

2025-2026

**Connellsville Area School
District**
Elementary School Handbook





WELCOME

Dear Connellsville Elementary Students, Parents, and Guardians,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at the Connellsville Area Elementary Schools, we welcome you and your family to our schools and learning community. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing a safe, caring, and engaging educational environment. It is important to remember that learning is the primary goal of the school. We are looking forward to a successful school year that will involve many new and exciting experiences and challenges.

The information documented in this student handbook is an attempt to familiarize students and parents/guardians with our school policies, procedures, and expectations. We encourage you to take the time to review this information carefully, discuss the information with your child, and then refer to the handbook as needed throughout the school year. By becoming familiar with the handbook, we can work together to provide a positive school environment that promotes the social, physical, and educational growth and development of our students. We expect each student to meet our high expectations and work to make this school a better place.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with the faculty and staff. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the school, please feel free to contact your student's teacher, school counselor, or principal. Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dana Stepanic
West Crawford Elementary
(724) 628-4497

Dr. Stephanie Romanishan
Springfield Clifford N. Pritts Elementary
(724) 455-3191

Mrs. Jennifer Laskey
Dunbar Township Elementary
(724) 628-6330

Mrs. Jamie Bielecki-Quinn
Bullskin Township Elementary
(724) 628-6540



Soar with the Falcons!

CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Through the cooperative efforts of educators, parents, community and students, the Connellsville Area School District will provide a safe, diverse, and challenging educational environment dedicated to helping all students become respectful, responsible, and knowledgeable life-long learners prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society.

CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Connellsville Area School District, are committed to seeing our district provide each child with an education appropriate to his/her individual needs and interests. It is our aim to promote and enhance the many strengths and resources within our district, and to identify and address areas where change is needed. We are determined to give full consideration to pertinent demographic and performance information and other factors that impact our educational programs. It is our hope to provide an educational atmosphere of excellence and continuous improvement where the focus of our schools and community is on our students.

CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SHARED VALUES

In the Connellsville Area School District, we believe that:

- every student can be a successful learner.
- educational standards must be at the core of curriculum, instruction and assessment.
- education is a partnership among educators, parents, community and students.
- educational programs should be varied and equal to provide appropriate opportunities
- the school environment should be safe and nurturing so that teachers can teach and students can learn.
- society is enhanced when its young people strive to become respectful, responsible, and knowledgeable lifelong learners.
- technology must be a consideration in all educational planning.
- professional development opportunities are essential to help teachers continually improve classroom instruction and management.
- appropriate support services must be provided to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.
- educational facilities must be continually assessed and maintained to ensure safety, comfort, and to promote educational excellence.

CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To help the student develop problem-solving skills by obtaining information through the senses and by utilizing learning materials and sources of written information.
2. To help the student develop organizational skills.
3. To help the student develop skills for predicting, interpreting, and evaluating information for decision-making.
4. To help the student develop skills in oral, graphic, and written communications.
5. To help the student develop an appreciation of the dignity of all life as well as an appreciation of cultures other than their own.
6. To help the student use acquired knowledge from learning experiences to become a productive citizen.

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CONNELLSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

Standardized Assessment Calendar 2025-2026

Type of Test	Test Date / Window	Grade(s)
PSSA English Language Arts PSSA Math, Science, & Make-up	April 20 - 24, 2026 April 27 - May 1, 2026	3-8 3-8
Keystone Exams - Winter Algebra I, Biology, Literature	Wave 1: December 3 - 17, 2025 Wave 2: January 5 - 16, 2026	9-12 as needed
Keystone Exams - Spring Algebra I, Biology, Literature	May 11 - 22, 2026	11 & 8-10 end-of-course
PASA Math, Reading, Science	March 9 - May 1, 2026	3-8, 11
ACCESS for ELLs	January - February	K-12
Test of Cognitive Skills (In-View Test)	As necessary	2
PSAT/NMSQT	TBD (registration required)	10, 11
ACT Assessment Test www.actstudent.org	TBD (registration required)	11, 12
SAT Assessment Test www.collegeboard.com	TBD (registration required)	11, 12
DIBELS/CDT Testing/Star Math (Elementary)	Benchmark #1: Sept. 3-Sept. 19, 2025 Benchmark #2: Jan. 12-Jan. 23, 2026 Benchmark #3: May 4-May 15, 2026	K-8 (subject specific)
Secondary MAZE	Sept 11, 2025, Jan 22, 2026 and April 9, 2026 (I picked tentative dates based on last year)	
CDT Testing (Secondary)	Benchmark #1 Sept 15 - Sept 26, 2025 Benchmark #2 Nov 17 - Dec 5, 2025 Benchmark #3 Feb 9 - Feb 20. 2026	9-12 (subject specific)
PASS Survey	Survey #1 - September 15-October 17, 2025 Survey #2 - February 2 to March 6, 2026	5, 7

ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

All students participate in benchmark assessments throughout the year which evaluate their progress and drive instruction. Students in grades 3-5 participate in the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessments) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Additionally, fourth graders take the Science PSSA. Students in grades K-5 will also be given the DIBELS assessment to measure acquisition of early literacy skills, students in grades 3-5 will take the CDT for math, and CDT science in 4th grade.

Parental opt-out– The regulation gives parents/guardians the right to review any state assessment to determine whether the assessment conflicts with their religious beliefs. In asserting a religious objection to the assessment, a parent/guardian must explain the objection in their written request for excusal.

ATTENDANCE

Connellsville Area School District adopted an attendance policy for the 2025-2026 school year. Attendance is a crucial part of your child’s education and we encourage you to send your child to school every day! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s attendance, please call your child’s school. The principal, school counselor, truant officer, and teachers are here to support your family in helping your child come to and stay in school. We look forward to working with you this year to help ensure that your child has great attendance! (See Appendix A)

Arrival/Dismissal

- Elementary school start time is 9:20 a.m. and end time is 3:25 p.m.
- Your child is considered tardy: 9:21 a.m. - 12:23 p.m.
- Your child is considered absent if they arrive after 12:24 p.m.
- Your child is considered absent if they leave before 12:23 p.m.
- Any change to your student’s normal daily transportation at the end of the school day should be provided to the office in writing. Phone calls will not be accepted.

Absence

Regular school attendance is essential to the successful completion of the educational objectives of the school. The school laws of Pennsylvania require all school age children to be in attendance on all days that the school is open. The school attendance laws also require the school to hold students and their parents accountable for valid documentation of reasons for absence. Any student who is absent from school must submit an excuse for the absence(s) within three days of the date of the absence(s). Excuses should include the date, the student’s full name, and the date of absence, and the reason for the absence. Excuses are to be submitted to the homeroom teacher or directly to the office.

Disciplinary Action for Attendance Infractions

Violation Number	Absences	Truancy Level	Disciplinary Action (Under 15 years old)	Disciplinary Action (15 years of age and older)
1	3	Truant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent Notification letter ➤ Detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent Notification letter ➤ Detention
2	6	Habitually Truant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent Conference Letter ➤ Student referred to Attendance Improvement Conference ➤ Excuse from doctor needed for any additional absences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent Conference Letter ➤ Student referred to Attendance Improvement Conference ➤ Excuse from doctor needed for any additional absences ➤ 10 Day Driving Suspension

3	More than 6	Habitually Truant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Referral to CYS and/or citation filed with the office of the appropriate Magisterial District Judge against the student and/or the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 30+ Day Driving Suspension ➤ Citation filed with the office of the appropriate Magisterial District Judge against the student and/or the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.
Additional citations for ongoing violations of school attendance will be filed against a student or person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student in accordance with the specific provisions of the law.				

ATTENDANCE

Cyber School Attendance

Cyber students will log in to the Student Management System (FOLA) for 5 out of the 7 days (Monday - Sunday of the week). If a student does not log in 5 out of 7 days a note must be submitted to the school stating the name, date, and reason for the absence. Students are expected to meet individual course attendance requirements. Please see the attendance above to see the steps that are taken as a student progresses through the attendance policy.

Educational Trips

Educational trips involving three (3) or more days must be pre-approved by the office through the Educational Opportunity Request to Participate form in order for the absence to be marked excused. Students are permitted five (5) education trip days total for each school year. It is the responsibility of the students or parents to inform the classroom teacher(s) and to get any work or makeup work for the days absent. Students have three (3) school days to make up assignments and ten (10) days to make up tests/quizzes. If you need more time, please work with the classroom teacher to make arrangements.

Tardiness Regulations

A student is considered tardy if they arrive late to school. Students who are tardy must report to the office and secure a tardy permit. Students are expected to provide a tardy excuse slip from their parent / guardian to explain their tardiness. Tardy notes should be turned in upon arrival to school, but must be submitted within three days of the tardy. Any student who leaves early due to appointments will need to turn in a slip the following day from that appointment.

Discipline Actions for Tardiness – Elementary School

Start time is 9:20 a.m. and end time is 3:25 p.m. (6 hours 5 minutes, 365 minutes)

Tardy: 9:21 a.m. - 12:23 p.m.

Absent if arrive after 12:24 p.m.

Absent if leave before 12:23 p.m.

Violation Number	Tardies	Disciplinary Action (Under 15 years old)	Disciplinary Action (15 years of age and older)
1	3	Parent / Guardian Phone Call	Parent / Guardian Phone Call
2	6	Student referred to SAP	Student referred to SAP

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Students in the Connellsville Area School District will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day through the Community Eligibility Program. If a student wishes to eat extra, he/she may purchase items ala cart. Any opened drinks and snacks must be consumed in the cafeteria. If your child has a food allergy or special dietary need, please notify the school nurse and principal immediately to schedule a meeting regarding this allergy. If your child cannot have milk or dairy products with their meal, please provide us with a note from your doctor specifying a substitute beverage or item. This note must be renewed each year.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria, besides being a lunch room, is also a place where positive social relations can be developed. Here, each student is expected to practice the general rules of good manners. Some simple rules of courteous behavior which would make the lunch period pleasant and relaxed are:

1. Have your school ID number ready so you do not hold up the line.
2. Choose your food promptly.
3. Be courteous to all who serve you.
4. Handle cafeteria items carefully as they cost money—your money.
5. Observe good dining room standards at the table.
6. Leave the table and the surrounding area clean and in good order.
7. Put trash in the proper containers.
8. Use appropriate table manners and inside voices.

CAFETERIA INFRACTIONS

Additional infractions may result in cafeteria privileges being revoked. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria. Students are not to take food or drink into the hallways or classrooms. The cafeteria is run by the school at cost. Appreciate it and keep it clean and attractive.

CHAIN OF CONTACT

It is the Connellsville School Area School District policy that any classroom issues should be first addressed with your child's teacher. Although most situations can be dealt with effectively by the parent, teacher and child, sometimes other people may need to be included such as our school counselor, principal, school psychologist, nurse, or instructional specialist. If needed, you may then contact the office and speak with the school secretary, who may direct you to the school counselor or principal who will help you resolve your concern.

CHROMEBOOKS

Overview

The mission of the 1:1 Chromebook program is to create a collaborative environment that enhances student engagement and promotes the development of self-directed learning. Students will transition from consumers of information to co-creators of knowledge.

The Chromebook provides students access to educational materials, web-based tools, and Google Workspace for Education. The supplied device is an educational tool not intended for gaming, social networking or high-end computing.

This section of the handbook outlines the procedures and policies for student use and guidelines for students and families to protect the device issued by the Connellsville Area School District.

Issuance and Collection of Chromebooks

- Every student will be issued a Chromebook upon entering Kindergarten, Fourth Grade, and Eighth Grade; or upon enrollment in the District. This device is the property of the Connellsville Area School District, but individual students will be responsible for the care of their issued Chromebook until a new device is issued or until withdrawal from the District.
- Students leaving the District must return the District-owned Chromebook to the Media Center of their respective school. Any Chromebook not returned upon the withdrawal of the will be considered stolen property and law enforcement agencies will be notified.
- Chromebooks will be examined for damage and fees may be issued if damage is found to be beyond normal wear and tear.

Use of the Chromebook

- The District's Acceptable Use Policy applies to all student use of Chromebook devices. The student, in whose name a system account and/or Chromebook hardware is issued, will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use. Noncompliance with the policies of this document will result in disciplinary action.
- Chromebooks are subject to content filtering both in school and at home. Any attempt to bypass the content filtering, including, but not limited to accessing the following will result in disciplinary action: alcohol, drugs, gang related symbols, guns, inappropriate language, pornographic materials, weapons, or anything else deemed inappropriate by Connellsville Area School District staff
- In addition to teacher expectations for daily classroom use, Chromebooks will be used to access school announcements, calendars, grades, and schedules. At-home use of the Chromebook is encouraged.
- Students are expected to bring their completely charged Chromebook to school for use in class each day. A fully charged Chromebook's battery should last an entire school day. Failure to bring a completely charged device may affect daily achievement grades or lead to other consequences. Repeat violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action.
- If a student leaves their Chromebook at home, they will be permitted to call their parent/guardian to bring the device to school. This should occur before the school day starts or during lunch time to reduce distractions during the school day. Students unable to contact a parent/guardian may use a "Classroom Loaner", if available. If no loaner devices are available, the student must comply with teacher-specific classroom procedures for completion of assignments.
- Students will only be able to login using their assigned @casdedu.org Google account. To ensure account security, students should not share their password and should log out of their Chromebook when not in use. Account login information can be supplied to a student by the Media Center staff.
- Sound should remain muted unless permission is granted from the teacher. Students are encouraged to purchase a pair of headphones/earbuds for personal use. The District will not supply headphones.
- The District encourages the digital exchange of information by sharing and/or emailing communication and assignments. Printing from the Chromebooks will not be available.

Chromebook Care Guidelines

- Chromebooks must have a Connellsville Area School District barcode label on them at all times; this tag must not be removed or altered in any way. Chromebooks must remain free of any writing, drawing, or stickers.
- Clean the Chromebook with a soft, dry microfiber cloth or antistatic cloth. If a more thorough screen cleaning is required, lightly dampen a clean microfiber cloth with water. Do not use any type of cleaning solvent on your Chromebook.
- Screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure on the screen. Do not lean on or place heavy objects on the top of the device when it is closed. Do not poke the screen with anything that will mark or scratch its surface or place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens or pencils).
- Food or drink should never be placed near the Chromebook.
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted and removed carefully.
- Transport Chromebooks with care. Lids should remain closed and tightly secured when moving. Never move a Chromebook by lifting from the screen. Always support a Chromebook from its bottom with the lid closed. Never transport the Chromebook with the power cord plugged in.
- Cases will not be provided by the District but may be purchased from many retailers. It is suggested that students get a case to transport their Chromebooks back and forth to the school.
- To prevent overheating, Chromebooks should never be left in a car. Vents must not be blocked in any way.
- Under no circumstances should Chromebooks be left in an unsupervised area including cafeterias, locker rooms, media centers, unlocked classrooms, on top of lockers, restrooms, hallways, or outside. If an unsupervised Chromebook is found, notify a staff member immediately. Disciplinary action may be taken for leaving a Chromebook in an unsupervised location.

Chromebooks Needing Repair

- Chromebooks that are broken, or fail to work properly, must be taken to the Media Center of their respective school as soon as possible. Depending on the severity of the issue, a “Daily Loaner” may be issued right away.
- All repairs must be handled by District IT Staff. Students and families should never attempt to fix a broken Chromebook. Do not take District owned Chromebooks to an outside computer service for any type of repairs or maintenance. The District will not issue reimbursements for outside repair services.
- Students and/or families will be responsible for any damages caused to their District-issued Chromebook. If a device is lost or stolen the student and/or family will be responsible to replace the Chromebook. Optional insurance is available through the District for \$25.00 per year.

Examples of charges for Chromebook Repair:
Replacement of damaged/lost Chromebook: \$200.00

Replacement of screen: \$75.00
Replacement of keyboard/touchpad: \$50.00
Replacement power cord: \$20.00

Google Privacy Notice

Google Workspace for Education accounts (including Gmail) will be given to all students in the Connellsville Area School District. The only identifiable information provided to Google will be the student's name and the District provided email address. Google uses student personal information to provide, maintain, and protect the services. Google does not serve ads in the Core Services or use personal information collected in the Core Services for advertising purposes. Additional Services require parental consent for students under the age of 13. In order to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), we must also provide a process for opting out of these services. If you feel it would be best for your child not to utilize these tools, please contact your child's school to request information on opting out.

CHROMEBOOKS

Using Your Chromebook at School

- Chromebooks are intended for use at school each day.
- In addition to teacher expectations for Chromebook use, school messages, announcements, calendars and schedules may be accessed using the Chromebook.
- Students must be responsible to bring their Chromebook to all classes, unless specifically advised not to do so by their class teacher.

Updating your Chromebook

- When a Chromebook starts up, it updates itself automatically, so it has the most recent version of the Chrome operating system without you having to do a thing.

Virus Protections & Additional Software

- The Chromebook is built with layers of protection against malware and security attacks.
- Files are stored in the cloud, so there's no need to worry about lost homework

COUNSELING PROGRAM

In compliance with state standards, students will participate in a comprehensive school counseling program, encompassing academic and personal/social development as well as career-readiness. Students will work collaboratively with their school counselor, parents, and community stakeholders, to help set short- and long-term goals, ensuring success upon graduating from CASD. Through classroom activities and individual conferences, students will complete a series of career-oriented projects, through an online career portfolio. At the high school level, in addition to counselor scheduled appointments, students can request to see their counselor through email or an appointment form that can be picked up in the counseling office. If an emergency situation arises, a school counselor will be available without appointment. Our goal is to create an environment that encourages each student to achieve their highest potential.

DRESS CODE - POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The administration recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. However, personal appearance should not disrupt the educational process, call undue attention to the individual, violate federal, state, or local health or

obscenity laws, or affect the welfare of the student or his/her classmates. Building principals will determine if the students dress is appropriate. In all cases, the decision of the principal as to the appropriateness of the attire is final. Specific dress rules include the following:

1. Students should wear clothing that is decent and reasonably modest ensuring adequate coverage and appropriateness.
2. Clothing and accessories shall not have writing, pictures, or insignias of any type which promote drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, or tobacco. Clothing and accessories shall not have writing, pictures, or insignias with double meanings, or that are offensive to others (such as Confederate flags).
3. No headwear except that which is required medically or religiously. Sunglasses cannot be worn in the building.
4. Garments designed for protection against the weather such as hats/gloves may not be worn in the building during the school day.
5. Appropriate footwear should be worn daily due to safety concerns while using stairs and on the playground. Tennis shoes must be worn for Physical Education class.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Radios, compact disc players, iPods, cameras, video cameras, cell phones and other entertainment devices are inappropriate in an educational setting. Such items, if brought to school without proper authorization, will be temporarily confiscated. Students who repeatedly violate the policy on radios and other electronic devices will be punished at the discretion of the administration.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES- DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

(See Appendix B – Acceptable Use of Electronic Communication Networks and Systems)

Radios, iPods, cameras, video cameras, cell phones and other entertainment devices are inappropriate in an educational setting. Such items, if brought to school without proper authorization, will be temporarily confiscated. Students who repeatedly violate the policy on radios and other electronic devices will be punished at the discretion of the administration.

- **Video/Photography is an unacceptable use of technology on school district property unless it is being used for the purpose of instructional and educational purposes.**
 - Please refer to Appendix U Policy 237.1

Disciplinary Actions for Electronics Violations (under 17 years old)	
1 st Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Warning ➤ Student will be asked to turn off the device and put it away. ➤ Delete any photos/videos taken
2 nd Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Device is confiscated and held in the office ➤ Student may retrieve device at the end of the day
3 rd Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent must pick up the device ➤ Lunch or recess detention

Subsequent offenses will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the administration.

EMERGENCY CARDS

Emergency cards should be completed and returned before the end of the first week of school. Any change of address or telephone number after the opening of the school year must be made known to the

school office as soon as possible. The information on the emergency cards is vital when a situation arises where the parent must be contacted.

