8. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
10. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.



New York

21st Century Community Learning Centers

SOARING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS





21st Century Community Learning Center Parent Handbook

District's Mission Statement - Children First

The mission of the Hempstead Union Free School District (HUFSD), a suburban-urban culturally diverse public school system is to ensure that students achieve personal growth, academic success enabling them to compete and perform in a technological global society. Students, staff, family and community will be engaged in a comprehensive, challenging curriculum and effective instructional programs that respond to each student's needs and aspirations in a safe and nurturing environment.

The Hempstead Union Free School District (HUFSD) in partnership with various stakeholders will operate a robust 21st Century Community Learning Centers program which implements programs that improve student learning outcomes; and foster positive social emotional competency.

On behalf of the entire Hempstead Union Free School District 21st Century Team we thank you for your commitment! We are looking forward to an outstanding year of learning and fun!

Together we CAN Build the Future One Child at a Time.