

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please see [Policies and Regulations](#) for a complete list of Policies and Regulations.

MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES WITH STUDENTS (P5461 and R5461)

All District Adults shall be expected to maintain professional, moral and ethical relationships with District students that are conducive to an effective, safe learning environment. "District Adults" means all District employees, coaches of recognized club sports, volunteers, student teachers, and independent contractors, including the employees of independent contractors who interact with District students or are present on District grounds.

A copy of School Board Policy 5461 and Administrative Regulation 5461 are available at [Policy 5461](#) and [Regulation 5461](#), respectively. Select excerpts and summary information from this Policy and Administrative Regulation are also presented below.

In order to maintain professional boundaries, District Adults shall ensure that their interactions with students are appropriate. Social interactions and electronic communications by District Adults with students shall be for legitimate educational reasons only, unless an exception applies as outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5461. District Adults shall be prohibited from entering into or attempting to form romantic or sexual interactions with any student enrolled in the District, regardless of the student's age. Students of any age are not legally capable of consenting to romantic or sexual interactions with District Adults. All electronic communications conducted by District Adults with a student must relate to educational or extra-curricular programs or activities. Authorized methods of electronic communication are the following:

1. District-provided email;
2. District-sponsored web site (including school and teacher web pages);
3. Telephones (not including texting, unless otherwise permitted under number 4 below); and
4. Other electronic communication methods that are authorized by the administration in support of educational or extra-curricular programs or activities.

When available, all employees, including extra-duty employees such as coaches and activity sponsors, shall use District-provided email or other District-provided communication devices when communicating electronically with students. The use of District-provided email or other District provided communication devices shall be in accordance with District policies and procedures. District employees are prohibited from using personal email, text messaging, instant messaging, and social-networking accounts, websites, and any other applications for communicating with parents and students that are not specifically authorized. District employees shall not follow or accept requests for current students to be friends or connections on personal social networking sites and shall not under any circumstances create or maintain any networking site or social media account for communication with students other than those provided by the District for this purpose. An example of allowable communications in this context includes where the adult is a family relative of the student. District employees are also prohibited from commenting or directly communicating with a student via a non-District student social media account.

If an employee plans to communicate electronically with students through the use of text messages, the employee must obtain permission to do so from their building principal using the form attached as Attachment A to R5461. Also, if permission from the building principal is received, the employee must also obtain written parental/guardian permission to do so.

Policy 5461 applies to conduct committed on or off school property and extends beyond the workday. However, this Policy is not intended to interfere with appropriate personal relationships between District Adults and students and their families that exist independently of the District or to interfere with participation in civic, religious or other outside organizations that include District students.

An emergency situation or a legitimate educational reason may justify deviation from professional boundaries set out in Regulation 5461. The District Adult shall be prepared to articulate the reason for any deviation from the requirements of this Regulation and must demonstrate that they have maintained an appropriate relationship with the student.

Administrative Regulation 5461 includes examples of conduct that could or may violate District Policy regarding maintaining professional boundaries with students. District Adults shall be informed of conduct that is prohibited and the disciplinary actions that may be applied for violation of Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, rules and procedures.

Any District Adult or student who has concerns about or is uncomfortable with a relationship or interaction between a District Adult and a student or who is aware of or suspects a violation of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 5461 shall promptly notify the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, principal or other administrator. The District's Title IX Coordinator is the Director of Equity and Public Programs. Contact information for the Title IX Coordinator is available in Administrative Regulation 5461. Individuals who make good faith reports of potential or actual violations of Policy or Regulation 5461 shall not be subject to retaliation, discipline or other adverse action. Allegations of inappropriate conduct shall be promptly investigated in accordance with the procedures utilized for complaints of prohibited harassment of students.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE (P5401 and R5401)

In order to maintain a safe school climate that encourages learning for all students, teachers and administrators shall respond to actions or situations that disrupt this learning process. Discipline measures may include warnings, detentions, suspensions, expulsions or other appropriate responses to the circumstances.