EMERGENCY DRILLS/SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS

Emergency drills are required at regular intervals by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone leave the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom will accompany and give instruction to the students. Students will also be required to participate in school safety drills throughout the school year related to emergency weather situations as well as intruder in the building protocol.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Connellsville Area School District uses the School Messenger emergency notification system to make parents/guardians aware of early dismissals, health threats, changes to the school calendar, snow delays and closings, and to announce special school events. School Messenger is an automatic notification system that delivers voicemail messages to telephones and/or mobile phones.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

In accordance with the Board's philosophy to provide quality educational programs to all district students and to increase the English language proficiency of students who are English Learners, the district shall provide an effective Language Instruction Educational Program that meets the needs of English Learners. This program works in partnership with Intermediate Unit 1 to provide appropriate instruction and educational programs in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations. If parents/guardians prefer school communications in a language other than English, please notify the office and we will provide communications in their preferred language.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

A school must annually notify parents of students in attendance of their rights under FERPA (see Appendix T). The annual notification must include information regarding a parent's right to inspect and review his or her child's education records, the right to seek to amend the records, the right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information from the records (except in certain circumstances), and the right to file a complaint with the Office regarding an alleged failure by a school to comply with FERPA. The school must also inform parents of its definitions of the terms "school official" and "legitimate educational interest."

FERPA does not require a school to notify parents individually of their rights under FERPA. Rather, the school may provide the annual notification by any means likely to inform parents of their rights. Thus, the annual notification may be published by various means, including any of the following: in a student handbook; in a notice to parents; in a calendar of events; on the school's website (though this should not be the exclusive means of notification); in the local newspaper; or posted in a central location at the school or various locations throughout the school. Additionally, some schools include their directory information notice as part of the annual notice of rights under FERPA. To read your rights protected by FERPA, please see Appendix T.

FIELD TRIPS

Your child's teacher will inform you of any upcoming trips outside of school. Classroom field trips must be board approved and if you would like for your child to participate, please complete and return a permission slip to your child's teacher.

GOOGLE'S GSUITE FOR EDUCATION

The Connellsville Area School District wants students to be interested and excited in learning and for parents to be involved with their student's education. To discuss how Google's G Suite apps will be used

at your child's school, please talk to your child's teacher(s) or school administrator. Additionally, parent meetings will be held at your child's school to answer questions and help you to understand your options.

GOOGLE PRIVACY NOTICE

G Suite for Education accounts (including Gmail) will be given to all students in the Connellsville Area School District. The only identifiable information provided to Google will be student's name and the District provided email address. Google uses student personal information to provide, maintain, and protect the services. Google does not serve ads in the Core Services or use personal information collected in the Core Services for advertising purposes. Additional Services require parental consent for students under the age of 13. In order to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), we must also provide a process for opting out of these services. If you feel it would be best for your child not to utilize these tools, please contact your child's school to request information on opting out.

GRADING SCALE/REPORT CARDS

Your child's school will send information regarding our student information management system (PowerSchool) home with your child toward the beginning of the school year. This information will instruct you how to log in to see your child's grades. Please call the school secretary with any questions regarding PowerSchool. Report cards are distributed electronically 4 times a year. A conference may be scheduled upon parent request. Annual parent teacher conferences are held in November (please see the district calendar for the specific date and time). Retention occurs when a student does not meet the standards set forth by the school district. In all cases of retention, the parents/guardians shall be fully involved and informed throughout the process. Parents/Guardians and students shall be informed of the possibility of retention of a student well in advance. The following is the grading scale utilized at CASD:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% or Lower

HEALTH SERVICES

If a student becomes ill in school, he/she should report to the nurse who will decide what should be done. Students who are ill must not leave the building without authorization from the nurse. The nurse's office is not to be used as an excuse for being late to class or being absent. The nurse does not dispense medication. Students who are taking prescribed medications must register the drug with the nurse. (See Appendix L, M, N, O)

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

The Board shall provide, pursuant to law and regulations, homebound instruction to students confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons. The period of homebound instruction for an individual shall not exceed three (3) months. (See Appendix H)

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH):

This resource is intended for parents/guardians/staff/community members to utilize if experiencing homelessness or in crisis. This resource also provides guidance and training and is updated annually. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance — please reach out to **724-626-0236**

Homeless Liaison(s): **Dr. Lori Rosensteel**

Liaison Responsibilities:

The district's liaison shall coordinate with:

1. Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children, youth, and families.
2. Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.
3. District staff responsible for the provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Individuals with Disabilities Act.
4. State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.

The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, soup kitchens, public libraries, and locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children.

The district liaison shall provide reliable, valid, and comprehensive data to the coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program in accordance with federal and state law regulations.

Definition of Homelessness:

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
2. Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
3. Abandoned in hospitals.
4. Whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings.
8. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
9. Living as run-away children.
10. Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
11. Living as school-aged parents in houses for parents if they have no other living accommodations.

School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including pre-school. When the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

Unaccompanied youth is defined as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Enrollment/Placement:

To the extent feasible and, in accordance with the student's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in his or her school of origin while he or she remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which he or she obtains permanent housing.

Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the

attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the district liaison will assist the student with placement and enrollment decisions and give priority to the views of the student in determining where he or she will be enrolled.

If after such consideration, the district determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the district shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. The explanation shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. However, the district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The district liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to Board policy. Homeless families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment.

School/Health Records:

The receiving school district may contact the district of origin for oral confirmation that the student has been immunized but must not be a barrier to enrollment. Oral confirmation between professionals is a sufficient basis to verify immunization with written confirmation to follow within thirty (30) days. The instructional program should begin without delay after the enrollment process is initiated and should not be delayed until the procedure is completed. The enrolling district's liaison will assist the parent/guardian/student in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

The district will support families with accessibility to health-related resources — not limited to access to a physician, dentist, and other specialty doctors.

The district may assist with transportation for access to medical providers as well as assist with overcoming barriers related to insurance.

Placement/Disputes/Complaints:

If the district is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the district shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's placement.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent/guardian/student will be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision on the dispute, including the right to appeal. The parent/guardian/student will be referred to the district liaison, who will carry out the state's grievance procedure as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied student, the district liaison shall ensure that the student is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

If disputes or complaints of noncompliance rise regarding the education of homeless students, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The person filing the complaint shall first contact the school or district through the district liaison, the principal, or Superintendent to present their concerns to the people closest to the situation and, most likely, to be able to resolve it quickly.
2. If Step 1 is not successful or is not possible under the circumstances, contact should be made with the Homeless Project Education Liaison, or the Pennsylvania Department of Education

(PDE) will accept complaints directly through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

3. Individual cases may be referred to the PDE's Office of Chief Counsel and the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, as needed, by the State Homeless Coordinator.

PDE will deliver a response within fifteen (15) business days of the receipt of the complaint. The complaint may arrive in the form of a copy of the school district letter or on the Dispute Letter Form, if given directly to a Liaison of the Homeless Initiative.

Education Records:

Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record subject to the protections of the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act (FERPA) and shall not be deemed to be directory information.

Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other district students including, but not limited to: transportation services, school nutrition programs, vocational programs and technical education, preschool programs, programs for students with limited English proficiency, and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.

Transportation:

The district shall provide transportation for homeless students to their school of origin or the school they choose to attend within the school district.

If the school of origin is outside district boundaries or homeless students live in another district but will attend their school of origin in this district, the school districts shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.

Transportation Coordinator: Mr. Rich Evans

Fiscal Responsibilities:

The following guidelines will be followed in cases when the education of the student is provided by the district where the homeless student is temporarily living. The guidelines shall also apply in cases when the district of prior attendance, where that is not the district the student attended when permanently housed, will educate the student:

1. Homeless individuals not in facilities (shelters) or institutions, as well as homeless individuals living in hotels, motels, cars, tents, or doubled-up with a resident family, shall be reported and reimbursed as resident students.
2. For homeless individuals in temporary shelters, the educating school district will send a form for the determination of district residence for students in facilities or institutions to the presumed district of residence.
3. If the form is acknowledged by the resident district, the educating district will enter the student on its rolls as a nonresident student from the acknowledging resident school district. The educating district will bill the resident district for tuition and will report membership data according to state child accounting procedures.
4. If the form is disclaimed and a district of residence cannot be determined, the student will be considered a ward of the state. The educating district will enter the student on its rolls as a

nonresident ward of the state and will report membership according to state child accounting procedures. The Department of Education will pay tuition to the educating district based on membership reported to child accounting.

In cases when the education of the student is provided by the district of origin, where that is the district, the student attended when permanently housed, the district will continue to educate a homeless student for the period of temporary displacement and should maintain the student on its rolls as a resident student.

In cases when the student becomes permanently housed during the academic year and continues in the school of origin, which is not the district of new residence, the educating district will continue to educate the formerly homeless student on its rolls as a nonresident student.

Training:

Offered by the Coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program. The district's liaison shall arrange professional development programs for school staff, including office staff.

School personnel providing services to homeless students, including enrollment staff, shall receive professional development and support to:

1. Improve identification of homeless students.
2. Understand the rights of such children, including requirements for immediate enrollment and transportation, and
3. Heighten the awareness of, and capacity to respond to, the educational needs of such children.

Family Engagement:

Families are a valued member of our community and an essential part of a child's success. Opportunities for participation in school and building sponsored events are communicated in a variety of ways throughout the school year. If you need assistance to participate, please contact your building principal.

Community Partnerships:

The District partners with community agencies to support families through collaboration. Some community partnerships include but are not limited to:

- Fayette County Drug and Alcohol
- Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services
- Private Industry Council
- Connellsville Community Ministries

Academic Supports:

Students have access to numerous academic supports — based on the need of each individual student. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Title 1 services
- Multi-Tiered Intervention Supports
- After School Tutoring
- Credit Recovery

McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Homeless%20Education/mckinneyvento/Pages/default.aspx>

HOMEWORK

Assigning homework is an acceptable practice. It becomes an essential part of the total education of the student when it provides the opportunity for the student to practice, apply, integrate, or extend school learning. (See Appendix G)

KEEPING YOUR SCHOOL CLEAN

We make every effort to keep the school neat and clean. Our students have pride in their school and want pleasant surroundings. Please cooperate by placing debris in the proper containers.

NON-DISCRIMINATION (TITLE IX)

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin or handicap/disability.

The district strives to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination. Discrimination is inconsistent with the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities and on any conveyance providing transportation to or from a school entity or school-sponsored activity.

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations. (See Appendix D and K)

PBIS (STUDENT CONDUCT)

All elementary schools in the Connellsville Area School District, implement a positive behavior system called PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). This program promotes positive school wide behavior by ensuring that all students are taught the behavioral expectations within the school and on the school bus. Students that need more support in this area will receive major or minor behavior referrals and will work with the teacher, school counselor, and the principal to increase positive behaviors. Major and/or minor behavior referrals may constitute missed recess, lunch or school detention, in-school or out of school suspension. Parent notification and collaboration is part of the PBIS program. (See Appendix C – F – Bullying, Harassment, Hazing, Tobacco)

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOTAPES

The instructional staff and TV production students photograph and videotape numerous school activities throughout the school year. Parents who do not wish to have their child photographed or videotaped should notify the principal, in writing, of this request at the beginning of each school year. No other videotaping is permitted, including with the use of cell phone, unless prior permission is given to the student by a teacher or administrator.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A student shall be promoted when s/he has successfully completed the curriculum requirements and has achieved the academic standards established for the present level, based on the professional judgement of the teachers and the results of assessments. A student shall earn the right to advance to the next grade by demonstrating mastery of the required skills and knowledge. (See Appendix I)

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

SAP is a state mandated program set up for students who are experiencing difficulties. These difficulties can range from a personal problem, truancy issues, a drop in grades, to drug/alcohol involvement or

depression. The purpose of the program is to refer students to sources of help, to move the problem from the school environment, to allow the student to better concentrate on educational issues, and, in some instances, to reduce the disruption of the educational process for other students. Students may be referred by self, other students, parents, or staff. Additional information can be obtained by calling your child's school.

STUDENT RECORDS

The educational interests of students require the collection, retention, and use of data and information about individuals and groups of students while ensuring the individual's right to privacy. The school district will maintain educational records for students for legitimate educational purposes.

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the collection, retention, disclosure and protection of student records. The Board also recognizes the legal requirement to maintain the confidentiality of student records and prohibits the unauthorized access, reproduction, and/or disclosure of student education records and personally identifiable information from such records. (See Appendix J)

STUDENT WELLNESS

Connellsville Area School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

TELEPHONES

Only emergency messages from the parent/guardian will be taken in the office and conveyed to the student as soon as possible. Students will be allowed to use the office phone to return emergency phone calls.

TITLE I

Title I programs are supplemental instructional services, in the areas of reading and mathematics, which are funded by the Federal Government. Connellsville Area School District is able to provide these programs based on the poverty rate, and the number of students in our district who receive a Free or Reduced Lunch. The purpose of Title I is to improve the academic achievement of the disadvantaged. (See Appendix P and Q)

TRANSPORTATION AND VIDEOTAPING

The Board authorizes the use of video and audio recording on school buses and school vehicles for disciplinary and security purposes. The Board prohibits the use of audio recording on any school bus or school vehicle that is not being used for a school-related purpose. (See Appendix R)

BUS/VAN REGULATIONS

Riding a bus/van to school is a privilege that children should enjoy. Concerns about safety and behavior are addressed as needed to maintain a safe situation on the school buses and vans. Children are expected to conduct themselves on buses/vans in an orderly manner. Courtesy toward others and respect for the law and for others is expected. Warnings or suspensions from riding the bus/van will be given to the students by the principal. Bus/van drivers alert the principal if inappropriate behavior occurs. If the unwanted behavior continues, the student may lose the privilege of riding the school bus/van. **A loss of bus privileges does not legally excuse a child from school.** Bus routes will be published in the local paper. All students must report to the designated bus/van stop prior to the pick-up time. In order

that we have a definite understanding as to the rules governing students who ride school buses/vans owned and contracted by the Connellsville Area School District, we present you with the following set of regulations.

1. The bus/van driver has the same authority on the bus/van as the teacher has in the classroom and it is the driver's duty personally, to report all misconduct to the principal in charge.
2. Student transportation is a service provided by the Board of School Directors and the State of Pennsylvania. This service can be denied to any student according to policies established by the Connellsville Area School District.
3. Students are only permitted to ride their regularly assigned bus/van to and from school. Students are not permitted to switch buses or stops without approval of the principal, transportation office, and bus line.
4. Students may be denied the privilege of being transported to and from school for the following reasons:
 - a. Using foul language at any time.
 - b. Loud or boisterous noises that could distract the bus/van driver.
 - c. Throwing or shooting objects.
 - d. Smoking while traveling to and from school.
 - e. Marking or destroying any part of the school bus/van will result in suspension plus cost.
 - f. Striking or fighting any member of the traveling group.
 - g. Spitting or throwing any trash on the floor of the bus/van.
 - h. Refusing to sit in the seat assigned by the bus/van driver.
 - i. Pushing or disorderly rushing to the school bus/van while loading or unloading.
 - j. Placing arms or any part of the body outside the windows.
 - k. Throwing objects or materials from the bus/van.
 - l. Failure to remain in seat while the bus/van is in motion.
 - m. Boisterous or annoying yells to the passing public.
 - n. Illegal use of the emergency door.
 - o. Violating the property of others.
 - p. Misconduct at the bus/van stop.
5. Students denied transportation must be present for each school session to prevent them from being marked illegally absent from school and subjecting parents to arrest.
6. The above rules are established for safety and the concern of all children who ride the school buses.
7. The Elementary School Policy concerning bus/van misbehavior will be as follows:
 - a. First Offense - Detention
 - b. Second Offense - 1-day bus/van suspension or detentions.
 - c. Third Offense - 3 day bus/van suspension.
 - d. Fourth Offense - 5 day bus/van suspension.
 - e. Fifth Offense - 10 day bus/van suspension.
 - f. Sixth Offense - bus/van suspension for remainder of year.

*The above are standard discipline measures, but the school principal has the right to adapt these based on the frequency and severity of the action.

*Students may be given assigned seats on the bus/van at any time.

VISITORS

We encourage you to be involved with your child's school. Keep in mind that upon arrival, you will be required to go through security, including a metal detector and a driver's license scanning device (Raptor), sign in, and wear a visitor's pass. If you would like to chaperone field trips and/or work school events, you are required to have the following current clearances on file with the office. These are available online for a fee.

- Child Abuse History Clearance (CY113)
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Checks for Employment (SPA-164) or Volunteers (SPA-164A)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Fingerprinting

WEATHER EMERGENCY DRILL

Each year, every building in the District will take part in a weather emergency drill that is run in conjunction with PA Emergency Management Services. During this drill, students will be instructed on where they should go and what they should do in the event of a weather-related emergency. The emphasis of this drill is to relocate students to areas in the building that are in the closest proximity to their current class that removes them from dangerous areas such as windows, doors, etc.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

How to Access Special Education Services

- Parents, guardians, teachers and counselors may refer students experiencing difficulties to the principal at the elementary level or to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) at the secondary level for instructional support team assistance.
- Classroom interventions will be initiated.
- Assessment data will be collected and reviewed with the parent and building level team.
- A multidisciplinary team (MDT), which includes the parent, will collect information about the student, write an evaluative report (ER) and determine if the child has a disability and is in need of special education.
- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) team develops an educational plan and determines the services needed to address the student's needs.

Special Education and Your Rights

- Under Pennsylvania and federal law, a child with a disability has a right to special education and related services that are provided:
 - At public expense
 - Under public supervision
 - Without charge
- To conform to the Individual Education Program (IEP) and must receive a free and appropriate public education and related services.
- Recommendations will be made for additional classroom interventions or referral for a formal evaluation.
- Written parental permission is required for a formal evaluation.
- A Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) is signed by the parent to grant permission to implement the IEP.

Special Education- Continuation of Services

The Connellsville Area School District will provide or access a complete continuum of services for all children with disabilities. A child with a disability is evaluated and identified according to Federal and State

Regulations as found in IDEA '2004 and Chapter 14:

- Autism means a developmental disability affecting communication and social interaction.
- Deaf-blindness means a hearing and visual impairment.
- Deafness means a hearing impairment.
- Emotional Disturbance means having emotional concerns (depression, unnatural fears, acting out) displayed over a long period of time.
- Hearing Impairment means permanent or fluctuating hearing difficulties.
- Intellectual Disabilities means sub-average intellectual functioning.
- Multiple Disabilities means two or more impairments found in this list.

- Orthopedic Impairment means a physical condition that affects a child's educational progress.
- Specific Learning Disability means one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding are impaired.
- Other Health Impairments include limited strength, vitality or alertness (or heightened alertness) that affects a child's performance.
- Speech or Language Impairment means a communication disorder and/or voice impairment.
- Traumatic Brain Injury is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force.
- Visual Impairment including Blindness means an impairment in vision (even with correction) that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Due Process and Parental Rights

- If you do not believe that your child's education program is working, you can request an IEP meeting to discuss changing your child's services. Whenever a change in your child's program is proposed, you will be notified and informed of your rights in writing and you will be given the opportunity to agree or disagree with the proposed placement.
- You will receive a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) from the school district and you may approve or disapprove of the proposed placement. There are procedures to follow to insure that your rights are protected. There is a process in place to help resolve differences of opinion concerning program or placement and related services.

VALUABLES

Students are not to bring large amounts of money or valuable merchandise, such as cameras, cell phones, electronic devices, leather jackets, etc. to school. If a student wears glasses or jewelry, he/she is to keep track of them at all times. Students are responsible for personal property. **Please mark all of your child's belongings, jackets and book bags in particular, with a permanent marker.** No toys or items from home are permitted into the building unless for a project that has been cleared by the teacher.

APPENDICES - School Board Policies

APPENDIX A – Attendance (Policy 204)

Purpose

The Board recognizes that attendance is an important factor in educational success, and supports a comprehensive approach to identify and address attendance issues.

Authority

The Board requires the attendance of all students enrolled in district schools during the days and hours that school is in session, except that temporary student absences may be excused by authorized district staff in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Definitions

Compulsory school age shall mean the period of a student's life from the time the student's person in parental relation elects to have the student enter school, which shall be no later than six (6) years of age, until the student reaches eighteen (18) years of age. Beginning with the academic year 2020-2021, compulsory school age shall mean no later than age six (6) until age eighteen (18). The term does not include a student who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, licensed, registered or approved high school.

Cyber shall mean any child enrolled part-time or full-time in the Connellsville Area School District Falcon Online Learning Academy (FOLA).

Truant shall mean having incurred three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a student subject to compulsory school attendance.