Violations of this Policy and Administrative Regulation shall be reported to local law enforcement in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding in effect between the District and the local law enforcement agency and any applicable Board Policy.

Offenses committed on school grounds, in school vehicles or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises or that have some other legally recognized nexus to the school that are considered to be of an extremely serious nature and may result in either suspension or expulsion, include but are not limited to the following:

1. Inappropriate physical contact, attack, fighting, bullying, hazing, harassment, threatening behavior or threats;
2. The use of, distribution of, or possession of, any substance subject to Policy 5405 (Student Substance Abuse) or 5411 (Tobacco Products: Possession and Use). Aiding or abetting any of the above actions regarding substances subject to Policy 5405 or 5411 shall be treated in the same way;

3. The use, possession, or transfer of any item which could be considered a weapon or which is dangerous in nature, as outlined in Policy 5410 or in accordance with applicable law;
4. Destruction or defacing of school property;
5. Infraction of school rules that carries the consequence of suspension or expulsion, as outlined in the applicable Student Handbook, Code of Conduct or otherwise in Board Policy or an accompanying Administrative Regulation;
6. Conduct adversely affecting the school routine or otherwise endangering the safety, morals, health or welfare of others;
7. Inappropriate physical contact, attack, threatening behavior, threat or other retaliatory conduct directed at school staff members or other members of the school community while subject to the school's jurisdiction, their property, or their families.

When a suspendable offense occurs, the principal or designee will meet with the student, at which time the student will have the opportunity to offer an explanation of the infraction. After that meeting the principal or designee may suspend the student from school. Parents/guardians of the disciplined student will be notified of the disciplinary action, as will any staff member and/or the parent/guardians of any student determined to be a target or recipient of behaviors targeting others in violation of District policy.

When a suspension exceeding three (3) school days is under consideration, the principal or designee shall offer the student and student's parents/guardians an informal hearing, as required by law. After such hearing the principal or designee may extend the suspension for a period of up to ten (10) total school days. Parents/guardians will be notified.

When discipline is to be imposed upon a student with disabilities, District employees are required to follow the additional procedures outlined in the District's Administrative Regulation (R5401) and applicable law.

Policy and Administrative Regulation 5041 are available in their entirety on the District's website at [Policy 5401](#) and [Regulation 5401](#), respectively. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to review these documents carefully in their entirety.

HAZING, BULLYING, DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT, THREATS, THREATENING BEHAVIOR (P5401 and R5401)

Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts which meet the following criteria:

1. directed at another student or students;
2. occurs in a school setting;
3. is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
4. has the effect of doing any of the following:
 - a. substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - b. creating a threatening environment; or
 - c. substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

School setting shall mean in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the District.

Hazing occurs any time a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a student to do any of the following:

1. Violate Federal or State criminal law.
2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.
3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements.
4. Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

Aggravated hazing occurs when a person commits an act of hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the student and:

1. The person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the student; or
2. The person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

Organizational hazing occurs when an organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing regardless of whether the consent of the student was sought or obtained or whether the conduct was sanctioned or approved by the student organization.

Student activity or organization means any activity, society, corps, team, club or service, social or similar group, operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the District, whose members are primarily students or alumni of the District.

Bodily injury shall mean impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

Serious bodily injury shall mean bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

Discriminatory harassment means verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability when such conduct:

1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment; and/or
2. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance; and/or
3. Adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Discriminatory harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, bullying, hazing or other verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability. Discriminatory harassment also includes sexual harassment, as defined below.

Sexual harassment is a specific form of discriminatory harassment which means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, gestures of a sexual nature, or display of materials which evoke responses not in keeping with the atmosphere intended for the classroom or the school environment.

Title IX sexual harassment is a specific form of sexual harassment which means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
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 the District's education program or activity; or
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

Sexual assault means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dating violence means violence committed by a person:

1. Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
2. Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the following factors:
 - a. The length of the relationship.
 - b. The type of relationship.
 - c. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Different treatment discrimination – when an individual or group of individuals is treated differently because of their sex.

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 grant monies, 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.

Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

1. Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
2. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Threat means a communication of intent to harm another individual or property or behavior suggesting intent to harm an individual or property.

Threatening behavior shall mean a physical, verbal or written threat to (1) commit violence with intent to terrorize, injure or damage another or others, (2) cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of transportation, or (3) otherwise cause serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

Title IX Coordinator means the District's Director of Equity and Public Programs, whose contact information is included in Administrative Regulation 5401.

Transient threat means there is no sustained intent to harm.

Substantive threat means the intent of the threat is present (or not clear) and therefore requires protective action.

Behaviors targeting others means bullying, hazing, harassment, threatening behaviors, and threats collectively.

It is the Policy of the Board to maintain a safe, positive and respectful environment for students and staff that is free from bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats. Any form of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats that is a part of a school sponsored or student activity or organization is prohibited.

No student, coach, activity sponsor, volunteer, District employee, administrator, representative, agent, or contractor shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage in, tolerate, condone, ignore, or fail to properly report any known instances of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats.

Students who believe they or others have been subjected to bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a building administrator, teacher and/or school counselor. Students are also encouraged to report allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Students, administrators, coaches, activity sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contractors shall be alert to incidents of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats and shall promptly report such conduct to their supervisor or the building principal. Individuals are also encouraged to report allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

A school administrator, or in limited cases, their designee, shall promptly notify the parent or guardian of any student determined to be a target or recipient of behaviors targeting others or who displays threatening behavior or makes a threat.

Complaints of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats shall be promptly investigated, and appropriate discipline shall be administered to any individual who violates the District's prohibitions against bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats, in accordance with applicable Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and any applicable Code of Conduct. Appropriate corrective and preventative action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated. Reports of alleged bullying or hazing that could be interpreted to also constitute discrimination and/or discriminatory harassment shall be handled in coordination with the Title IX Coordinator. Reports of alleged sexual harassment must be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth on the District's website at [Non-Discrimination/Title IX](#) in the document titled "Grievance Process with Exhibits."

Complaints of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation, as required by law or in accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

No reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment threatening behavior or threats. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the District's legal and investigative obligations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES (P6141 and R6141)

The District will provide an equal opportunity, for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered by the District without discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status or handicap/disability, as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. Furthermore, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by law.

The District shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities, in full compliance with all Federal and state laws. The equitable distribution of District resources is one means the District shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. 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 District shall comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. 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's Title IX Coordinator is the Director of Equity and Public Programs, whose contact information can be found in Administrative Regulation 6414. Depending on the specific allegations raised in a complaint received pursuant to this Policy, the Superintendent may designate additional individuals to assist the Title IX Coordinator in carrying out their responsibilities.

Students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to discrimination are encouraged to promptly report such alleged incidents in accordance with Policy and Administrative Regulation 6141, which are available on the District's website at [Policy 6141](#) and [Regulation 6141](#), respectively. Additional information regarding the investigation and disposition of complaints can be found in the Policy and Administrative Regulation referenced above.

WEAPONS: POSSESSION AND USE (P5410)

Possession of a weapon or weapons on District property (as defined in this policy) or at school-sponsored activities is specifically prohibited. In addition, with very limited exceptions, Pennsylvania law *requires* public schools to report to police, and expel, for a minimum of one year, any student found in possession of any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury on District property. The District shall notify appropriate parties of any incident on District property, on District transportation, or at a District-sponsored activity, which involves possession of a weapon, as defined in Board policy and state law.