Habitually truant shall mean six (6) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a student subject to compulsory school attendance.

Chronically absent shall mean ten percent (10%) or more excused or unexcused absences in one (1) school year.

Person in parental relation shall mean a:

- Custodial biological or adoptive parent.
- Noncustodial biological or adoptive parent.
- Guardian of the person of a student.
- Person with whom a student lives and who is acting in a parental role of a student.

This term shall not include any county agency or person acting as an agent of the county agency in the jurisdiction of a dependent child as defined by law.

School-based or community-based attendance improvement program shall mean a program designed to improve school attendance by seeking to identify and address the underlying reasons for a student's absences. The term may include an educational assignment in an alternative education program, provided the program does not include a program for disruptive youth established pursuant to Article XIX-C of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, persons in parental relation, staff, local children and youth agency and local Magisterial District Judges, about the district's attendance policy by publishing such policy in student handbooks and newsletters, on the district website and through other efficient communication methods.

The Superintendent shall require the signature of the person in parental relation confirming that the policy has been reviewed and that the person in parental relation understands the compulsory school attendance requirements.

The Superintendent or designee, in coordination with the building principal and Attendance Officer, shall be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

The Superintendent and designee shall develop administrative regulations for the attendance of students which:

- Ensure a school session that conforms with requirements of state regulations.
- Govern the maintenance of attendance records in accordance with the law.
- Detail the process for written notices, School Attendance Improvement Conferences, School Attendance Improvement Plans, and referrals to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program, the local children and youth agency, or the appropriate magisterial district judge.
- Impose on truant students appropriate incremental disciplinary measures for infractions of school rules, but no penalty may have an irredeemably negative effect on the student's record beyond that which naturally follows absence from classroom learning experiences.
- Identify the habitual truant, investigate the causes of truant behavior, and consider modification of the student's educational program to meet particular needs and interests.
- Clarify the district's responsibility for collaboration with nonpublic schools in the enforcement of compulsory school attendance requirements.
- Ensure that students legally absent have an opportunity to make up work.
- Issue written notice to any parent/guardian who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance statute, within three (3) days of any proceeding brought under that statute. Such notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the date(s) the absence occurred, that the absence was unexcused and in violation of law, that the parent/guardian is being notified and informed of his/her liability under law for the absence of the student, and that further violation during the school term will be prosecuted without notice.

Repeated infractions of Board policy requiring the attendance of enrolled students may constitute misconduct and disobedience to warrant the student's suspension or expulsion from the regular school program.

Guidelines

Excused/Lawful Absence

For the purpose of this policy, the following conditions constitute reasonable cause for absence from school:

1. Illness, including if a student is dismissed by designated district staff during school hours for health-related reasons.
2. Obtaining professional health care or therapy service rendered by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth or territory.
3. Quarantine.

4. Recovery from accident.
5. Family emergency.
6. Required court attendance.
7. Death in family.
8. School authorized activities.
9. Student educational trips.
10. Requests which have been prearranged by the principal and/or Superintendent.
11. School district transportation difficulties.
12. Educational tours and trips, with prior approval.
13. Other urgent reasons that may reasonably cause a student's absence, as well as circumstances related to homelessness, foster care and other forms of educational instability.
14. Participation in a musical performance in conjunction with a national veterans' organization or incorporated unit, as defined in law, for an event or funeral.

a. The national veterans' organization or incorporated unit must provide the student with a signed excuse, which shall include the date, location, and time of the event or funeral.

b. The student shall furnish the signed excuse to the district for being excused from school.

Attendance need not always be within school facilities. A student will be considered in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board; the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction, or health or therapeutic services; the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised independent study, work-study or career education program; the student is enrolled in CYBER (FOIA); the student is receiving approved homebound instruction; or the student's placement is instruction in the home

All absences occasioned by observance by a bona fide religious group, upon prior written request from the person in parental relation, shall be excused. A penalty shall not be attached to an absence for a religious holiday.

The Board shall, upon written request of the parents/guardians, release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board. Such instruction shall not require the child's absence from school for more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year, and its organizers must inform the Board of the child's attendance record. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction. A penalty shall not be attached to an absence for religious instruction.

The Board shall permit a student to be excused for participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H, FFA or combined 4-H and FFA group upon written request prior to the event.

The Board will recognize other justifiable absences for part of the school day. These shall include:

1. Medical or dental appointments.
2. Court appearances.
3. Family emergencies.
4. Other urgent reasons.

In every case the student must provide an excuse in written, fax, email or other electronic means. This excuse should indicate the date or dates of absence, the reason, and a parent's/guardian's signature. Excuses should be submitted in advance when an absence is anticipated.

The Board shall excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at the schools of this district:

1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons that preclude regular attendance.
2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught, except that such students and students attending college who are also enrolled part-time in the district schools shall be counted as being in part-time attendance in this district.
3. Students fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) years of age whose enrollment in private trade or business schools has been approved.
4. Students fifteen (15) years of age, as well as students fourteen (14) years of age who have completed sixth grade, who are engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.
5. Students sixteen (16) years of age regularly engaged in useful and lawful employment during the school session and holding a valid employment certificate. Regularly engaged means thirty-five (35) or more hours per week of employment.

Temporary Excusals -

The Board may temporarily excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at district schools:

1. Students receiving tutorial instruction in a field not offered in the district's curricula from a properly qualified tutor approved by the Superintendent, when the excusal does not interfere with the student's regular program of studies.
2. Students participating in a religious instruction program. if the following conditions are met:
 - a. The person in parental relation submits a written request for excusal. The request shall identify and describe the instruction, and the dates and hours of instruction.
 - b. The student shall not miss more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year in order to attend classes for religious instruction.
 - c. Following each absence, the person in parental relation shall submit a statement attesting that the student attended the instruction, and the dates and hours of attendance.
3. Homebound children unable to attend school on the recommendation of the school physician and the school psychologist or a psychiatrist and approval of the Secretary of Education.
4. Students enrolled in special schools conducted by the Intermediate Unit 1 or the Department of Education.

Educational Tours and Trips

The Board may excuse a student from school attendance to participate in an educational tour or trip not sponsored by the district if the following conditions are met:

1. The parent/guardian submits a written request for excusal prior to the absence.
2. The student's participation has been approved by the Superintendent or designee.
3. The adult directing and supervising the tour or trip is acceptable to the parents/guardian and the Superintendent
4. College or postsecondary institution visits, with prior approval, will be considered "off-site school-based activity" in attendance.

The Board may limit the number and duration of tours or trips for which excused absences may be granted to a student during the school term.

The Board may report to appropriate authorities infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students who are enrolled in the school district.

The Board shall issue notice to those parents/guardians who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions will be prosecuted according to law.

Compulsory School Attendance Requirements

All students of compulsory school age who reside in the district shall be subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements.

Unexcused/Unlawful Absence

For the purposes of this policy, absences which do not meet the criteria indicated above shall be considered an unexcused/unlawful absence.

An out-of-school suspension may not be considered an unexcused absence.

Parental Notification -

District staff shall provide prompt notice to the person in parental relation upon each incident of unexcused absence.

Enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Requirements

Student is Truant -

When a student has been absent for three (3) days during the current school year without a lawful excuse, district staff shall provide notice to the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student within ten (10) school days of the student's third unexcused absence.

The notice shall:

1. Be in the mode and language of communication preferred by person in parental relation;
2. Include a description of the consequences if the student becomes habitually truant; and
3. When transmitted to a person who is not the biological or adoptive parent, also be provided to the student's biological or adoptive parent, if the parent's mailing address is on file with the school and the parent is not precluded from receiving the information by court order.

The notice may include the offer of a School Attendance Improvement Conference.

If the student incurs additional unexcused absences after issuance of the notice and a School Attendance Improvement Conference was not previously held, district staff shall offer a School Attendance Improvement Conference.

School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC)-

District staff shall notify the person in parental relation in writing and by telephone of the date and time of the School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC).

The purpose of the School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) is to examine student's absences and reasons of the absences in an effort to improve attendance with or without additional services.

The following individuals shall be invited to the School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC):[8]

1. The student.
2. The students' person in parental relation.
3. Other individuals identified by the person in parental relation who may be a resource.
4. Appropriate school personnel.
5. Recommended service providers.

Neither the student nor the person in parental relation shall be required to participate, and the School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) shall occur even if the person in parental relation declines to participate or fails to attend the scheduled conference.

The outcome of the School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) shall be documented in a written School Attendance Improvement Plan. The Plan shall be retained in the student's file. A copy of the Plan shall be provided to the person in parental relation, the student and appropriate district staff.

The district may not take further legal action to address unexcused absences until after the date of the scheduled School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) has been held and the student has incurred six (6) or more days of unexcused absences.

Student is Habitually Truant -

When a student under fifteen (15) years of age is habitually truant, district staff:

1. Shall refer the student to:
 - a. A school-based or community-based attendance improvement program; or
 - b. The local children and youth agency.
2. May file a citation in the office of the appropriate magisterial district judge against the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.

When a student fifteen (15) years of age or older is habitually truant, district staff shall:

1. Refer the student to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program; or
2. File a citation in the office of the appropriate judge against the student and/or the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.

District staff may refer a student who is fifteen (15) years of age or older to the local children and youth agency, if the student continues to incur additional unexcused absences after being referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program, or if the student refuses to participate in such program.

Regardless of age, when district staff refer a habitually truant student to the local children and youth agency or file a citation with the appropriate judge, district staff shall provide verification that the school held a School Attendance Improvement Conference.

Filing a Citation -

A citation shall be filed in the office of the appropriate magisterial district judge whose jurisdiction includes the school in which the student is or should be enrolled, against the student or person in parental relation to the student.

Additional citations for subsequent violations of the compulsory school attendance requirements may only be filed against a student or person in parental relation in accordance with the specific provisions of the law.

Special Needs and Accommodations

If a truant or habitually truant student may qualify as a student with a disability, and require special education services or accommodations, the Director of Special Education shall be notified and shall take action to address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.

For students with disabilities who are truant or habitually truant, the appropriate team shall be notified and shall address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.

Discipline

The district shall not expel or impose out-of-school suspension, disciplinary reassignment or transfer for truant behavior.

APPENDIX B – Acceptable Use of Electronics Communication Networks and Systems (Policy 815)

Purpose

Connellsville Area School District provides employees and students with access to the district's electronic communications systems and network, which includes Internet access, whether wired or wireless, or by any other means.

The electronic communications systems and network provide vast, diverse and unique resources. The Board will provide access to the district's network and systems and to the Internet for staff members and for students, in order to access information, for research, and for collaboration to facilitate learning and teaching.

For users, the district's network and electronic communications systems are to be used primarily for education-related purposes and performance of job duties. Incidental personal use of school computers shall be permitted for employees so long as such use does not interfere with the employee's job duties and performance, with system operations, or with other system users. Personal use must comply with this policy and all other applicable policies, procedures and rules, and must not damage the school's hardware, software, computer or electronic communications systems. Students may only use the network and electronic communications systems for educational purposes.

Definitions

Access to the Internet – a computer shall be considered to have access to the Internet if the computer is equipped with a modem or is connected to a computer network that has access to the Internet.

The term child pornography is defined under both federal and state law.

Child pornography - under federal law, is any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:

1. The production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
2. Such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
3. Such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Child pornography - under state law, is any book, magazine, pamphlet, slide, photograph, film, videotape, computer depiction or other material depicting a child under the age of eighteen (18) years engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of such act.

Computer – Includes any hardware, software, or other technology attached or connected to, installed in, or otherwise used in connection with a computer. **Computer** includes, but is not limited to: desktop, notebook, PowerBook, tablet PC or laptop computers; specialized electronic equipment used for students' special educational purposes; global position system (GPS) equipment; personal digital assistants (PDAs); cell phones with or without Internet access and/or recording and/or camera and other capabilities, mobile phones, or wireless devices; beepers; and any other such technology developed.

Electronic Communications Systems – Any messaging, collaboration, publishing, broadcast, or distribution system that depends on electronic communications resources to create, send, forward, reply to, transmit, store, hold, copy, download, display, view, read, or print electronic records for purposes of communication across electronic communications network systems between or among individuals or groups, that is either explicitly denoted as a system for electronic communications or is implicitly used for such purposes. Further, **an electronic communications system** means any wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo optical or photo electronic facilities for the transmission of wire or electronic communications, and any computer facilities or related electronic equipment for the electronic storage of such communications. Examples include, but are not limited to: the Internet, intranet; electronic mail services; GPS systems; cell phones with or without Internet access and/or recording, camera, and other capabilities; and PDAs.

Educational Purpose – Includes use of network and electronic communications systems for classroom activities, professional or career development, and to support the district's curriculum, policy and mission statement.

The term harmful to minors is defined under both federal and state law.

Harmful to minors - under federal law, is any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole, with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
2. Depicts, describes or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. Taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

Harmful to minors - under state law, is any depiction or representation in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it:

1. Predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors;
2. Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and
3. Taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors.

Incidental Personal Use – Use by an individual employee for occasional, personal communications. Personal use must comply with this policy and all other applicable policies, procedures and rules, and may not interfere with the employee’s job duties and performance, with the system operations, or with other system users. Under no circumstances should the employee believe his/her use is private. The district reserves the right to monitor access and use of its network and electronic communications systems.

The School District Network - All components necessary to effect its operation, including, but not limited to: computers; copper and fiber cabling; wireless communications and links; equipment closets and enclosures; network electronics; telephone lines; printers and other peripherals; storage media; software; and other computers and/or networks to which the school district network may be connected, such as the Internet or those of other institutions.

Minor – For purposes of compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), an individual who has not yet attained the age of seventeen (17). For other purposes, minor shall mean the age of minority as defined in the relevant law.

Obscene – Analysis of the material meets the following elements:

1. The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the material taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest;
2. The subject matter depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically described in the law to be obscene; and
3. The subject matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value.

Sexual Act and Sexual Contact – As defined at 18 U.S.C. 2246(2) and at 18 U.S.C. 2246 (3) and 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5903

Technology protection measure - a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.

Visual Depictions - undeveloped film and videotape and data stored on computer disk or by electronic means which is capable of conversion into a visual image but does not include mere words.

Authority

Access to the district’s electronic communications systems and networks through school resources is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate, unauthorized, and illegal use may result in the revocation of those privileges and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

The electronic communications systems, networks, and user accounts are the property of the district, which reserves the right to deny access to prevent further unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal activity. The district will cooperate fully with Internet Service Providers, local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to the misuse of the network and electronic communications systems.

It is often necessary to access user accounts in order to perform routine maintenance and security tasks; system administrators have the right to access, by interception, the stored communication of user accounts for any reason in order to uphold this policy and to maintain the system. Electronic communications systems and network users have only a limited expectation of privacy in the contents of their personal files or any of their use of the district's network or systems. The district reserves the right to track, log and monitor network and system use and to monitor and allocate files server space.

The district reserves the right to restrict access to any Internet sites or functions it may deem inappropriate through software blocking or general policy. Specifically, the district operates and enforces technology protection measure(s) that monitor and track online activities of minors on its computers used and accessible to adults and students so as to filter or block inappropriate matter on the Internet. **Inappropriate matter** includes, but is not limited to, visual, graphic, text and any other form of obscene, sexually explicit, child pornographic, or other material that is harmful to minors, hateful, illegal, defamatory, lewd, vulgar, profane, rude, inflammatory, threatening, harassing, discriminatory (as it pertains to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, receipt of financial aid, or disability), violent, bullying, terroristic and advocates the destruction of property. Measures designed to restrict adults' and minors' access to material harmful to minors may be disabled to enable an adult to access bona fide research or for another lawful purpose.

The district reserves the right to restrict or limit usage of lower priority network, electronic communications systems and computer uses when network and computing requirements exceed available capacity according to the following priorities:

1. Highest - uses that directly support the education of the students.
2. Medium - uses that indirectly benefit the education of the students.
3. Lowest - uses that include reasonable and limited educationally-related interpersonal communications and incidental personnel communications.
4. Forbidden - all activities in violation of this policy.

The district additionally reserves the right to:

1. Determine which network and electronic communications systems services will be provided through district resources.
2. View and monitor network traffic, files server space, processor, and system utilization, and all applications provided through the network and communications systems, including e-mail.
3. Remove excess e-mail or files taking up an inordinate amount of files server disk space after a reasonable time.
4. Log Internet, network, and electronic communications systems use by students and staff.
5. Revoke user privileges, remove user accounts, or refer to legal authorities when violation of this and any other applicable policies occurs or state or federal law is violated, including but not limited to those governing network use, copyright, security, discipline and vandalism of district resources and equipment.

Due to the nature of the Internet as a global network connecting thousands of computers around the world, inappropriate materials, including those which may be defamatory, inaccurate, obscene, lewd, vulgar, rude, harassing, violent, inflammatory, threatening, terroristic, hateful, bullying, profane, pornographic, offensive, and illegal, can be accessed through the network and electronic communications systems. Because of the nature of the technology that allows the Internet to operate, the district cannot completely block access to these resources.

Accessing these and similar types of resources may be considered an unacceptable use of school resources and will result in suspension of network and electronic communications systems privileges and disciplinary action as outlined in appropriate Board policies.

The Board may establish a list of materials, in addition to those stated in law, that are inappropriate for access by minors.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent and/or designee will serve as the coordinator to oversee the district's network and electronic communications systems and will work with other regional or state organizations as necessary.

The Superintendent and/or designee will approve activities, provide leadership for proper training in the use of the network and electronic communications systems and the requirements of this policy, establish a system to ensure adequate supervision of the network and electronic communications systems, maintain executed user agreements, and be responsible for interpreting the district's Acceptable Use of the Electronic Communications Systems and Network Policy.

The Superintendent and/or designee will establish a process for setting up individual accounts, set quotas for disk usage on the system, establish a retention schedule, and establish the district's virus protection process.

Unless otherwise denied for cause, student access to the Internet, e-mail, or other network and electronic communications systems resources shall be through supervision by the professional staff. Administrators, teachers and staff have the responsibility to work together to help students develop the skills and judgment required to make effective and appropriate use of these resources. All users have the responsibility to respect the rights of all other users within the district and district networks, electronic communications systems, and throughout the Internet, and to abide by the rules established by the district and its Internet Service Provider.

Guidelines

Limitation of Liability

The electronic information available to students and staff does not imply endorsement of the content by the district, nor does the district guarantee the accuracy of information received via the Internet. The district shall not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, delayed, misdelivered, or unavailable when using the network and electronic communications systems.

Neither shall the district be responsible for material that is retrieved by the Internet, or the consequences that may result from them. The district shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet, network, and electronic communications systems. In no event shall the district be liable to the user for any damages whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising out of the use of the Internet, network and electronic communications systems.

Access to the Network and Electronic Communications Systems

Network and electronic communications systems user accounts will be used only by authorized owners of the accounts for authorized purposes. An account will be made available according to a procedure developed by appropriate district authorities.

The district's Acceptable Use of the Electronic Communications Systems and Network Policy will govern all use of the district's network and electronic communications systems. Student and staff use of the network and electronic communications systems will also be governed by the other relevant policies.

Types of services include, but are not limited to:

1. **World Wide Web** - District employees and students will have access to the web through the district's networked computers and electronic communications systems as needed.
2. **E-Mail** - District employees will be provided with an individual account as needed.
3. **Guest Accounts** - Guests may receive an individual account with the approval of the Superintendent and/or designee if there is a specific, district-related purpose requiring such access. Use of the electronic communications system by a guest must be specifically limited to the district-related purpose.

Parental Notification and Responsibility

The district will notify the parents/guardians about the district's network and electronic communications systems and the policies governing their use. This policy contains restrictions on accessing inappropriate material. There is a wide range of material available on the Internet, some of which may not be fitting with the particular values of the families of the students. It is not practically possible for the district to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of the Internet. Further, the district recognizes that parents/guardians bear primary responsibility for transmitting their particular set of family values to their children.

The district will encourage parents/guardians to specify to their child(ren) what material is and is not acceptable for their child(ren) to access through the district's system. Parents/Guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the district's networks when they are accessing the system.

Prohibitions

The use of the Internet computer network and electronic communications systems for illegal, inappropriate, unacceptable, or unethical purposes by students or employees is prohibited. Such activities engaged in by all users are strictly prohibited and illustrated in this policy. The district reserves the right to determine if any activity not stated in this policy constitutes an acceptable or unacceptable use of the network and electronic communications systems.