SEARCHES (P5412 and R5412)

Authorized school officials are permitted to conduct searches of students, including their persons, lockers, motor vehicles, and other possessions on school property, when there is a reasonable suspicion that such a search will uncover evidence of a violation of Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or local, state or federal law on the part of the student. In order for the requisite level of reasonable suspicion to exist, the school official must be able to point to a "particularized suspicion" for conducting a search. Searches that arise out of generalized concerns or merely suspicious behavior, where the school official is not looking for any object in particular, have been struck down as illegal. The scope of any search must be reasonable under the circumstances, taking into consideration the student's age, the intrusiveness of the search, and the immediacy of any threat prompting the search.

A copy of School Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5412 are available at [Policy 5412](#) and [Regulation 5412](#), respectively, and contain additional information and procedures for the various types of searches (including, but not limited to, systematic suspicionless testing and general searches) to which students may be subjected. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this information and procedures.

GRADUATION (P5227 and R5227)

Except as noted, to be eligible for graduation, students must successfully complete a total of 24.0 units of credit from courses as described in the annual Program of Studies for grades 9 through 12. In addition, Conestoga High School students must satisfy all Pennsylvania State graduation requirements. For students who have taken courses in other educational settings, the Principal or designee shall determine how transferred credits shall apply to transcripts and to meet graduation requirements. Grades earned in other settings shall not be incorporated into the student's final Conestoga High School grade point average.

Credit Requirements for Conestoga High School

4.0 credits in English to include 1.0 credit each in Literary Foundations, American Voices, Language and Composition, and Comparative Literature or AP Literature and Composition

3.0 credits in Mathematics

3.0 credits in Science to include 1.0 credit in Biology

3.0 credits in Social Studies to include 1.0 credit each in World History, United States History, and United States Government /Economics

2.0-2.25 credits in Health/Physical Education (see details in [Regulation 5227](#))

2.0 credits in World Languages (see details in [Regulation 5227](#))

2.0 credits in Core Electives to include 1 course from each of the following three areas: Business/Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, and Family and Consumer Sciences

4.5-4.8 credits in Electives; any course that has not been counted to fulfill other graduation requirements as indicated in the *Program of Studies*. Experiential Learning Opportunities listed in the *Program of Studies* shall also satisfy this requirement.

0.2-0.25 credits in College and Career Transition (see details in [Regulation 5227](#))

24.0 Total credits (minimum)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A student who successfully completes coursework in Computer Science shall be permitted to apply up to one credit toward the Mathematics credit requirement for graduation. Computer Science courses that qualify for Mathematics credit shall be published annually in the *Program of Studies*.

Students in grades 9 and 10 must schedule a minimum of 6 credits per year with a minimum equivalent of 6 full periods per semester. Students in grades 11 and 12 must schedule a minimum of 5.5 credits per year with a minimum equivalent of 5.5 periods per semester.

At all times, students in grades 9-11 must maintain a course schedule with sufficient credits to be promoted to the next grade. Students in grade 12 must maintain a course schedule with sufficient credits to qualify for June graduation.

Students shall be awarded a maximum of 8.5 credits per academic year. Exceptions to this limit may be granted for students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements by the end of the senior year or for students who have applied for Early College or Graduation. Other exceptions may be granted for circumstances deemed appropriate by the Principal.

STUDENT RECORDS (P5225 and R5225)

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the collection, retention, disposition and security of student records. The Board further recognizes its duty to maintain the confidentiality of such records as required by law.

Parents/Guardians and eligible students shall be notified upon initial enrollment and annually thereafter of their rights concerning student records. The notice shall be modified to accommodate the needs of the disabled or those whose primary language is other than English. Notice of the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students with respect to student records, as well as other District guidelines governing the collection, retention, disposition and disclosure of student records is available for review in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5225, which are available at [Policy 5225](#) and [Regulation 5225](#), respectively.

PARTICIPATION OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PUPILS IN CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (P5312 and R5312)

No student shall be denied the opportunity of participating in curricular programs and activities, including field trips, because of an inability to pay necessary fees for participation or costs of materials. For students wishing to participate in extracurricular programs and activities who are unable to pay the necessary fees or costs to participate, the District will make a good faith effort to identify funds to cover the fees or costs for such students, but cannot guarantee that such funds will always be available in all cases. Determining financial need and classifying a student as economically disadvantaged shall be at the discretion of the principal or designee.