These prohibitions are in effect any time district resources are accessed whether in school, directly from home, or indirectly through another Internet Service Provider.

General Prohibitions –

It is prohibited to use the network and electronic communications systems to/for:

1. Nonwork or non-school related communications, except for employee use when in compliance with this policy's definition of incidental personal use.

2. Access material that is harmful to minors, indecent, obscene, pornographic, child pornographic or terroristic.
3. Transmit material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients including, but not limited to, that which may be defamatory, inaccurate, obscene, lewd, hateful, harassing, violent, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, profane, pornographic, offensive, terroristic and/or illegal.
4. Cyberbullying another individual.
5. Access or transmit gambling or pools for money, including but not limited to basketball and football, or any other betting or games of chance.
6. Participate in discussion or news groups which cover inappropriate and/or objectionable topics or materials, including those which conform to the definition of inappropriate matter in this policy.
7. Send terroristic threats, hate mail, harassing communications, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communications.
8. Participate in unauthorized Internet Relay Chats, instant messaging communications and Internet voice communications (online, real-time conversations) that are not for school-related purposes or required for staff members to perform their job duties.
9. Facilitate any illegal activity.
10. Communicate through e-mail for noneducational purposes or activities, unless it is for an incidental personal use as defined in this policy. The use of e-mail to mass mail noneducational or nonwork related information is expressly prohibited (for example, the use of the "everyone" distribution list, building level distribution lists, or other e-mail distribution lists to offer personal items for sale is prohibited).
11. Commercial, for-profit, or business purposes (except where such activities are otherwise permitted or authorized under applicable Board policies), unauthorized fundraising or advertising on behalf of the district and non-school district organizations, reselling of district computer resources to non-school district individuals or organizations, or unauthorized use of the district's name. **Commercial purposes** is defined as offering or providing goods or services or purchasing goods or services for personal use. District acquisition policies will be followed for the district's purchase of goods or supplies through the district's system.
12. Political lobbying.
13. Advertising of any kind, unauthorized fundraising or unauthorized use of the district's name will not be permitted on the Internet or e-mail, or any other online service.
14. Anything that results in a copyright violation.
15. Install, distribute, reproduce or use copyrighted software on district computers, or the copying of school district software to unauthorized computer systems.[10]
16. Install computer hardware, peripheral devices, network hardware or system hardware.
17. Intentionally infringing upon the intellectual property rights of others.
18. Use of the network and electronic communications systems to commit plagiarism.
19. Making available material or information the possession or distribution of which is illegal.

20. Unauthorized access, interference, possession, or distribution of confidential or private information including messages sent to them privately without permission of the person who sent the message.
21. Intentionally compromising the privacy or security of electronic information.
22. Using the systems to send any district information to another party, except in the ordinary course of business as necessary or appropriate for the advancement of the district's business or educational interest.
23. Sending unsolicited commercial electronic mail messages, also known as spam.
24. Posting professional web pages without administrative approval.
25. Access to materials, images or photographs that are obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal.

Access and Security Prohibitions –

Users must immediately notify the Superintendent and/or designee if they have identified a possible security problem. The following activities related to access to the district's computer network, electronic communications system and the Internet are prohibited:

1. Misrepresentation (including forgery) of the identity of a sender or source of communication.
2. Acquiring or attempting to acquire passwords of others or giving your password to another.
3. Revealing a password or otherwise permitting the use of others (by intent or negligence) of personal accounts for computer, electronic communications systems, and network access.
4. Using or attempting to use computer accounts of others; these actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of browsing.
5. Altering a communication originally received from another person or computer with the intent to deceive.
6. Use of district resources to engage in any illegal act, which may threaten the health, safety or welfare of any person or persons, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, or being involved in a terroristic threat against any person or property.
7. Disabling virus protection software or procedures.

Operational Prohibitions –

The following operational activities and behaviors are prohibited:

1. Interference with or disruption of computer, electronic communications systems, or network accounts, services or equipment of others, including, but not limited to, the propagation of computer worms and viruses, the sending of electronic chain mail, and the inappropriate sending of broadcast messages to large numbers of individuals or hosts. In other words, the user may not hack or crack the network or others' computers, whether by parasite ware or spyware designed to steal information, or viruses and worms or other hardware or software designed to damage computers, the network, or any component of the network, or strip or harvest information, or

completely take over a person's computer, or "looking around."

2. Altering or attempting to alter files, system security software or the systems without authorization.
3. Unauthorized scanning of the electronic communications systems and network for security vulnerabilities.
4. Attempting to alter any district computing or networking components (including, but not limited to file servers, bridges, routers, or hubs) without authorization or beyond one's level of authorization.
5. Unauthorized wiring, including attempts to create unauthorized network connections, or any unauthorized extension or retransmission of any computer, electronic communications systems, or network services, whether wire or wireless.
6. Connecting unauthorized hardware and devices to the electronic communications systems and network.
7. Loading, downloading, or use of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media.
8. Intentionally damaging or destroying the integrity of electronic information.
9. Intentional destruction of the district's computer hardware or software.
10. Intentionally disrupting the use of electronic communications systems, networks or information systems.
11. Negligence leading to damage of the district's electronic information, computing, electronic communications systems, or networking equipment.
12. Failure to comply with requests from appropriate teachers or administrators to discontinue activities that threaten the operation or integrity of computers, systems, or networks.

Content Guidelines

Information electronically published on the district's electronic communications systems and network, including, but not limited to the school district's World Wide Web pages, shall be subject to the following guidelines:

1. Published documents or videoconferences may not include a child's phone number, street address, or box number, name (other than first name) or the names of other family members.
2. Documents, web pages, electronic communications, or videoconferences may not include personally identifiable information that indicates the physical location of a student at a given time without parental consent.
3. Documents, web pages, electronic communications, or videoconferences may not contain objectionable material or point directly or indirectly to objectionable materials.
4. Documents, web pages and electronic communications must conform to Board policies and guidelines, including the copyright policy.[10]
5. Documents to be published on the World Wide Web must be edited and approved according to district procedures before publication.

Due Process

The district will cooperate fully with the district's Internet Service Provider, local, state, and federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the district's electronic communications systems and network.

The district may terminate the account privileges by providing notice to the user.

Search and Seizure

User violations of the district's Acceptable Use of the Electronic Communications Systems and Network Policy or the law may be discovered by routine maintenance and monitoring of the district system or by any method stated in this policy, pursuant to any legal means.

The district reserves the right to monitor any electronic communications, including but not limited to Internet access and e-mails. Students and employees should have only a limited expectation of privacy in electronic communications, even when used for personal reasons.

Copyright Infringement and Plagiarism

Federal laws, cases, and guidelines pertaining to copyright will govern the use of material accessed through district resources. Users will make a standard practice of requesting permission from the holder of the work and complying with license agreements. Teachers will instruct students to respect copyrights, request permission when appropriate, and comply with license agreements.

Violations of copyright law include, but are not limited to, the making of unauthorized copies of any copyrighted material (such as commercial software, text, graphic images, audio and video recording), distributing copyrighted materials over computer networks, deep-linking and framing into the content of others' web sites. Further, the illegal installation of copyrighted software or files for use on the district's computers is expressly prohibited. This includes all forms of licensed software – shrink-wrap, clickwrap, browse wrap, and electronic software downloaded from the Internet.

District guidelines on plagiarism will govern use of material accessed through the district's electronic communications systems and network. Users will not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet. Teachers will instruct students in appropriate research and citation practices.

Selection of Material

Board policies on the selection of materials will govern use of the Internet.

When using the Internet for class activities, teachers will select material that is appropriate in light of the age of the students and that is relevant to the course objectives. Teachers will preview the materials and web sites they require or recommend students access to determine the appropriateness of the material contained on or accessed through the web site. Teachers will provide guidelines and lists of resources to assist their students in channeling their research activities effectively and properly. Teachers will assist their students in developing the critical thinking skills necessary to ascertain the truthfulness of information, distinguish fact from opinion, and engage in discussions about controversial issues while demonstrating tolerance and respect for those who hold divergent views.

School District Website

The district will establish and maintain a website and will develop web pages that will present information about the district, under the direction of the Superintendent.

Safety

To the greatest extent possible, users of the Internet, electronic communications systems, and network will be protected from harassment or unwanted or unsolicited communication. Any user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications shall immediately bring them to the attention of the Superintendent and/or designee.

Users will not post personal contact information about themselves or other people; in other words, the user may not steal another's identity in any way, may not use spyware, parasite ware, cookies, or use the network in any way to invade one's privacy. Additionally, the user may not disclose, use or disseminate personal information to other users about students or employees on the network, including chat rooms, e-mail, Internet, etc. (examples include, but are not limited to, student grades, social security numbers, home addresses, telephone numbers, school addresses, work addresses, credit card numbers, health and financial information, evaluations, psychological reports, and educational records). **Personal contact information** includes address, telephone number, school address, and work address.

Any district computer/server utilized by students and staff shall be equipped with Internet blocking/filtering software.

Internet Safety Education

Provisions shall be maintained through the curriculum department to provide for formal online safety education to all students. Online Safety Education shall be administered in specific curricular areas in all grades K-12 in varying venues to assure that all minors are mandatorily educated. Education shall include (but is not limited to) appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Documentation of the online safety education shall be maintained by methods prescribed by the curriculum department. [9]

Internet safety measures shall effectively address the following:

1. Control of access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web.
2. Safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
3. Prevention of unauthorized online access by minors, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities.
4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
5. Restriction of minors' access to materials harmful to them.
6. Student users will agree not to meet with someone they have met online unless they have parental consent.
7. Documents or videotapes may not include information that reveals the physical location of a student at a given time.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

Students and employees must be aware that violations of this policy or unlawful use of the computers, Internet or the district's electronic communications systems and networks may result in disciplinary action or loss of privileges.

Loss of Internet, electronic communications systems, and network access could be one of the disciplinary actions; however, this policy incorporates all other relevant Board policies such as, but not limited to, student and employee discipline policies, copyright policy, property policy, curriculum policies, and unlawful harassment policies.

General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the Internet, electronic communications system and network, in addition to the stipulations of this policy. Loss of access and a variety of other disciplinary actions, including but not limited to oral or written reprimands, suspension with or without pay, and dismissal may result from inappropriate use on a case-by-case basis. For example, disciplinary action may be taken for inappropriate language or behavior in using the district's resources.

The network user shall be responsible for damages to network, equipment, electronic communications systems, and software resulting from deliberate and willful acts. The user will also be responsible for incidental or unintended damage resulting from willful or deliberate violations of this policy.

Violations as described in this policy may be reported to the district and appropriate legal authorities, whether the Internet Service Provider, local, state, or federal law enforcement. The district will cooperate to the extent legally required with authorities in all investigations.

Vandalism will result in cancellation of access to the district's Internet, electronic communications systems and network resources and is subject to discipline.

APPENDIX C – Bullying (Policy 249)

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

This section may not be construed to give rise to a cause of action against a person or school corporation based on an allegation of noncompliance with this section. Noncompliance with this section may not be used as evidence against a school corporation in a cause of action

Definitions

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. Substantial interfering with a student's education.
2. Creating a threatening environment.
3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.[\[1\]](#)

The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

Students are encouraged to use the district's report form, available from the building principal, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy.

The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies.

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination

Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination and discriminatory harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination or discriminatory harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged bullying. [\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Retaliation

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.[\[1\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.[\[1\]](#)

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:[\[1\]](#)

1. Board's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.[\[1\]\[6\]\[7\]](#)

This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district web site, if available.

Education

The district shall develop and implement and evaluate bullying prevention and intervention programs and activities. programs and activities shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.[\[1\]\[8\]\[9\]\[10\]](#)

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:[\[1\]\[7\]\[11\]](#)

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
6. Detention.
7. Suspension.
8. Expulsion.
9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.
11. Any other disciplinary action taken by the district.

APPENDIX D – Harassment (Policy 103)

Authority

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin or handicap/disability. [1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16][17]

The Board also declares it to be the policy of this district to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

The district strives to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited at or, in the course of, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities and on any conveyance providing transportation to or from a school entity or school-sponsored activity.

Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under applicable Board policy and procedures. [18] [19] [20] [21]

The Board directs that the foregoing statement of Board policy be included in each student and staff handbook, and that this policy and related attachments be posted to the district's website.

The Board requires a notice stating that the district does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any district education program or activity, to be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district. All discrimination notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

The Board encourages students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to discrimination to promptly report such incidents to designated employees, even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances.

The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of discrimination shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of discrimination brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven discriminatory under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in

accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy, the attachments and the district's legal and investigative obligations.[22][23][24][25][26]

Retaliation

The Board prohibits retaliation by the district against any person for:[26]

1. Making a reporting or making a formal complaint of any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment.
2. Testifying, assisting, participating or refusing to participate in a related investigation, process or other proceeding or hearing.
3. Acting in opposition to practices the person reasonably believes to be discriminatory.

The district, its employees and others are prohibited from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or discriminating against anyone for actions described above. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator immediately if retaliation is believed to have occurred.

Definitions

Complainant shall mean an individual who is alleged to be the victim.

Respondent shall mean an individual alleged to be the perpetrator of the discriminatory conduct.

Discrimination

Discrimination shall mean to treat individuals differently, or to harass or victimize based on a protected classification including race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, handicap/disability or for participation in reports or investigations of alleged discrimination is a form of discrimination and is subject to this policy. A person who is not necessarily an intended victim or target of such harassment but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination on his/her own behalf.

For purposes of this policy, harassment is a form of discrimination based on the protected classifications listed in this policy consisting of unwelcome conduct such as graphic, written, electronic, verbal or nonverbal acts including offensive jokes, slurs, epithets and name calling, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, or other conduct that may be harmful or humiliating or interfere with a person's school or school-related performance and which relates to an individual's or groups race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability when such conduct is:

1. Sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive; and
2. A reasonable person in the complainant's position would find that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment such that it deprives or adversely interferes with or limits an individual or group of the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or opportunities offered by a school.

Definitions Related to Title IX Sexual Harassment

Formal complaint shall mean a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator alleging Title IX sexual harassment and requesting that the district investigate the allegation under the grievance process for formal complaints. The authority for the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator to sign a formal complaint does not make the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator a party in the grievance process for formal complaints. The phrase "document filed by a complainant" refers to a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.[25][27]

Supportive measures shall mean nondisciplinary, nonpunitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed.[27]

Supportive measures shall be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the educational program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or to deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:[27]

1. Counseling.
2. Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments.
3. Modifications of work or class schedules.
4. Campus escort services.
5. Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties.
6. Changes in work or housing locations.
7. Leaves of absence.
8. Increased security.
9. Monitoring of certain areas of the campus.
10. Assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs.
11. Assistance from community health resources including counseling resources.

Supportive measures may also include assessments or evaluations to determine eligibility for special education or related services, or the need to review an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement based on a student's behavior. This could include, but is not limited to, a manifestation determination or functional behavioral assessment (FBA), in accordance with applicable law, regulations or Board policy. [17] [18] [28] [29] [30]

Title IX sexual harassment means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:[27]

1. A district employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or district service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, commonly referred to as *quid pro quo sexual harassment*.
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to a district education program or activity.
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking.
 - a. *Dating violence* means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim and where the existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors:[31]
 - i. Length of relationship.
 - ii. Type of relationship.

- iii. Frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- b. *Domestic violence* includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving federal funding, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.[31]
- c. *Sexual assault* means a sexual offense under state or federal law that is classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.[32]
- d. *Stalking*, under Title IX means stalking on the basis of sex, for example when the stalker desires to date a victim. Stalking means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either:
 - i. Fear for their safety or the safety of others.
 - ii. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Such conduct must have taken place during a district education program or activity and against a person in the United States to qualify as sexual harassment under Title IX. An education program or activity includes the locations, events or circumstances over which the district exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. Title IX applies to all of a district's education programs or activities, whether such programs or activities occur on-campus or off-campus.[24][25][27]

Delegation of Responsibility

In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Board designates the Human Resource Generalist as the district's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator and the Director of Special Education and Student Services as Deputy Title IX Coordinator.[33]

The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:
 732 Rockridge Road
 twitt@casdfalcons.org
 724-628-3300

The Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:
 732 Rockridge Road
 Irosensteel@casdfalcons.org
 724-628-3300

The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator shall fulfill designated responsibilities to ensure adequate nondiscrimination procedures are in place, to recommend new procedures or modifications to procedures and to monitor the implementation of the district's nondiscrimination procedures in the following areas, as appropriate:

1. Curriculum and Materials - Review of curriculum guides, textbooks and supplemental materials for discriminatory bias.
2. Training - Provide training for students and staff to identify and alleviate problems of discrimination.
3. Resources - Maintain and provide information to staff on resources available to alleged victims in addition to the school complaint procedure or Title IX procedures, such as making reports to the

police, available supportive measures such as assistance from domestic violence or rape crisis programs and community health resources including counseling resources.

4. Student Access - Review of programs, activities and practices to ensure that all students have equal access and are not segregated except when permissible by law or regulation.
5. District Support - Assure that like aspects of the school program and activities receive like support as to staffing and compensation, facilities, equipment, and related matters. [34]
6. Student Evaluation - Review of tests, procedures, and guidance and counseling materials for stereotyping and discrimination.
7. Reports/Formal Complaints - Monitor and provide technical assistance to individuals involved in managing informal reports and formal complaints.

Guidelines

Title IX Sexual Harassment Training Requirements

The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall receive the following training, as required or appropriate to their specific role:

1. Definition of sexual harassment.
2. Scope of the district's education program or activity, as it pertains to what is subject to Title IX regulations.
3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process for formal complaints, including examination of evidence, drafting written determinations, handling appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable.
4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest and bias.
5. Use of relevant technology.
6. Issues of relevance including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
7. Issues of relevance, weight of evidence and application of standard of proof and drafting investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.
8. How to address complaints when the alleged conduct does not qualify as Title IX sexual harassment but could be addressed under another complaint process or Board policy.

All training materials shall promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of Title IX sexual harassment without relying on sex stereotypes.

All training materials shall be posted on the district's website.

Disciplinary Consequences

A student who is determined to be responsible for violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include but is not limited to:
[18] [19] [20]

1. Loss of school privileges.

2. Permanent transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
3. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
4. Detention.
5. Suspension.
6. Expulsion.
7. Referral to law enforcement officials.

An employee who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the applicable Board policy, collective bargaining agreement and individual contract, up to and including dismissal and/or referral to law enforcement officials. [21] [35]

Reports of Discrimination

Any reports of discrimination that are reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator and do not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment but are based on race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability shall follow the Discrimination Complaint Procedures in Attachment 2 to this policy.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Any reports deemed by the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator to meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX shall follow the Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints in Attachment 3 to this policy.

APPENDIX E – Hazing (Policy 247)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy **hazing** is defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization. The term shall include, but not limited to:[\[1\]](#)

1. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding;
2. Forced calisthenics;
3. Exposure to the elements;
4. Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance;
5. Any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which is

intended to or could result in humiliation, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or

6. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

For purposes of this policy, any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

For purposes of this policy, **student activity or organization** is defined as any organization, team, club, society, or group operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district.[\[2\]\[3\]](#)

Endanger the physical health shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Endanger the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.

Authority

The Board prohibits hazing in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours.[\[3\]\[4\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]](#)

No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore any form of hazing.

The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination

Every report of alleged hazing that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a hazing investigation, potential issues of discrimination are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged hazing. [\[8\]\[9\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

District administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual or student activity or organization found to be in violation of this policy.

Students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Guidelines

In addition to posting this policy on the district's website, the district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff that hazing of district students is prohibited, by means of:[\[5\]](#)

1. Distribution of written policy.
2. Publication in handbooks.
3. Verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program.

This policy, along with other applicable district policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct, shall be provided to all school athletic coaches and all sponsors and volunteers affiliated with a student activity or organization annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity or serving as a responsible adult supervising, advising, assisting or otherwise participating in a student activity or organization.[\[3\]](#)

Complaint Procedure

1. When a student believes that they have been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.
2. The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.
3. The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, including the recommended disposition of the complaint.
4. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.

Consequences for Violations

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, s/he will be disciplined appropriately up to and including expulsion, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct. Discipline could include removal from the activity.

Building principals shall take such disciplinary action for violations of this policy as is appropriate and within their authority, as set forth in policy and the Code of Student Conduct. In addition to other authorized discipline, building principals shall have the authority, after providing the student or students an informal hearing, to impose a fine to each student determined to have engaged in hazing in violation of this policy.[\[5\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

When recommended disciplinary action results in a formal hearing before the Board, in addition to other authorized disciplinary consequences, the Board may also impose a fine to each student determined to have engaged in hazing in violation of this policy.[\[5\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

When fines have not been paid, the Superintendent shall have the authority to direct that student diplomas and/or transcripts be withheld until payment in full is made or a payment plan is agreed upon. In cases of economic hardship, the Superintendent shall consider whether diplomas and/or transcripts should be released despite an unpaid fine.^[5]

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach, sponsor, or volunteer affiliated with the student activity or organization engaged in, condoned or ignored any violation of this policy, the coach, sponsor, or volunteer shall be disciplined in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. [14] [15] [16]

Discipline could include, but is not limited to, dismissal from the position as coach, sponsor, or volunteer, and/or dismissal from district employment.

If a student activity or organization authorizes hazing in blatant disregard of this policy or other applicable district rules, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the district.

Any person who causes or participates in hazing may also be subject to criminal prosecution.^[5]

APPENDIX F - Tobacco (Policy 222)

Purpose

The Board recognizes that tobacco and vaping products, including the product marketed as Juul and other electronic cigarettes, present a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for both users and nonusers and the school environment. The purpose of this policy is to prohibit student possession, use, purchase and sale of tobacco and vaping products, including Juuls and other electronic cigarettes.

Definition

State law defines the term **tobacco product** to broadly encompass not only tobacco but also vaping products including Juuls and other electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). Tobacco products, for purposes of this policy and in accordance with state law, shall be defined to include the following:^{[1][2]}

1. Any product containing, made or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, cigar cigarillo, little cigar, pipe tobacco; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco in any form including chewing tobacco, snuff and snus, dip or dissolvable tobacco pieces.
2. Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or another substance to a person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, electronic nicotine delivery systems, an electronic cigarette, a cigar, a pipe and a hookah.
3. Any product containing, made or derived from either:
 - a. Tobacco, whether in its natural or synthetic form; or
 - b. Nicotine, whether in its natural or synthetic form, which is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration as a deemed tobacco product.
4. Any component, part or accessory of the product or electronic device listed in this definition, whether or not sold separately.

The term **tobacco product** does not include the following:

[\[1\]\[2\]](#)

1. A product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such approved purpose, as long as the product is not inhaled. NOTE: *This exception shall be governed by Board policy relating to Medications.* [\[3\]](#)
2. A device, included under the definition of tobacco product above, if sold by a dispensary licensed in compliance with the Medical Marijuana Act. NOTE: *Guidance issued by the PA Department of Health directs schools to prohibit possession of any form of medical marijuana by students at any time on school property or during any school activities on school property. This exception shall be governed by Board policy relating to Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia.* [\[4\]](#)

Authority

The Board prohibits possession, use, purchase or sale of tobacco and vaping products, including the product marketed as Juul and other e-cigarettes, regardless of whether such products contain tobacco or nicotine, by or to students at any time in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district; on property owned, leased or controlled by the school district; or at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property. [\[1\]\[2\]\[5\]](#)

The Board prohibits student possession or use of products marketed and sold as tobacco cessation products or for other therapeutic purposes, except as authorized in the Board's Medication policy. [\[3\]](#)

The Board prohibits student possession of any form of medical marijuana at any time in a school building; on school buses or other vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district; on property owned, leased or controlled by the school district; or at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property. [\[4\]](#)

The Board authorizes the confiscation and disposal of products prohibited by this policy.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's tobacco and vaping products policy by publishing such policy in the student handbooks, parental newsletters, posters, and by other efficient methods, such as posted notices, signs and on the district website. [\[2\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

Reporting

Parental Report -

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving possession, use, purchase or sale of a tobacco or vaping product, including a Juul or other e-cigarette, immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. [\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]](#)

Office for Safe Schools Report -

The Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of possession, use or sale of tobacco and vaping products, including Juuls or other e-cigarettes, by students in violation of this policy by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form in accordance with state law and regulation.[8][9]

Law Enforcement Incident Report -

The Superintendent or designee may report incidents of possession, use or sale of tobacco and vaping products by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the school police, school resource officer or to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[1][2][6][8][9][10][11]

Guidelines

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to prosecution initiated by the district, and, if convicted, shall be required to pay a fine for the benefit of the district, plus court costs. In lieu of the imposition of a fine, the court may admit the student to an adjudication alternative.[2]

Tampering with devices installed to detect use of tobacco or vaping products shall be deemed a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action. [12]

Students with Disabilities

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[8][13][14][15][16][17]

APPENDIX G - Homework (Policy 130)

Purpose

Homework assignments should complement classroom instruction. Assignments should develop student responsibility, good study habits and organizational skills.

The purpose of homework assignments should be to:

1. Provide practice and reinforcement of skills presented by the teacher.
2. Broaden areas of interest through enrichment.
3. Provide opportunities for parents/guardians to know what their child is studying.
4. Encourage parent/guardian and child interaction.

Guidelines

Homework shall be planned and evaluated with respect to its purpose, appropriateness, and completion time. The demand of homework upon the students' time shall be consistent with the best interests of the students in regards to other valuable experiences to be gained outside of school.

Homework should not interfere with the proper development of the student's health, nor should it interfere with the student assuming responsibilities in the home.

APPENDIX H - Homebound Instruction (Policy 117)

Authority

The Board shall provide, pursuant to law and regulations, homebound instruction to students confined to home or hospital for physical disability, illness, injury, urgent reasons, or when such confinement is recommended for psychological or psychiatric reasons. The period of homebound instruction for an individual shall not exceed three (3) months.

Delegation of Responsibility

Application for homebound instruction shall certify the nature of the illness or disability, state the probable duration of the confinement and be recommended by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent may grant recommended requests for homebound instruction and shall report each to the Board at its next regular meeting.

The Superintendent or designee may request approval from the Department of Education to extend the period of homebound instruction for an individual, which shall be re-evaluated every three (3) months.

Parental Responsibilities

It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide an environment in which the homebound teacher and the student can complete the assignments. The parent/guardian, or another responsible adult, is expected to be at home during the hours of instruction. The weekly time schedule will be arranged according to the student's, the parent's/guardian's, and the homebound teachers' schedules. It is also the parent's/guardian's responsibility to secure the necessary documentation from the student's attending physician by having the district form completed.

Student Responsibilities

It is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments, tests, and exercises as determined by the classroom and the homebound teacher and carried out by the homebound teacher. Failure to do so within the time limits prescribed by the district can result in a failing grade.

Teacher Responsibilities

It is the homebound teacher's responsibility to contact the parent/guardian and to arrange a weekly time schedule. It is also the responsibility of the homebound teacher to open and maintain a channel of communications with the classroom teacher. This will involve periodic reports of student progress and will ensure that the student is staying on task with his/her studies.

Grading

The classroom teacher will provide the homebound teacher with all assignments, tests, and exercises as needed. The homebound teacher will provide the classroom teacher with the necessary data to determine the student's grades. The student's grade should be based upon input from both the classroom and the homebound teacher.

Physician Responsibilities

The physician will provide the necessary documentation to the school district that certifies that the student is unable to attend school and should receive homebound instruction. The physician must state the specific reason why homebound instruction is required and the period of time necessary.

Guidelines

Whenever a student is under confinement for more than two (2) weeks, ten (10) days, the district will provide homebound instruction. Homebound instruction will consist of a maximum of five (5) hours of instructional time per week. This instruction should span the gap left in the student's regular educational program due to the student's infirmity.

Under certain circumstances, homebound instruction in specific curricular areas may not be provided. Should this occur, the student would receive an incomplete grade in the subject until the necessary work can be completed. In some instances, the student may have to repeat the course. It is further understood that it is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments, tests, and exercises as directed by the homebound teacher. Failure to do so can result in a failing grade.

Exceptions may be recommended by the Superintendent.

The program of homebound instruction provided to each student shall be in accordance with the standards established by the state.

The Board reserves the right to withhold homebound instruction when:

1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health or well-being of the teacher. This may necessitate holding the instruction time in a more suitable location.
2. A parent/guardian or other responsible adult in authority is not present with the student during the hours of instruction.
3. The condition of the student precludes any benefit from such instruction.

Alternative to Homebound Instruction (Extended Day Program)

As an alternative to homebound instruction, it may be necessary to provide after-school instruction at a district school building for a student(s). Instruction may be provided individually or for a small group of students offered two (2) hours per day, three (3) days per week. Students participating in this program will receive individual attention and a more traditional classroom atmosphere as well as have greater access to resource materials and facilities provided by the school district.

APPENDIX I - Promotion and Retention (Policy 215)

Purpose

The Board recognizes that the emotional, social, physical and educational development of students will vary and that students should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs. The district will establish and maintain high standards for each grade and monitor student achievement in a continuous and systematic manner.

Authority

The Board establishes that each student shall be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and development that corresponds with the student's development, the system of grade levels, and attainment of the academic standards established for each grade.

A student shall be promoted when s/he has successfully completed the curriculum requirements and has achieved the academic standards established for the present level, based on the professional judgement of the teachers and the results of assessments. A student shall earn the right to advance to the next grade by demonstrating mastery of the required skills and knowledge.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for promotion and retention of students which assure that every effort will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before the student is retained.

The recommendation of the classroom teacher shall be required for promotion or retention of a student.

Guidelines

In all cases of retention, the parents/guardians shall be fully involved and informed throughout the process. Parents/Guardians and students shall be informed of the possibility of retention of a student well in advance.

Academic achievement, attitude, effort, work habits, behavior, attendance and other factors related to learning shall be evaluated regularly and communicated to students and parents/guardians.

The district shall utilize multiple measures of academic performance as determinants in promotion and retention decisions.

Progress toward high school graduation shall be based on the student's ability to achieve the established academic standards and pass the required subjects and electives necessary to earn the number of credits mandated by the Board for graduation.

APPENDIX J - Student Records (Policy 216)

Authority

The educational interests of students require the collection, retention, and use of data and information about individuals and groups of students while ensuring the individual's right to privacy. The school district will maintain educational records for students for legitimate educational purposes.

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the collection, retention, disclosure and protection of student records. The Board also recognizes the legal requirement to maintain the confidentiality of student records and prohibits the unauthorized access, reproduction, and/or disclosure of student education records and personally identifiable information from such records. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

The Board shall adopt a comprehensive plan for the collection, maintenance and dissemination of student education records that complies with federal and state laws and regulations and state guidelines. Copies of the adopted student records plan shall be maintained by the district and revised as required by changes in federal or state law and regulations.

Copies of the student records plan shall be submitted to the Department of Education, upon request.

Definitions

Attendance - includes, but is not limited to, attendance in person or by paper correspondence, videoconference, satellite, Internet, or other electronic information and telecommunications technologies

for students who are not physically present in the classroom; and the period during which a person is working under a work-study program.[\[14\]](#)

Directory information - information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information includes, but is not limited to, the student's name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; grade level; enrollment status; dates of attendance; participation in officially recognized school activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors and awards received; and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.[\[11\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

Directory information does not include a student's Social Security Number; or student identification (ID) number, except that directory information may include a student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier displayed on a student ID card/badge or used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

Disclosure - permitting access to or the release, transfer or other communication of personally identifiable information contained in education records by any means, including oral, written, or electronic means, to any party, except the party that provided or created the record.[\[14\]](#)

Education records - records that are directly related to a student, maintained by the school district or by a party acting for the school district.[\[11\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

The term does not include:

1. Records kept in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to another individual except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record.
2. Records created or received by the district after an individual is no longer a student in attendance and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student.
3. Grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher.
4. Other records specifically excluded from the definition of education records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and its implementing regulations.
5. In the case of personally identifiable information on paper or stored on magnetic or video tape, the term shall mean information kept in a secure file or desk drawer or in the continuous and secure control of a school official with a legitimate educational interest in the content thereof. In the case of personally identifiable information that is stored electronically, including electronic mail, the term shall mean information kept in a secure electronic storage system or site, whether located locally or remotely, specifically designated by the Superintendent or his or her designee as a "student records maintenance site." The district electronic mail server or servers, or directory or directories, and the files on local or remote disk drivers, computers, servers, portable media, or mobile devices shall not for any purpose constitute a "student records maintenance site" unless explicitly so designated by the Superintendent or his or her designee in writing, and any personally identifiable information stored thereon shall either be deleted or moved to a "student records maintenance site" at least once annually. Personally, identifiable electronic information, including electronic mail, shall not be considered to be "maintained" by the district or by any individual or agency acting on behalf of the district unless and until it is moved to or stored in or on a "student records maintenance site."

Eligible student - a student who has attained eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education. All rights accorded to and consent required of the parent of the student shall thereafter only be accorded to and required of the eligible student. In cases where an eligible student is dependent upon the parent as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, the district shall make the education records accessible to the parent of said student.[\[14\]\[15\]](#)

Parent - includes a natural parent, a guardian or an individual acting as a parent of a student in the absence of a parent/guardian. The district shall give full rights to either parent unless the district has been provided with evidence that there is a state law, court order, or a legally binding document governing such matters as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights.[\[14\]\[16\]](#)

Personally, identifiable information - includes, but is not limited to:[\[14\]](#)

1. The name of a student, the student's parents or other family members.
2. The address of the student or student's family.
3. A personal identifier, such as the student's Social Security Number, student number, or biometric record.
4. Other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name.
5. Other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.
6. Information requested by a person who the district reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

Student - includes any individual who is or has been in attendance at the district and regarding whom the district maintains education records.[\[14\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for records of regular students and students with disabilities that meets the requirements of all state and federal statutes and regulations and is approved by the Board.

All district personnel having access to student education records shall receive training in the requirements of Board policy, student records plan, and applicable federal and state laws and regulations as directed by the Superintendent.

The designated administrator shall establish safeguards to protect the student and his/her family from an invasion of privacy when collecting, retaining and disseminating student information and providing access to authorized persons.

In accordance with law, each district teacher shall prepare and maintain a record of the work and progress of each student, including the final grade and a recommendation for promotion or retention.[\[5\]\[17\]\[18\]](#)

Guidelines

The district's plan for the collection, retention, disclosure and protection of student records shall provide for the following:

1. Safeguards to protect the student records when collecting, retaining and disclosing personally identifiable information.
2. Ensuring that parents and eligible students, including those who are disabled or have a primary language other than English, are effectively notified of their rights and the procedures to implement those rights, annually and upon enrollment.[\[19\]](#)
3. Procedures for the inspection, review, and copying of a student's education records by parents and eligible students. The district may charge a fee for copies of records that are made for parents so long as the fee does not effectively prevent parents from exercising their right to inspect and review those records. The district shall not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve information in response to a parental request.[\[20\]\[21\]\[22\]](#)
4. Procedures for requesting the amendment of a student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.[\[23\]](#)
5. Procedures for requesting and conducting hearings to challenge the content of the student's education records.[\[24\]\[25\]](#)
6. Enumerating and defining the types, locations and persons responsible for education records maintained by the district.
7. Determining the types of personally identifiable information designated as directory information.[\[14\]\[26\]](#)
8. Establishing guidelines for the disclosure and redisclosure of student education records and personally identifiable information from student records.[\[27\]](#)
9. Reasonable methods to ensure that school district officials obtain access to only those education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest. Such methods shall include criteria for determining who constitutes a school district official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest.[\[19\]\[28\]](#)
10. Maintaining required records of requests for access and each disclosure of personally identifiable information from each student's education records.[\[29\]](#)
11. Ensuring appropriate review, retention, disposal and protection of student records. [30]
12. Transferring education records and appropriate disciplinary records to other school districts.[\[1\]](#)

Student Recruitment

Procedures for disclosure of student records and personally identifiable information shall apply equally to military recruiters, colleges and universities, and prospective employers and shall comply with law and Board policy. [31]

Missing Child Registration

A missing child notation shall be placed on school records of a student under the age of eighteen (18) reported as missing to school officials by a law enforcement agency. Such notation shall be removed when the school district is notified by the appropriate law enforcement agency that a missing child has been recovered.[\[32\]](#)

In the event the district receives a request for information from the school records of a missing child, the district shall:[\[33\]](#)

1. Attempt to obtain information on the identity of the requester.
2. Contact the appropriate law enforcement agency to coordinate a response.

No information in the records shall be released to the requester without first contacting the appropriate law enforcement agency.

The annual notice of rights shall inform parents/guardians and eligible students of the following:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education record within forty-five (45) days of the district's receipt of the request for access.
2. The right to request amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise violate the privacy rights of the student.
3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and state laws authorize disclosure without consent.
4. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest if the district discloses certain materials without prior consent.
5. The right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all categories of directory information.
6. The right to request that information not be provided to military recruiting officers.

Transcripts

The district shall provide present and former students a total of three (3) transcripts for colleges, other postsecondary institutions, and prospective employers at no charge. Requests for additional transcripts beyond the three (3) complimentary transcripts will be honored for a fee of \$3.00 per transcript. Payments for transcripts must be made to the district and deposited in the district's general fund.

APPENDIX K - Qualified Students with Disabilities (Policy 103.1)

Authority

The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to ensure that all district programs and practices are free from discrimination against all qualified students with disabilities. The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide academic and nonacademic services and programs equally to students with and without disabilities.

The district shall provide to each qualified student with a disability enrolled in the district, without cost to the student or parent/guardian, a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes provision of education and related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

The Board encourages students and parents/guardians who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment to promptly report such incidents to designated employees.

The Board directs that complaints of discrimination or harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action be taken for substantiated allegations.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Retaliation

The district shall not intimidate, threaten, coerce, discriminate or retaliate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this policy.

Definitions

Qualified student with a disability - a student who has a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the district's educational programs, nonacademic services or extracurricular activities.

Section 504 Team - a group of individuals who are knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data and the placement options for the student. This could include, as appropriate, documentation or input from classroom teachers, counselors, psychologists, school nurses, outside care providers and the student's parents/guardians.

Section 504 Service Agreement (Service Agreement) - an individualized plan for a qualified student with a disability which sets forth the specific related aids, services, or accommodations needed by the student, which shall be implemented in school, in transit to and from school, and in all programs and procedures, so that the student has equal access to the benefits of the school's educational programs, nonacademic services, and extracurricular activities.

Disability harassment - intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on disability that creates a hostile environment by interfering with or denying a student's participation in or receipt of benefits, services, or opportunities in the school's educational programs, nonacademic services, or extracurricular activities.

Delegation of Responsibility

In order to maintain a program of nondiscrimination practices that is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the Board designates the Director of Federal Programs as the district's Section 504 Coordinator.

In addition, each school within the district shall have a Section 504 building administrator.

The district shall publish and disseminate this policy and complaint procedure on or before the first day of each school year by posting it on the district's website, if available, and in the student handbook. The district shall notify parents/guardians of students residing in the district of the district's responsibilities under applicable laws and regulations, and that the district does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.

Guidelines

Identification and Evaluation

The district shall conduct an annual child find campaign to locate and identify every district student with a disability thought to be eligible for Section 504 services and protections. The district may combine this search with the district's IDEA child find efforts, in order to not duplicate efforts.

If a parent/guardian or the district has reason to believe that a student should be identified as a qualified student with a disability, should no longer be identified as a qualified student with a disability, or requires

a change in or modification of the student's current Service Agreement, the parent/guardian or the district shall provide the other party with written notice.

The district shall establish standards and procedures for initial evaluations and periodic re-evaluations of students who need or are believed to need related services because of a disability.

The district shall specifically identify the procedures and types of tests used to evaluate a student, and provide the parent/guardian the opportunity to give or withhold consent to the proposed evaluation(s) in writing.

The district shall establish procedures for evaluation and placement that assure tests and other evaluation materials:

1. Have been validated and are administered by trained personnel.
2. Are tailored to assess educational need and are not based solely on IQ scores.
3. Reflect aptitude or achievement or anything else the tests purport to measure and do not reflect the student's impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills (except where those skills are what is being measured).