STUDENT CONDUCT ON DISTRICT-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION (P5413 and R5413)

No student shall be permitted to engage in conduct that could endanger that student's safety or the safety of others. Discipline will be imposed as the situation warrants, in accordance with Board Policy, applicable Administrative Regulations, this Student Handbook, and the Code of Student Conduct.

RECORDING IN SCHOOLS AND ON SCHOOL BUSES/VEHICLES (P8070 and R8070)

In order to promote a safe school environment for all stakeholders, the interior and exterior of schools and other District property may be equipped with video and audio recording devices. The Superintendent is authorized to provide law enforcement with access to live images and audio captured by recording devices in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of student, staff, and other individuals. The Board of School Directors has also authorized the use of video and audio recording on school buses and vehicles while transporting students for school-related purposes for disciplinary and security purposes. Students and, when applicable, school bus passengers will be notified as to the presence and possible activation of any video and audio recording devices. Additional information can be found in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8070, which are available on the District's website at [Policy 8070](#) and [Regulation 8070](#), respectively.

STUDENTS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (P5400 and R5400)

Freedom of expression is a right guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Students have the right to express themselves in accordance with law; however, expression that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights is prohibited.

DRESS AND APPEARANCE (P5415 and R5415)

Students have the right to determine their dress and appearance as long as it conforms to norms of decency as set forth below and does not substantially and directly endanger physical health or safety, damage property or substantially disrupt activities.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes or in activities such as music performances and athletics. A student may not be disciplined or excluded from regular instruction because of their appearance if style, fashion, or taste is the sole criterion for such action.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions.

Student attire or appearance that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens the school or community, depicts or encourages unlawful or otherwise prohibited activity, or interferes with another student's rights is not permitted. Clothing bearing or depicting messages, images, or advertisements relating to drugs, alcohol tobacco is not permitted. Clothing depicting violent or sexually explicit messages or images is also prohibited.

Absent an administrative exception to the contrary, students are expected to dress in accordance with Board Policy and the guidelines established in the applicable Student Handbook during school hours and at school-sponsored events.

Nothing in these guidelines shall prevent students from wearing protective hairstyles. The term "protective hairstyle" shall include, but not limited to, hairstyles such as locs, braids, twists, coils, bantu knots, afros, and extensions.

Each school's dress code policy shall be gender-neutral. Schools cannot enforce specific attire based on gender. Students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity within the constraints of the dress codes adopted by the school. Gender-neutral dress code guidelines apply to regular school days as well as any school sponsored activities.

Students whose attire does not conform to the applicable standards will be asked to put on appropriate clothing. Students may be asked to change into appropriate clothing, if available at school, or the student's parent/guardian will be called and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school.

Students with questions about the applicable dress code or the appropriateness of particular attire/appearance shall direct such questions to the building principal or assistant principal.

Serious or repeated violations of the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.

STUDENT ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES – TREATMENT AND REPORTING (P5422 and R5422)

The Board has created procedures for students who suffer injuries at school or during school events, including students who suffer brain injuries or cardiac events. The Board requires that brain injuries or symptoms of sudden cardiac events to student-athletes be taken extremely seriously and with the short- term and long-term health of the student-athlete kept uppermost in mind. Regulations which have been established with regard to this policy are available in the Athletic Office or Main Office and in the Athletic Handbook.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES – STUDENT MEAL CHARGE POLICY (R8120)

School Meal Account Procedures / Meal Charging Policy

A student's meal status is always kept confidential. All students have accounts to purchase their meals and are treated the same at the register.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their student's cafeteria food purchases and are expected to maintain payments on any outstanding account balance for cafeteria food purchases. Parents/guardians may request in writing that the District restrict their child's purchase of a la carte food items and/or meals at any time.