Service Agreement

If a student is determined to be a qualified student with a disability, the district shall develop a written Service Agreement for the delivery of all appropriate aids, services, or accommodations necessary to provide the student with FAPE.

The district shall not implement a Service Agreement until the written agreement is executed by a representative of the district and a parent/guardian.

The district shall not modify or terminate a student's current Service Agreement without the parent's/guardian's written consent.

Educational Programs/Nonacademic Services/Extracurricular Activities

The district shall educate a qualified student with a disability with students who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with a disability. A qualified student with a disability shall be removed from the regular educational environment only when the district determines that educating the student in the regular educational environment with the use of related aids, services, or accommodations cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Placement in a setting other than the regular educational environment shall take into account the proximity of the alternative setting to the student's home.

The district shall not discriminate against any qualified student with a disability in its provision of nonacademic services and extracurricular activities, including but not limited to, counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs, and referrals to agencies which provide assistance to individuals with disabilities.

Parental Involvement

Parents/Guardians have the right to inspect and review all relevant school records of the student, meet with the appropriate school officials to discuss any and all issues relevant to the evaluation and accommodations of their child, and give or withhold their written consent to the evaluation and/or the provision of services.

Confidentiality of Student Records

All personally identifiable information regarding a qualified student with a disability shall be treated as confidential and disclosed only as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and its implementing regulations, state regulations, and Board policy.

Discipline

When necessary, the district shall discipline qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and Board policies.

Referral to Law Enforcement and Reporting Requirements

For reporting purposes, the term **incident** shall mean an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use, or sale of alcohol or tobacco; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed under the Safe Schools Act.

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents committed on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity by a qualified student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement, and Board policies. The Superintendent or designee shall respond in a manner that is consistent with the student's Service Agreement and Behavior Support Plan, if applicable.

In making a determination of whether to notify the local police department of a discretionary incident committed by a qualified student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the Superintendent or designee shall use the same criteria used for students who do not have a disability.

For a qualified student with a disability who does not have a Behavior Support Plan as part of the student's Service Agreement, subsequent to notification to law enforcement, the district, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, shall consider whether a Behavior Support Plan should be developed as part of the Service Agreement to address the student's behavior.

In accordance with state law, the Superintendent shall annually, by July 31, report to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form all new incidents committed by qualified students with disabilities, including students for whom an evaluation is pending, which occurred on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The district shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice of rights to the parent/guardian of a student suspected of being a qualified student with a disability, an opportunity for the parent/guardian to review relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the student's parent/guardian, and a review procedure.

A student or parent/guardian filing a claim of discrimination need not exhaust these procedures prior to initiating court action under Section 504.

Parental Request for Assistance

Parents/Guardians may file a written request for assistance with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) if one (1) or both of the following apply:

1. The district is not providing the related aids, services and accommodations specified in the student's Service Agreement.

2. The district has failed to comply with the procedures and state regulations.

PDE shall investigate and respond to requests for assistance and, unless exceptional circumstances exist, shall, within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the request, send to the parents/guardians and district a written response to the request. The response to the parents'/guardians' request shall be in the parents'/guardians' native language or mode of communication

Informal Conference

At any time, parents/guardians may file a written request with the district for an informal conference with respect to the identification or evaluation of a student, or the student's need for related aids, services or accommodations. Within ten (10) school days of receipt of the request, the district shall convene an informal conference. At the conference, every effort shall be made to reach an amicable agreement.

Formal Due Process Hearing

If the matters raised by the district or parents/guardians are not resolved at the informal conference, the district or parents/guardians may submit a written request for an impartial due process hearing. The hearing shall be held before an impartial hearing officer and shall be conducted in accordance with state regulations.

Judicial Appeals

The decision of the impartial hearing officer may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

This complaint procedure is in addition to and does not prevent parents/guardians from using any option in the procedural safeguards system.

Step 1 – Reporting

A student or parent/guardian who believes s/he has been subject to conduct by any student, employee or third party that constitutes a violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the Section 504 building administrator. Any person with knowledge of conduct that may violate this policy, is encouraged to immediately report the matter to the Section 504 building administrator.

A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the Section 504 building administrator, as well as properly making any mandatory police or child protective services reports required by law.

If the Section 504 building administrator is the subject of a complaint, the student, parent/guardian or employee shall report the incident directly to the district's Section 504 Coordinator.

The complainant or reporting employee may be encouraged to use the district's report form, available from the Section 504 building administrator or Section 504 Coordinator, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted, documented and the procedures of this policy implemented. The person accepting the verbal or written complaint may provide factual information on the complaint and the investigative process, the impact of choosing to seek confidentiality and the right to file criminal charges. In all other respects, the person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the complainant or those accused of a violation of this policy.

Step 2 – Investigation

The Section 504 Coordinator shall ensure that the individual assigned to investigate the complaint has an appropriate understanding of the relevant laws pertaining to discrimination issues and this policy and how to conduct investigations.

The investigator shall work with the Section 504 Coordinator to assess the anticipated scope of the investigation, who needs to be interviewed and what records may be relevant to the investigation.

The investigator shall conduct an adequate, reliable and impartial investigation. The complainant and the accused may suggest additional witnesses and provide other evidence during the course of the investigation. When the initial complaint involves allegations relating to conduct which took place away from school property, school-sponsored activities or school conveyances, the investigation may include inquiries related to these allegations to determine whether they resulted in continuing effects such as harassment in school settings.

The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the allegations. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation. The person making the report, parties, parents/guardians and witnesses shall be informed of the prohibition against retaliation for anyone's participation in the process and that conduct believed to be retaliatory should be reported. All individuals providing statements or other information or participating in the investigation shall be instructed to keep the matter confidential and to report any concerns about confidentiality to the investigator.

If the investigation reveals that the conduct being investigated may involve a violation of criminal law, the investigator shall promptly notify the Section 504 Coordinator, who shall promptly inform law enforcement authorities about the allegations.

The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal or child protective services investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded. The investigator should coordinate with any other ongoing investigations of the allegations, including agreeing to request for a short delay in fulfilling the district's investigative responsibilities during the fact-finding portion of a criminal or child protective services investigation. Such delays shall not extend beyond the time necessary to prevent interference with or disruption of the criminal or child protective services investigation.

Step 3 – Investigative Report

The investigator shall prepare and submit a written report to the Section 504 Coordinator within twenty (20) days of the initial report of alleged discrimination, unless the nature of the allegations, anticipated extent of the investigation or the availability of witnesses requires the investigator and the Section 504 Coordinator to establish a different due date. The parties shall be notified of the anticipated date the investigative report will be completed and of any changes to the anticipated due date during the course of the investigation.

The report shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual, the information and evaluation that formed the basis for this determination, whether the conduct violated this policy and of any other violations of law or Board policy which may warrant further district action, and a recommended disposition of the complaint. An investigation into disability harassment shall consider the record as a whole and the totality of circumstances in determining whether a violation of this policy has occurred, recognizing that persistent and pervasive conduct, when taken together, may be a violation even when the separate incidents are not severe.

The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, for example, whether the investigator believes the allegations to be founded or unfounded, within a reasonable time of the submission of the written report to the extent authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws. The accused shall not be notified of the individual remedies offered or provided to the complainant.

Step 4 – District Action

If the investigation results in a finding that some or all of the allegations of the complaint are established and constitute a violation of this policy, the district shall take prompt, corrective action designed to ensure that such conduct ceases and that no retaliation occurs. The district shall promptly take appropriate steps to prevent the recurrence of the prohibited conduct and to address the discriminatory effect the prohibited conduct had on the complainant and the school or school program environment. District staff shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant. The Section 504 Coordinator shall follow up by assessing the effectiveness of the corrective action at reasonable intervals.

If the investigation results in a finding that a different policy was violated separately from or in addition to violations of this policy, or that there are circumstances warranting further action, such matters shall be addressed at the conclusion of this investigation or through disciplinary or other appropriate referrals where further evaluation or investigation is necessary.

Disciplinary actions shall be consistent with the Student Code of Conduct, Board policies and administrative regulations, district procedures, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and state and federal laws.

Appeal Procedure

1. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with a finding made pursuant to the policy or with the recommended corrective action recommended in the investigative report, s/he may submit a written appeal to the district's Section 504 Coordinator within fifteen (15) days.
2. The Section 504 Coordinator shall review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct a reasonable supplemental investigation to assess the sufficiency and propriety of the prior investigation.
3. The Section 504 Coordinator shall prepare a written response to the appeal within twenty (20) days. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the investigator who conducted the initial investigation.

APPENDIX L - Immunization (Policy 203)

Authority

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that guidance and orders from state and local health officials, established Board policy and administrative guidelines and Board approved health and safety plans be followed by students, parents/guardians and district staff.[\[1\]\[2\]](#)

Definitions

Certificate of Immunization - the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The certificate is filled out by the parent/guardian or health care provider and signed by the health care provider, public health official or school nurse or a designee. The certificate is given to the school as proof of full immunization. The school maintains the certificate as the official school immunization record or stores the details of the record in a computer database.[\[3\]](#)

Medical Certificate - the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health setting out the immunization plan for a student who is not fully immunized, filled out and signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, or by a public health official when the immunization is provided by the Department of Health or a local health department, and given to a school as proof that the student is scheduled to complete the required immunizations.[\[3\]](#)

Guidelines

Immunization

All students shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.[\[1\]\[2\]\[4\]](#)

No student shall be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations, unless provisionally admitted or exempted for medical or religious reasons by the Superintendent or designee after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and submitting proof of immunization or a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day of attendance, or in accordance with programs or guidance established by the PA Department of Health.[\[1\]\[4\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]](#)

A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization.[\[1\]\[4\]\[5\]\[6\]](#)

Homeless students who have not been immunized or are unable to provide immunization records due to being homeless shall be admitted in accordance with the provisions of applicable law and regulations.[\[7\]\[8\]\[9\]](#)

Foster care students and students transferring into a school within the Commonwealth shall be admitted in accordance with law and regulations, and shall have thirty (30) days to provide proof of immunizations, a medical certificate detailing the plan to complete a multiple dose vaccine series or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.[\[7\]\[10\]](#)

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee and the school nurse.[\[1\]](#)

Students attending child care group settings located in a school, a pre-kindergarten program or an early intervention program operated by the district shall be immunized in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) standards.[\[5\]\[11\]](#)

The Superintendent shall:

1. Ensure that parents/guardians are informed prior to a student's admission to school, or a grade requiring additional immunizations, of the requirements for immunization, the requisite proof of immunization, exemption, available for religious or medical reasons, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.[\[1\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]\[12\]](#)
2. Designate school personnel to review student medical certificates in accordance with law and regulations to ensure compliance with full immunization requirements.[\[3\]\[7\]](#)
3. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct accordingly the responsible district personnel.
4. Inform parents/guardians prior to a student's entry to school for the first time of the requirements for immunization, the requisite proof of immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reasons, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.[\[1\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]\[12\]](#)
5. Investigate and recommend to the Board district-sponsored programs of immunization that may be warranted by circumstances and the health of the school community. Any such program is subject to Board approval and may be conducted in cooperation with local health agencies.

The Superintendent or designee shall report immunization data electronically on the required form to the Department of Health by December 31 of each year. If the district is unable to complete the report electronically, the Superintendent or designee shall report the immunization data on the required form to the Department of Health by December 15.[\[13\]](#)

Health Records

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, and regular and special examinations.[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent/guardian. The district may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

As part of the health record, a certificate of immunization shall be maintained for each student enrolled, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.[\[7\]](#)

Attendance

The Board directs that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the PA Department of Health or guidance from state or local health officials for specified diseases and infectious conditions.[\[15\]](#)[\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

Parents/Guardians shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of the school year, and that during the school year it may be necessary for a student to be excluded from school due to communicable disease. Parents/Guardians of a student needing to be excluded shall be notified and required to come to school or have a designated emergency contact come to school to transport the student home or to an appropriate place of care. Students may return to school when the criteria for readmission following a communicable disease, as set forth in law, regulations or guidance from state or local health officials, have been met.[\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

The Board directs school staff to request emergency contact information from parents/guardians of students at the beginning of each school year and request that it be updated as necessary during the school year.

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the PA Department of Health.[\[25\]](#)[\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)

Education

Instruction regarding prevention of communicable and life threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels, in accordance with health guidelines, Board approved health and safety plans.[\[28\]](#)

Parents/Guardians shall be informed of and be provided opportunities during school hours to review all curriculum materials used in such instruction.[\[28\]](#)[\[29\]](#)[\[30\]](#)

APPENDIX M - Health Examinations/Screenings (Policy 209)

Authority

In compliance with the applicable law and regulations, and Board approved health and safety plans, the Board shall require that district students submit to health and dental examinations in order to:[\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

1. Protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease.
2. Ensure that the student's participation in health, safety and physical education courses meets the student's individual needs.
3. Ensure that the learning potential of each student is not lessened by a remediable physical disability.

Guidelines

Each student shall receive a comprehensive health examination upon original entry, in sixth grade, and in eleventh grade, conducted by the school physician.[\[1\]\[3\]\[5\]](#)

Each student shall receive a comprehensive dental examination upon original entry, in third grade, and in seventh grade, conducted by the school dentist.[\[1\]\[4\]\[5\]](#)

A private health and/or dental examination conducted at the parents'/guardians' request and expense will be accepted in lieu of the school examination.[\[5\]](#)

The district will accept reports of privately conducted physical and dental examinations completed within one (1) year prior to a student's entry into the grade where an exam is required.[\[5\]](#)

Each student shall receive, from the school nurse or medical technician, vision tests, hearing tests, height and weight measurements, and other tests deemed advisable, at intervals established by the district.[\[1\]\[3\]\[6\]](#)

Parents/Guardians of students who are to receive physical and dental examinations or screenings shall be notified. The notice shall include the date and location of the examination or screening and notice that the parents/guardians may attend. The notice shall encourage the parent/guardian to have the examination or screening conducted by the student's private physician or dentist privately at the parent's/guardian's expense to promote continuity of care. Such statement may also include notification that the student may be exempted from such examination or screening if it is contrary to the parent's/guardian's religious beliefs.[\[7\]\[8\]\[9\]](#)

A student who presents a statement signed by the parent/guardian that a health examination is contrary to the student's or parent's/guardian's religious beliefs shall be examined only when the Secretary of Health determines that facts exist indicating that certain conditions the student would present a substantial menace to the health of others in contact with the student if the student is not examined for those conditions.[\[10\]\[11\]](#)

Where it appears to school health officials or teachers that a student deviates from normal growth and development, or where school examinations reveal conditions requiring health or dental care, the parent/guardian shall be notified of the apparent need for a special examination by the student's private physician or dentist. The parent/guardian shall report to the school whether a special examination occurred. If the parent/guardian fails to report whether the examination occurred within a reasonable time after being notified of the apparent need and the abnormal condition persists, appropriate school health personnel shall arrange a special health examination for the student.[\[1\]\[3\]\[12\]](#)

In the event that the parent/guardian objects to or refuses to obtain a regular or special health or dental examination or refuses to permit the child to be examined as arranged by the school nurse or school physician, the school nurse, in consultation with the school physician, shall determine whether the student appears to have unaddressed health conditions such that under the circumstances the refusal should be reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Health or other appropriate authorities.

Where school health officials or staff have reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be the victim of child abuse, the school employee shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with law and Board policy.[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

Health Monitoring

The Board directs district staff to monitor student health in accordance with applicable Board policy and the Board-approved health and safety plan. [\[15\]](#)

A student may request an alternative method of monitoring as a religious accommodation, and designated district staff shall assess and respond to such request in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy. A request for an accommodation that would unreasonably impair safety or cause undue hardship will not be granted. [\[16\]](#)

A student with a health condition that may render a monitoring method ineffective should notify designated staff so that alternative or supplemental methods may be considered. [\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)

Students who may be exhibiting symptoms that indicate health concerns shall be referred to the school nurse or designated staff for further assessment and response, in accordance with Board policy. [\[15\]](#)

Health Records

The district shall maintain for each student a comprehensive health record which includes a record of immunizations and the results of tests, measurements, regularly scheduled examinations and special examinations.[\[3\]](#)

All health records shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only when necessary for the health of the student or when requested by the parent/guardian, in accordance with law and Board policy.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

The district may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)[\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)

Designated district staff shall request from the transferring school the health records of students transferring into district schools. Staff shall respond to such requests for the health records of students transferring from district schools to other schools.[\[18\]](#)

The district shall destroy student health records only after the student has not been enrolled in district schools for at least two (2) years.[\[18\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall instruct all staff members to continually observe students for conditions that indicate health concerns or disability and to promptly report such conditions to the school nurse or designated staff.[\[3\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall request an adequate health record from the transferring school for each student transferring into the district.[\[18\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that notice is provided to all parents/guardians regarding the existence of and eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).[\[12\]](#)

APPENDIX N -Use of Medications (Policy 210)

Purpose

Ideally, all medication should be given at home. In some situations, however, the attendance and education of a student is dependent upon receiving medication while at school. If a student is required to take medications during school hours, the parents/guardians and student must comply with the required procedures.

This policy and procedures affected by this policy are effective for the regular academic year, field trips, and before/after school programs and summer programs.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, **medication** shall include all medicines prescribed by a licensed prescriber and any over-the-counter (OTC) medicines.

For purposes of this policy, **licensed prescribers** shall include licensed physicians (M.D. and D.O.), podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, certified registered nurse practitioners and physicians assistants.

Authority

The Board directs all district employees to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Guidelines for Pennsylvania Schools for the Administration of Medications and Emergency Care.

This policy prohibits the administration of homeopathic remedies, herbal preparations, enzymes, vitamins and minerals by Connellsville Area School District personnel to students.

Delegation of Responsibility

The administration of medication to students at school is a closely controlled situation.

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the Certified School Nurse (CSN), shall develop procedures for the administration and self-administration of students' medications.

The Certified School Nurse shall collaborate with parents/guardians; district administration, faculty and staff to develop an individualized healthcare plan to best meet the needs of individual students. [1][2]

Building administrators and the Certified School Nurse (CSN) shall review regularly, at least every two (2) years, the procedures for administration and self-administration of medications and shall evaluate recordkeeping, safety practices, and effectiveness of this policy.

The district shall inform all parents/guardians, students and staff about the policy and procedures governing the administration of medications.

Connellsville Area School District personnel are not permitted to engage in the practice of pharmacology. This includes the evaluation of prescription orders and the preparing, compounding and dispensing of drugs and devices and taking medication from the original container and placing it in another container or relabeling it for administration.

Connellsville Area School District personnel are not permitted to engage in the practice of medicine which includes the science and skill of diagnosis and treatment in any manner whatsoever of disease or any ailment of the human body.

The treatment of illnesses and injuries is permitted in accordance with guidelines approved by the school physician by appropriate Connellsville Area School District personnel. Only Certified School Nurses (CSN) or licensed nurses (RN, LPN) employed by the Connellsville Area School District may administer medications as part of the treatment of these illnesses and injuries as prescribed by the school physician or student's private health care provider.

The Connellsville Area School District CSN or other licensed nurse cannot lawfully delegate the nursing function of medication administration to the principal, teacher, administrative personnel, and paraprofessionals.

In the event of an emergency, a district employee may administer medication when s/he believes, in good faith, that a student needs emergency care.

Administration of Medication

Individual Orders –

1. Before any medication may be administered to or by any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written request of the parent/guardian, giving permission for such administration:
 - a. the parent/guardian shall request such administration, give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for the administration of medication, and
 - b. the parent/guardian shall provide a medication order from the prescribing physician, podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, certified registered nurse practitioner and physician's assistant.
2. Medication orders must include:
 - a. Name of student.
 - b. Name of condition for which the medication is being prescribed.
 - c. Name and signature of the licensed prescriber and phone number.
 - d. Name of medication.
 - e. Route and dosage of administration.
 - f. Frequency and time of administration.
 - g. Date of order and discontinuation.
 - h. Specific directions for administration, if any.
 - i. Any special circumstances under which the medication is being prescribed.
 - j. Any specific side effects, contraindications and adverse reactions to be observed.
 - k. Any other medications being taken by the student.
2. Medication orders must be provided to the CSN in writing, with an original signature or an authorized electronic signature. These orders can be accepted from a licensed prescriber on his/her letterhead, prescription pad or on a form provided by the school for this purpose and

signed and dated by a licensed prescriber.

3. The CSN or RN may accept a verbal (oral) medication order from a prescriber when circumstances warrant such as an immediate change in medication dosage or discontinuation of medication. Parents/Guardians must provide a written order within five (5) school days.
4. Parent/Guardian permission for administration of individually ordered medications must be renewed at the start of each school year and with any changes. The written permission must include:
 - a. Parent's/Guardian's printed name and signature.
 - b. Parent's/Guardian's emergency phone number.
 - c. Approval of the CSN or other licensed school health staff to administer the medication.
2. The certified school nurse must be notified in writing of any changes in medication from both the parent/guardian and the physician. Otherwise, medication orders are valid for the current school year and subsequent summer school session.

Standing Orders –

1. The School Physician Consultant may authorize the administration of specific over-the-counter medications and/or emergency medications according to a defined protocol. These orders will be reviewed, updated and renewed annually as evidenced by the School Physician Consultant's signature.
2. Parent/Guardian consent is needed for the administration of over-the counter medications covered by the standing orders. Parent/Guardian consent is not needed for the administration of emergency medications covered by the standing orders. This consent will be provided annually on the Connellsville Area School District Health Room Emergency form.
3. Each health office will maintain a copy of the signed standing orders.
4. All medication will be administered by the certified school nurse or in the absence of the Certified School Nurse by other licensed school health staff (RN, LPN), except as otherwise noted in this policy during the school day with the exception of some emergency medications (see below).
5. Prescription medication must be brought to school in the labeled prescription container which includes:
 - a. Name, address, telephone and federal DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) number of the pharmacy.
 - b. Student's name.
 - c. Name of medication and amount dispensed.
 - d. Directions for use (dosage, route, frequency/time of administration, special instructions).
 - e. Name and registration number of the licensed prescriber.
 - f. Prescription serial number
 - g. Date originally filled.

- h. Controlled substance statement, if applicable.
6. Nonprescription medication which is ordered by a licensed prescriber must be brought to school in the original container with an attached label, which includes the child's name, name and purpose of medication, dosage, and time to be given.
 7. The parent/guardian shall supply all equipment associated with the proper administration of the medication (spacers, tubing, masks, mouthpieces, syringes, glucometers, etc.). This equipment must be in a container labeled with the student's name.
 8. No more than a thirty (30) day supply of any one (1) medication should be stored at school.
 9. The parent/guardian or designated adult shall hand deliver the medication and associated equipment, along with medication forms, to the nurse's office. If it is impossible to hand deliver the medication to the nurse's office, special arrangements should be made with the certified school nurse and principal.
 10. All medication and associated equipment to administer the medication will be counted by the CSN or other licensed school health personnel and the parent/guardian or designated adult each time the medication container or equipment is brought to school. The date, amount of medication, description of equipment, signatures of parent/guardian or designated adult and CSN or licensed school health personnel will be noted on the Connellsville Area School District Medication/Equipment Sign-In.
 11. All medication will be kept in a secured, locked place used exclusively for medications in the nurse's office.
 12. All controlled substances must be kept in a double locked cabinet. The second set of keys for that cabinet must be kept in the principal's office.
 13. Medications that require refrigeration should be stored and locked in a refrigerator designated for medications only. Food should not be stored in the same refrigerator as medications.
 14. Access to all medication will be limited to the CSN and licensed school personnel except that in life threatening emergencies, designated personnel may have access.
 15. Any medication given during school hours must be documented in an individual student medication record. The following information must be included:
 - a. Student name.
 - b. Name of medication.
 - c. Date and time of administration.
 - d. Dose of medication.
 - e. Route and site of administration.
 - f. Signature/initials of licensed person administering/observing medications being taken.

The medication record, the parent's/guardian's authorization form authorizing school medication administration, the licensed prescriber's orders, and any other related medication documents shall be kept in the student's health record in the office of the school nurse in the student's current building of attendance.

2. Parent/Guardian will be notified orally and in writing when the student does not receive medication due to lack of physician and/or parent/guardian permission, medication brought to school not in original and/or improperly labeled, and/or failure to follow medication administration

procedures.

3. The CSN, RN, LPN may refuse to administer the medication if s/he completes an assignment and makes a professional judgment that administration of the medication to the student would be harmful, dangerous and/or inappropriate. The nurse must notify the parent/guardian and licensed prescriber immediately and explain the reason for refusal to administer the medication.
4. Information about these medication procedures will be updated for the student handbooks. Information will be made available to the faculty and to the parent/guardian at the beginning of the school year and as necessary.
5. A parent/guardian or designated adult must pick up expired or discontinued medication within five (5) days. A parent/guardian or designated adult must pick up any unused medication at the end of the school year. Documentation of the returned medication should be noted on the Connellsville Area School District Medication/Equipment Sign-In log.
6. Any unclaimed medication remaining in the nurse's office at the end of the school year will be destroyed by the CSN and a witness. Documentation of the disposal will be noted in the student's health record per procedure.
7. In no case will medication be kept in the school building and made available for administration without accompanying medication orders and parent/guardian permission as noted above. Medications found without accompanying orders and forms according to the above procedures may be confiscated by building administration.
8. Students violating this policy may be referred to administration. Consultation between administration and the certified school nurse shall occur to determine if further action is indicated due to possible policy violations.

Guidelines

Confidentiality

All student health records shall be confidential and maintained in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and the Department of Health Guidelines.

The CSN is required to safeguard the students' right to privacy and confidentiality of student health information.

Information about medications within the student health records will be shared with Connellsville Area School District personnel who need to know to benefit the student and who have the expertise to understand and interpret the health information in relation to school and education needs.

Students may possess and use asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors when permitted in accordance with state law and Board policy.

Medical Plans of Care/Emergency Response

1. The CSN will collaborate with school administration, faculty and staff to develop plans that best meet the students' needs and serves as an advocate for the students. These needs are best communicated through written plans of care such as the:
 - a. Individualized Health Care Plan (initiated by the CSN)
 - b. Emergency Care Plan (initiated by the CSN).
 - c. Chapter 15 Service Agreement (504).
 - d. Individualized Education Plan (IEP) with medical component.

2. The CSN will:
 - a. Communicate health conditions of students with health needs that may lead to a health emergency with staff who are providing academic and related services to students.
 - b. Provide opportunities for CPR and first aid certification to all building staff in collaboration with the building administrators.
 - c. Teach appropriate staff to assist student in using emergency medication.
 - d. Teach appropriate staff to administer emergency care, including use of inhalers and Epi-pens, according to current first aid standards.
2. School staff are immune from civil liability when rendering emergency care, first aid or rescue to a student requiring such care, including use of an inhaler or epinephrine injection.

Student Self-Administration of Emergency Medications

Prior to allowing a student to self-administer emergency medication, the district shall require the following:

1. An order from the licensed prescriber for the medication, including a statement that it is necessary for the student to carry the medication and that the student is capable of self-administration.
2. Written parent/guardian consent.
3. An Individual Health Plan including an Emergency Care Plan.
4. The nurse shall conduct a baseline assessment of the student's health status.
5. The student shall demonstrate administration skills to the nurse and responsible behavior.

The nurse shall provide periodic and ongoing assessments of the student's self-management skills.

The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each occurrence of self-administration of medication.

Students shall demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration of medication. Privileges for self-administration of medication will be revoked if school policies regarding self-administration are violated.

Administration of Medication During Field Trips and Other School-Sponsored Activities

The Board directs planning for field trips and other school-sponsored activities to start early in the school year and to include collaboration between administrators, teachers, nurses, appropriate parents/guardians and other designated health officials.

Considerations when planning for administration of medication during field trips and other school-sponsored programs and activities shall be based on the student's individual needs and may include the following:

1. Assigning school health staff to be available,
2. Utilizing a licensed person from the school district's substitute list.
3. Contracting with a credible agency which provides temporary nursing service.
4. Utilizing licensed volunteers via formal agreement that delineates responsibilities of both the school and the individual.
5. Addressing with parent/guardian the possibility of obtaining from the licensed prescriber a temporary order to change the time of the dose.
6. Asking parent/guardian to accompany the child on the field trip, with proper clearances.
7. Arranging for medications to be provided in an original labeled container with only the amount of medication needed.

Security procedures shall be established for the handling of medication during field trips and other school-sponsored activities.

PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUEST FOR MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

_____ Student Name	_____ School
_____ Grade	_____ Room

To: Building Principal

Please comply with the attached written instructions from our physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant regarding the administration of medication for our child.

As the parent/guardian of above named student, I relieve the school district and its employees of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication. I acknowledge that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken.

_____ Date	_____ Signature of Parent/Guardian
	_____ Telephone Number

PHYSICIAN'S AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION
Authorization for Medication During School Hours

_____ should receive the following prescribed
(Student's Full Name)

medication during school hours:

Name of Medication

Prescribed Dosage

Time Schedule

Length of Time (Days/Weeks)

Diagnosis/Reason for Medication (Unless Confidential)

Potential Reaction/Side Effects

Emergency Response

Is child qualified and able to self-administer? Yes No

Date

Signature of Physician Prescribing Medicine

Physician's Telephone Number

APPENDIX O - Head Lice (Policy 209.1)

Purpose

The Board is committed to maintaining a healthy environment for students and staff. To fulfill that commitment, the Board establishes this policy to provide guidelines for the prevention and control of head lice in students.

Guidelines

At any time during the school year, the school nurse may examine a student for head lice. If nits or lice are identified, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. The school nurse will provide information to the parent/guardian regarding treatment.
2. The school nurse will examine the student's siblings.

Re-admission

After treatment has been completed and all live head lice have been removed from the head, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. The student shall not attend classes or ride the bus until examined by the school nurse.
2. After contacting the school nurse for an appointment, the parent/guardian shall accompany the student to school.
3. If upon examination the student is found to have live head lice, the student will be denied admission.

APPENDIX P - TITLE I - Complaint Resolution (Policy 906.1)

2025-26 TITLE I COMPLAINT RESOLUTION POLICY

https://www.casdfalcons.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=766724&type=d&pREC_ID=1170
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Introduction

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) legislation requires State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to adopt written procedures for “receiving and resolving any complaint alleging violations of the law in administration of programs.” In accordance with the legislative requirement, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has also required Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to adopt written procedures for resolving complaints filed.

Definitions

A “complaint” is a written, signed statement filed by an individual or an organization. It must include:

- a) A statement that a school has violated a requirement of federal statute or regulation that applies to Title I.
 - a) The facts on which the statement is based.
- b) Information on any discussions, meetings or correspondence with a school regarding the complaint.

Complaint Resolution Procedures

- 1) **Referral** - Complaints against schools should be referred to: Dr. Traci Kuhns - Director of Federal Programs tkuhns@casdfalcons.org or 724-628-3300 x1303
- 2) **Notice to School** - The Federal/State Programs Office will notify the school Superintendent and Principal that a complaint has been received. A copy of the complaint will be given to the Superintendent and Principal with directions given for the Principal to respond.
- 3) **Investigation** - After receiving the Principal’s response, the Federal/State Programs Office, along with the Superintendent, will determine whether further investigation is necessary. If necessary, the Federal/State Programs Director and the Superintendent may do an onsite investigation at the school.
- 4) **Opportunity to Present Evidence** - The Federal/State Programs Director may provide the complaint and the Principal to present evidence.
- 5) **Report and Recommended Resolution** - Once the Federal/State Programs has completed the investigation and taking of evidence, a report will be prepared with a recommendation for resolving the complaint. The report will give the name of the party bringing the complaint, the nature of the complaint, a summary of the investigation, the recommended

resolution and the reasons for the recommendation. Copies of the report will be issued to all parties involved. The recommended resolution will become effective upon issuance of the report.

- 6) **Follow-up** - The Federal/State Programs Director and the Superintendent will ensure that the resolution of the complaint is implemented.

- 7) **Time Limit** - The period between the Federal/State Programs Director receiving the complaint and resolution of the complaint shall not exceed sixty (60) calendar days.

- 8) **Right to Appeal** - Either party may appeal the final resolution to the Department of Education.

Complaints should be addressed as follows:

**Dr. Traci Kuhns, Assistant to the Superintendent
Connellsville Area School District
732 Rockridge Road
Connellsville, PA 15425**

APPENDIX Q - Title I Parent and Family Engagement (Policy 918)

Purpose

The Board recognizes that meaningful parent and family engagement contributes to the achievement of state academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents, family members and community.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Definition

Parent and Family (Family Member) - these terms are used interchangeably and shall include caregivers, a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare, or a legally appointed Education Decision Maker of a child participating in a Title I program.

Authority

The Board directs the district and each of its schools with a Title I program to:[\[1\]](#)

1. Conduct outreach to all parents and family members.
2. Include parents and family members in development of the district's overall Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement.[\[4\]](#)
3. Include parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy through meetings and electronic communication. Following adoption of the policy by the Board, the policy shall be:
 - a. Distributed in writing to all parents and family members.
 - b. Incorporated into the district's Title I Plan.[\[4\]](#)
 - c. Posted to the district's publicly accessible website.[\[5\]](#)
 - d. Evaluated annually with parent and family involvement.
4. Conduct an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background; the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
5. Provide opportunities and conduct meaningful collaborations with parents and family members in the planning and implementation of Title I programs, activities and procedures.

Accessibility

The district and each of its schools with a Title I program shall provide communications, information and school reports to parents and family members who are migrants or who have limited English proficiency, a disability, limited literacy, or racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, in a language they can understand.[\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal, state, and local law.[\[1\]\[4\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district and its schools with Title I programs provide technical assistance and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Such efforts shall include:

1. Providing communications in clear and simple language.
2. Posting information for parents and family members on the district's website.
3. Including a telephone number for parents and family members to call with questions.
4. Partnering with community agencies which may include libraries, recreation centers, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations to assist in sharing information.
5. Provide language access services to families with limited English proficiency through on-site or telephonic translation and interpretation services, as appropriate. [\[3\]](#)

The building principal and/or Title I staff shall notify parents and family members of the existence of the Title I programs and provide:

1. An explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program.
2. A set of goals and expectations to be addressed.
3. A description of the services to be provided.
4. A copy of this policy and the School-Parent and Family Compact.[\[1\]](#)

Parents and family members shall actively carry out their responsibilities in accordance with this policy and the School-Parent and Family Compact. At a minimum, parents and family members shall be expected to:[\[1\]](#)

1. Volunteer in their child's classroom. [\[6\]](#)
2. Support their children's learning.
3. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of extracurricular time.

Guidelines

The district will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other federal, state, and local laws and programs. Each district school operating a Title I program shall hold an annual meeting of parents and family members at a convenient time, to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I programs and to inform them of their right to be involved. Parents and family members shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program. Parents and family members shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs.[\[1\]](#)

The schools with Title I programs shall offer a flexible number of meetings, which shall be held at various times of the morning and evening. Title I funds may be used to enable parent and family member attendance at meetings through payment of transportation, child care costs or home visits.[\[1\]](#)

At these meetings, parents and family members shall be provided:[\[1\]](#)

1. Timely information about programs provided under Title I.
2. Description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the academic standards.
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

To ensure the continuous engagement of parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Plan and with the school support and improvement process, the district shall:

1. Establish meaningful, ongoing two-way communication between the district, staff and parents and family members.
2. Communicate with parents and family members about the plan and seek their input and participation through the use of newsletters, the district website, email, telephone, parent and teacher conferences, and home visits if needed.
3. Train personnel on how to collaborate effectively with parents and family members with diverse backgrounds that may impede their participation, such as limited literacy or language difficulty.
4. Analyze and share the results of the Title I Parent/Family Survey.
5. Post school performance data on the district's website.
6. Distribute and discuss the School-Parent and Family Compact.
7. Host various parent and family nights at each school building with a Title I program.
8. Establish and support active and engaged Title I parent and family advisory councils. The council will include a majority of parents and family members of students participating in Title I programs, as well as the building principal, teachers or other appropriate staff, students and community members. The purpose of the council shall be to focus on improved student achievement, effective classroom teaching, parent/family/community engagement in the educational process, and to facilitate communications and support.
9. Actively recruit parents and family members to participate in school review and improvement planning.
10. Assign district representatives to be available to work collaboratively with parents and family members, and to conduct school-level trainings to promote understanding of school data, comprehensive plans and the budgeting process.
11. Invite participation of parents and family members at the regular comprehensive planning committee meetings, Title I budget meetings and school improvement plan meetings to obtain input and propose school improvement initiatives.

If the Title I Plan is not satisfactory to parents and family members, the district shall submit any parent or family member comments with the plan when the school makes the plan available to the Board.[\[1\]\[4\]](#)

Building Capacity for Parent and Family Engagement

The district shall provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve academic achievement and school performance through:[\[1\]](#)

1. Establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs to the population.
2. Providing assistance to parents and family members in understanding such topics as the academic standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of parent and family involvement, how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. [\[2\]](#)[\[7\]](#)
3. Providing material and training to help parents and family members work with their children to improve academic achievement and to foster parent and family engagement, such as:
 - a. Scheduling trainings in different locations on a variety of topics including how to support their child in school, literacy, school safety, cultural diversity and conflict resolution.
 - b. Using technology, including education about the harms of copyright piracy, as appropriate. [\[8\]](#)
 - c. Providing information, resources and materials in a user-friendly format.
 - d. Providing, as requested by a parent or family member, other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities.
 - e. Training on how to use the Parent Portal as a tool to monitor grades and achievement.
4. Educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders and staff, with the assistance of parents and family members, on the value and usefulness of contributions of parents and family members and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with them as equal partners, implement and coordinate parents and family programs, and build ties between parents and family members and the school. [\[9\]](#) [\[16\]](#)
5. To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinating and integrating Title I parent and family involvement efforts and activities with other federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children.[\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)
6. Engage the PTA/PTO to actively seek out and involve parents and family members through regular updates, information sessions and assistance with the identification of effective communication strategies.
7. Train parents and family members to enhance the involvement of other parents and family members.
8. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement.
9. Establish a district-wide parent and family advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I programs.

10. Engage community-based organizations and businesses in parent and family engagement activities.

Coordinating Parent and Family Engagement Strategies

The district shall coordinate and integrate Title I parent and family engagement strategies with other parent and family engagement strategies required by federal, state, and local laws by:[\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

1. Involving district and program representatives to assist in identifying specific parent and family member needs.
2. Sharing data from other programs to assist in developing initiatives to advance academic achievement and school improvement.

Annual Parent and Family Engagement Policy Evaluation

The district shall conduct, with meaningful participation of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all district schools with a Title I program.[\[1\]](#)

The evaluation shall identify:[\[1\]](#)

1. Barriers to parent and family member participation, with particular attention to those who are migrants, are economically disadvantaged, have a disability, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority.
2. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers.
3. Strategies to support successful school and parent and family interactions.

The evaluation shall be conducted through:

1. Establishment of a schedule and process for the policy review and revision by parents and family members.
2. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the content and communication methods through a variety of methods.
3. A parent and family member and teacher survey designed to collect data on school level and district-wide parent and family engagement outcomes.
4. Focus groups. Parents and family members, and community members, unable to attend the focus groups in person shall have an opportunity to participate in an alternate format.
5. Documentation of parent and family member input regarding Title I programs and activities from throughout the year.
6. A parent and family advisory council comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents and family members to adequately represent the needs of the district's Title I population.

The district shall use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the district's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.[\[1\]](#)

School-Parent and Family Compact

Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents and family members a School-Parent and Family Compact outlining the manner in which parents and family members, the entire school staff and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents and family members will build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the state's academic standards. The compact shall:[\[1\]](#)

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the district's academic standards.
2. Describe the ways in which parents and family members will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time. [\[6\]](#)
3. Address the importance of ongoing two-way, meaningful communication between parents/family members and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences at the elementary level, frequent reports to parents and family members on their child's progress, reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities. [\[6\]](#)

Title I Funds

Unless exempt by law, the district shall reserve at least one percent (1%) of its Title I funds to assist schools in conducting parent and family engagement activities. Parents and family members shall be involved in the decisions regarding how the Title I reserved funds are used for parent and family engagement activities.[\[1\]](#)

Not less than ninety percent (90%) of the reserved funds shall be distributed to district schools with a Title I program, with priority given to high need schools. The district shall use the Title I reserved funds to conduct activities and strategies consistent with this policy, including:[\[1\]](#)

1. Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for the district and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members. [\[16\]](#)
2. Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
3. Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.
4. Collaborating or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.

5. Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the district determines are appropriate and consistent with this policy.

Documentation of Parent and Family Engagement Practices

Documentation to track the implementation of this policy is an essential part of compliance and may include, but not be limited to, sign-in sheets at workshops, meetings and conferences; schedules, training and informational materials; communications and brochures; and meeting notes.

APPENDIX R - Transportation Video Taping (Policy 810.2)

Purpose

The use of video and audio recording equipment supports efforts to maintain discipline and to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, contractors and others being transported on district-owned, operated, or contracted school buses or school vehicles.

Definitions

School bus means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry eleven (11) passengers or more, including the driver, and is used for the transportation of pre-primary, primary or secondary school students to or from public, private or parochial schools or events related to such schools or school-related activities.

School vehicle means a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed for carrying no more than ten (10) passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of pre-primary, primary or secondary school students while registered by or under contract to the school district. The term includes vehicles having chartered, group and party rights under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used for the transportation of school children.

Authority

The Board authorizes the use of video and audio recording on school buses and school vehicles for disciplinary and security purposes.

The Board prohibits the use of audio recording on any school bus or school vehicle that is not being used for a school-related purpose.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to ensure that:

1. Each school bus and school vehicle that is equipped with video and audio recording equipment contains a clearly posted notice informing drivers and passengers of the potential for video and audio recording.
2. This policy is posted on the district's publicly accessible website.
3. Each school year, this policy is included in the student handbook and in any other district publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct.

4. The district shall comply with the provisions of federal and state law and regulations regarding student record requirements as applicable to the district's use and disclosure of recordings. Recordings considered part of a student's educational record shall be maintained in accordance with established student record procedures governing access, review and disclosure of student records.

APPENDIX S. CHROMEBOOK FAQ's

Q. What is a Chromebook?

A. "Chromebooks are mobile devices designed specifically for people who live on the web. With a comfortable, full-sized keyboard, large display and clickable trackpad, all day battery life, lightweight and built-in ability to connect to WIFI and mobile broadband networks, the Chromebook is ideal for anytime, anywhere access to the web. They provide a faster, safer, more secure online experience for people who live on the web, without all the time-consuming, often confusing, high level of maintenance required by typical computers."

Q. What kind of software does a Chromebook operate?

A. "Chromebooks run millions of web based applications, or web apps, that open right in the browser. You can access web apps by typing their URL into the address bar or by installing them instantly from the Chrome Web Store."

Q. How are these web based applications managed?

A. Each Chromebook we provide to students will be a managed device. Members of Connellsville Area School District's Technology Department will maintain devices through our G Suite for Education domain. As such, the school can preinstall web applications as well as block specific web applications from a centralized management console.

Q. What devices can I connect to a Chromebook?

- A. Chromebooks can connect to:
- USB Mice and keyboards
 - USB storage and SD cards
 - Headsets, microphones, and earbuds

Q. Can the Chromebook be used anywhere at any time?

A. Yes, as long as you have a Wi-Fi signal to access the web. The Chromebook does offer the ability through some Apps for users to work in an "offline" mode if Wi-Fi is unavailable.

Q. Will our Chromebook have 4G?

A. No. The District's Chromebooks will not have 4G broadband.

Q. Do Chromebooks come with Internet Filtering?

A. Yes, the Chromebooks are subject internet filtering by District policy. While used in school, the Connellsville Area School District internet access is filtered using the District's web filter.

Q. Is there antivirus built into it?

A. It is not necessary to have antivirus software on Chromebooks. The Chromebook operating system is implemented in such a way that it cannot be compromised.

Q. Battery life?

A. Chromebooks have a rated battery life of 6.5 hours. However, we do expect that students charge them each evening to ensure maximum performance during the school day.

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APPENDIX T: FERPA RIGHTS

The following guidance provides parents with general information about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This document is a compilation and update of various letters and guidance documents previously issued that respond to a variety of questions about FERPA. While this guidance reflects our best and most current interpretation of applicable FERPA requirements, it does not supersede the statute or regulations. We will attempt to update this document from time to time in response to questions and concerns.

FERPA is a Federal law that is administered by the Family Policy Compliance Office (Office) in the U.S. Department of Education (Department). 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99. FERPA applies to educational agencies and institutions (e.g., schools) that receive funding under any program administered by the Department. Private and parochial schools at the elementary and secondary levels generally do not receive such funding and are, therefore, not subject to FERPA.

FERPA gives custodial and noncustodial parents alike certain rights with respect to their children's education records, unless a school is provided with evidence that there is a court order or State law that specifically provides to the contrary. Otherwise, both custodial and noncustodial parents have the right to access their children's education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, the right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information from the records (except in certain circumstances specified in the FERPA regulations, some of which are discussed below), and the right to file a complaint with the Department. When a student reaches 18 years of age or attends a postsecondary institution, he or she becomes an "eligible student," and all rights under FERPA transfer from the parent to the student. The term "education records" is defined as those records that contain information directly related to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.

FERPA generally prohibits the improper disclosure of personally identifiable information derived from education records. Thus, information that an official obtained through personal knowledge or observation, or has heard orally from others, is not protected under FERPA. This remains applicable even if education records exist which contain that information, unless the official had an official role in making a determination that generated a protected education record.

Under FERPA, a school is not generally required to maintain particular education records or education records that contain specific information. Rather, a school is required to provide certain privacy protections for those education records that it does maintain. Also, unless there is an outstanding request by a parent to inspect and review education records, FERPA permits the school to destroy such records without notice to the parent.

Access to Education Records

Under FERPA, a school must provide a parent with an opportunity to inspect and review his or her child's education records within 45 days following its receipt of a request. A school is required to provide a parent with copies of education records, or make other arrangements, if a failure to do so would effectively prevent the parent from obtaining access to the records. A case in point would be a situation in which the parent does not live within commuting distance of the school.

A school is not generally required by FERPA to provide a parent with access to school calendars or general notices such as announcements of parent-teacher meetings or extra-curricular activities. That type of information is not generally directly related to an individual student and, therefore, does not meet the definition of an education record.

Under FERPA, a school is not required to provide information that is not maintained or to create education records in response to a parent's request. Accordingly, a school is not required to provide a parent with updates on his or her child's progress in school unless such information already exists in the form of an education record.

Amendment of Education Records

Under FERPA, a parent has the right to request that inaccurate or misleading information in his or her child's education records be amended. While a school is not required to amend education records in accordance with a parent's request, the school is required to consider the request. If the school decides not to amend a record in accordance with a parent's request, the school must inform the parent of his or her right to a hearing on the matter. If, as a result of the hearing, the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent has the right to insert a statement in the record setting forth his or her views. That statement must remain with the contested part of the student's record for as long as the record is maintained.

However, while the FERPA amendment procedure may be used to challenge facts that are inaccurately recorded, it may not be used to challenge a grade, an opinion, or a substantive decision made by a school about a student. FERPA was intended to require only that schools conform to fair recordkeeping practices and not to override the accepted standards and procedures for making academic assessments, disciplinary rulings, or placement determinations. Thus, while FERPA affords parents the right to seek to amend education records which contain inaccurate information, this right cannot be used to challenge a grade, an individual's opinion, or a substantive decision made by a school about a student. Additionally, if FERPA's amendment procedures are not applicable to a parent's request for amendment of education records, the school is not required under FERPA to hold a hearing on the matter.

Disclosure of Education Records

Under FERPA, a school may not generally disclose personally identifiable information from a minor student's education records to a third party unless the student's parent has provided written consent. However, there are a number of exceptions to FERPA's prohibition against non-consensual disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records. Under these exceptions, schools are permitted

to disclose personally identifiable information from education records without consent, though they are not required to do so by FERPA. Following is general information regarding some of these exceptions.

One of the exceptions to the prior written consent requirement in FERPA allows "school officials," including teachers, within a school to obtain access to personally identifiable information contained in education records provided the school has determined that they have "legitimate educational interest" in the information. Although the term "school official" is not defined in the statute or regulations, this Office generally interprets the term to include parties such as: a teacher; administrator; board member; support or clerical staff; attorney; nurse and health staff; counselor; human resources staff; information systems specialist; school security personnel; and a contractor, consultant, volunteer or other party to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions.

A school may disclose personally identifiable information from education records without consent to a "school official" under this exception only if the school has first determined that the official has a "legitimate educational interest" in obtaining access to the information for the school. A school that allows school officials to obtain access to personally identifiable information contained in education records under this exception must include in its annual notification of FERPA rights a specification of its criteria for determining who constitutes a "school official" and what constitutes "legitimate educational interests." A school official generally has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Another exception permits a school to disclose personally identifiable information from a student's education records, without consent, to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. The sending school may make the disclosure if it has included in its annual notification of rights a statement that it forwards education records in such circumstances. Otherwise, the school must make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent in advance of making the disclosure, unless the parent or eligible student has initiated the disclosure. The school must also provide a parent with a copy of the records that were released if requested by the parent.

FERPA permits a school non-consensually to disclose personally identifiable information from a student's education records when such information has been appropriately designated as directory information. "Directory information" is defined as information contained in the education records of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information could include information such as the student's name, address, e-mail address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended, photograph, grade level (such as 11th grade or junior year), and enrollment status (full-time or part-time).

A school may disclose directory information without consent if it has given public notice of the types of information it has designated as directory information, the parent's right to restrict the disclosure of such information, and the period of time within which a parent has to notify the school that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information designated as directory information. Also, FERPA does not require a school to notify parents individually of the types of information it has designated as directory information. Rather, the school may provide this notice by any means likely to inform parents of the types of information it has designated as directory information.

FERPA also permits a school to disclose personally identifiable information from education records of an "eligible student" (a student age 18 or older or enrolled in a postsecondary institution at any age) to his or her parents if the student is a "dependent student" as that term is defined in Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code. Generally, if either parent has claimed the student as a dependent on the parent's most recent income tax statement, the school may non-consensually disclose the student's education records to both parents.

There are several other exceptions to FERPA's prohibition against non-consensual disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records, some of which are briefly mentioned below. Under certain conditions (specified in the FERPA regulations, 34 CFR Part 99), a school may non-consensually disclose personally identifiable information from education records:

- to authorized representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Education, and State and local educational authorities for 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;
- in connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or received;
- to state and local authorities pursuant to a State statute concerning the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve the student whose records are being disclosed;
- to organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of the school making the disclosure for the purposes of administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction;
- to comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena; and
- in connection with a health or safety emergency.

As stated above, the conditions specified in the FERPA regulations have to be met before a school may non-consensually disclose personally identifiable information from education records in connection with any of the exceptions mentioned above.

Law Enforcement Units and Law Enforcement Unit Records

A "law enforcement unit" means any individual, office, department, division or other component of a school, such as a unit of commissioned police officers or non-commissioned security guards, that is officially authorized or designated by the school to: enforce any local, State, or Federal law, or refer to appropriate authorities a matter for enforcement of any law against any individual or organization; or to maintain the physical security and safety of the school. The law enforcement unit does not lose its status as a law enforcement unit if it also performs other, non-law enforcement functions for the school, including investigation of incidents or conduct that constitutes or leads to a disciplinary action or proceeding against a student.

"Law enforcement unit records" (i.e., records created by the law enforcement unit, created for a law enforcement purpose, and maintained by the law enforcement unit) are not "education records" subject to the privacy protections of FERPA. As such, the law enforcement unit may refuse to provide a parent with an opportunity to inspect and review law enforcement unit records, and it may disclose law enforcement unit records to third parties without the parent's prior written consent. However, education records, or personally identifiable information from education records, which the school shares with the law enforcement unit do not lose their protected status as education records because they are shared with the law enforcement unit.

Complaints of Alleged Failures to Comply with FERPA

FERPA vests the rights it affords in the parent of a student. The statute does not provide for these rights to be vested in a third party who has not suffered an alleged violation of their rights under FERPA. Thus, we require that a parent have "standing," i.e., have suffered an alleged violation of his or her rights under FERPA, in order to file a complaint.

The Office may investigate those timely complaints that contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a school has violated FERPA. A timely complaint is defined as one that is submitted to the Office within 180 days of the date that the complainant knew or reasonably should have known of the alleged violation. Complaints that do not meet FERPA's threshold requirement for timeliness are not investigated.

If we receive a timely complaint that contains a specific allegation of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a school has violated FERPA, we may initiate an administrative investigation into the allegation in accordance with procedures outlined in the FERPA regulations. If a determination is made that a school violated FERPA, the school and the complainant are so advised, and the school is informed of the steps it must take to come into compliance with the law. The investigation is closed when voluntary compliance is achieved.

Please note that a parent should state his or her allegations as clearly and succinctly as possible. To aid us in efficiently processing allegations, we ask that a parent only include supporting documentation that is relevant to the allegations provided. Otherwise, we may return the documentation and request clarification. This Office does not have the resources to review voluminous documents and materials to determine whether an allegation of a violation of FERPA by a school is included. A parent may obtain a complaint form by calling (202) 260-3887. For administrative and privacy reasons, we do not discuss individual allegations and cases via email. Please mail completed complaint forms to the Office (address below) for review and any appropriate action.

Complaint Regarding Access

If a parent believes that a school has violated FERPA by failing to comply with the parent's request for access to his or her child's education records, the parent may complete a FERPA complaint form and should include the following specific information: the date of the request for access to the student's education records; the name of the school official to whom the request was made (a dated copy of any written request to the school should be provided, if possible); the response of the school official, if any; and the specific nature of the information requested.

Complaint Regarding Amendment

If a parent believes that a school has violated FERPA by failing to provide the parent with an opportunity to seek amendment of inaccurate information in his or her child's education records or failed to offer the parent an opportunity for a hearing on the matter, the parent may complete a FERPA complaint form and should include the following specific information: the date of the request for amendment of the student's education records; the name of the school official to whom the request was made (a dated copy of any written request to the school should be provided, if possible); the response of the school official, if any; the specific nature of the information for which amendment was requested; and the evidence provided to the school to support the assertion that such information is inaccurate.

Complaint Regarding Disclosure

If a parent believes that a school has violated FERPA by improperly disclosing personally identifiable information from his or her child's education records, the parent may complete a FERPA complaint form and should include the following specific information: the date the alleged improper disclosure occurred or the date the parent learned of the disclosure; the name of the school official who made the disclosure, if that is known; the third party to whom the education records were disclosed; and the specific nature of the information disclosed.

This guidance document is designed to provide parents of minor students with some basic information regarding FERPA and their rights, and to address some of the basic questions most frequently asked by parents. You can review the FERPA regulations, frequently asked questions, significant opinions of the Office, and other information regarding FERPA at our Website as follows:

www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html

If, after reading this guidance document, you have questions regarding FERPA that are not addressed here, you may write to the Office for additional guidance at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Appendix U. Educational Use of Student Owned Technology Devices

Purpose

The Connellsville Area School District is committed to modernization of the educational program where the 21st century teaching practices are embedded throughout classrooms across the school district. The integration of technology as an instructional tool will provide teachers and students access to knowledge, creativity, collaboration, and functionality. Connellsville Area School District will encourage student exploration, independent thinking, and collaboration in all facets of this learning project. Using technology devices will allow teachers to facilitate the learning and the students to engage in the discovery of learning in a more flexible and mobile way. Access to the school network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. The intent of this policy is to ensure that students utilize this access in a manner consistent with the purpose of providing this service. The Connellsville Area School District reserves the right to amend this policy.

The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge that student owned technology devices (SOTD) may offer value to both the student and teacher in a controlled and monitored environment and to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess. This policy gives students permission to use their devices for academic reasons inside and outside the school environment. This policy also gives access to their Google Apps for Education Accounts on their student owned technology device. This does not give students permission to use devices in school for personal use. The district is not liable for the loss, damage or misuse of an electronic device brought to school by a student as the student has the option, but is not required by the district, to bring Student Owned Technology Devices to school.

Scope

This policy applies to all students at Connellsville Area School District who are using student owned technology devices while at CASD. This policy is at the discretion of building administrators whether student owned technology devices are allowed in the classroom setting.

Responsibility

The district reserves the right to restrict student use of district-owned technologies and Student Owned Technology Devices on school property or at school-sponsored events. Student Owned Technology Devices are permitted, but not required by the district, for using during the school day for educational purposes and/or in approved locations only. The district reserves the right to take appropriate action, which may, depending on the circumstances, include monitoring, inspecting, copying or reviewing the Student Owned Technology Device when administration has a reasonable suspicion that a violation of district policy or applicable law has occurred, and the student and student's parents/guardians agree that the district shall have such rights and there is no expectation of privacy that would restrict the district's exercise of such rights. The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about this policy by publishing a notice about this policy in student handbooks and by other efficient methods, including posting the policy on the district's website.

Guidelines

The following guidelines shall apply regarding Student Owned Technology Devices:

1. All prior related School Board Policies shall continue to apply.
2. Access is a privilege, not a right. Students have the option, but are not required by the district, to use Student Owned Technology Device for school. If a student exercises the option to use their SOTD for school, the student and the student's parents/guardians understand that there is no expectation of privacy with regard to the SOTD and its content, and the student and the student's parents/guardians agree that all provisions of this policy shall apply to the student's use of the

SOTD while on school premises. Violations of this policy by a student may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, confiscation of the electronic device, banning of the student from bringing personal electronic devices to school, or criminal prosecution if applicable.

3. Appropriate use of electronic devices shall include any use of such devices for educational purposes, such as educational research, which is specifically authorized by a classroom teacher with approval from the building administration. Educational purposes include classroom activities and homework. Students are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology resources. Students bear the burden of responsibility to inquire with school administrators and/or teachers when they are unsure of the permissibility of a particular use of technology prior to engaging in their use.
4. Inappropriate use of electronic devices has the potential to negatively impact the educational environment and individual students. Any use of electronic devices that leads to the disruption of the instructional/educational processes and/or violates the rights of individual students is a violation of the students Code of Conduct.
5. The Connellsville Area School teachers and administrators retain full oversight in their buildings and classrooms regarding appropriate, necessary, and/or permissible use of the SOTD.
6. Students and parents/guardians choosing to use SOTDs for school purposes surrender the right to keep private any content on said SOTD. All district students and parents/guardians shall review this policy and associated technology procedures before students use any school and/or personally owned devices and the student and parent/guardian shall sign a form indicating their receipt and understanding of the student responsibilities set forth in this policy.
7. Students and parents/guardians' consent to the suggestion to install district provided application management tool as a prerequisite to use of the SOTD.
8. The district reserves the right to search SOTDs where reasonable suspicion exists that the device is being used without permission or inappropriately, and the student and student's parents/guardians agree that the district shall have such rights and there is no expectation of privacy that would restrict the district's exercise of such rights. Examples of this may include displaying picture content to peers when not authorized to do so, or attempting to text during unauthorized times. Students shall not use cellular phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.
9. The Connellsville Area School District is not responsible for physical loss, data loss or corruption, theft, or damage to any SOTD.
10. SOTDs often have their own form of Internet connectivity that is separate from the district's Internet connection. The Connellsville Area School District abides by filtering inappropriate content while on school grounds and transportation. Students bringing SOTDs are required, during the instructional day, to access the Internet via the district's content-filtered wireless network, and not through 3G, 4G. SOTDs found to interfere with district wireless networks will be identified, shut down, confiscated and provided to the building principal. This may result in additional disciplinary action including the permanent loss of SOTD privileges.
11. Many SOTDs contain camera or motion picture recording technology - SOTDs are not to be used to capture pictures or motion recording of other students, teachers, administrators or other individuals without that person's permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in discipline, including but not limited to, suspension, criminal charges, and expulsion.
12. Devices that are not permitted as an approved SOTD shall be identified as an unacceptable device in the district.



Parent/Guardian/Student Handbook Sign Off

We have received a copy of the Connellsville Area School District Elementary Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. We understand that we are responsible for the content, rules, and policies contained herein and must abide by them when involved in any activity or event related to the Connellsville Area School District.

Student name: _____ Teacher: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date