The procedures for notifying parents/guardians of low and negative balances and collecting negative balances are detailed below. However, students will be permitted to charge meals (breakfast and/or lunch), and will not be denied a meal because of the insufficient funds in their student meal accounts. In addition to purchasing a meal, students are permitted to charge a la carte food items, even if their individual student meal accounts lack sufficient funds, as long as their balance is not negative \$10 or more. In any event, the District will initiate procedures to restrict a la carte purchases when the student's negative meal account balance exceeds \$10 and the student will only be permitted to purchase a breakfast and lunch meal.

Students may not be publicly identified or stigmatized, or required to perform chores or other work when they cannot pay or have a negative student meal account balance. Schools will not require a student to discard a school meal after it has been served to the student, even if the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative student meal account balance.

Low & Negative Account Balance Notification

If a student has an account balance of \$10.00 or less, the parent/guardian will be notified at least weekly by email or a notice distributed in homeroom or in student folders that are brought home to the parent/guardian. The envelope containing this notice should be marked "confidential – to be opened by addressee only." If the student's outstanding account balance due reaches or exceeds five (5) school meals, including breakfasts and/or lunches, a request for payment letter will be mailed or emailed to the student's parent/guardian, which shall also include a request that the parent/guardian apply to participate in the school food program. In addition, a school official will contact the parent/guardian to resolve the outstanding account balance due by one or more of the following methods: telephone, electronic communication, certified letter, and again request that the parent/guardian apply to participate in the school food program. These contacts will continue until the outstanding account balance due is satisfied or has been determined to be uncollectible. If the student's outstanding account balance due is in excess of \$50.00 and remains unpaid for more than 30 days, the parent/guardian may incur additional collection charges on the outstanding balance. If a good faith effort is not made towards payment of the outstanding balance due, then a referral to an outside authority or agency may be made.

Parents/guardians experiencing economic hardships may request payment arrangements from the District.

Additional Information

The Principal or designee shall notify Food and Nutrition Services regarding departing students so that account balances can be rectified prior to their departure. Information on meal prices, menus, how to apply for free or reduced priced meals, how to check a school meal account balance or add funds to such accounts can be found on the District's Food and Nutrition Services webpage.

Delinquent School Meal Account Debt

After taking reasonable steps to collect delinquent school meal debt, which shall include at least two written correspondences, as outlined above, to the student's parent/guardian, unrecovered/delinquent debt at the end of each school year shall be referred to the Business Manager for appropriate action. Such unrecovered/delinquent debt shall be considered bad debt and non-federal funding sources must repay the Food Service Fund for the total amount of such unrecovered/delinquent debt. Delinquent school meal debt shall not be classified as bad debt for write off purposes until after reasonable steps have been taken to collect such delinquent school meal debt.

From time to time, parents/guardians or other individuals may choose to donate funds to the District. Donated funds may not be commingled with food service funds from federal or state sources or food sales. Instead, donations must be made to the District's General Fund, and transferred to the Food Service Fund at the appropriate time to offset unrecovered/delinquent student meal debt. Donated funds will not be applied to individual student meal account balances, but instead as an overall reduction of the amount of funds that would otherwise need to be transferred from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund at the end of the school year to repay the Food Service Fund for unrecovered/delinquent debt.

STUDENT WELLNESS (P5402 and R5402)

A copy of the District's Student Wellness and Nutrition Policy and Administrative Regulation are available for review on the District's website at [Policy 5402](#) and [Regulation 5402](#), respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully, as they contain important information about fundraisers in school involving the sale of food and regulations regarding bringing outside food into school.

TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS – POSSESSION AND USE (P5411 and R5411)

The possession, distribution and/or use of tobacco and nicotine products by students is prohibited in all buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises. The foregoing is a total ban, for all students, on all possession, distribution and/or use of tobacco and nicotine products in any District building, on any

District property, in any District vehicle and/or during any District-sponsored activity. The definition of tobacco and nicotine products is outlined in detail in Policy 5411, which is available on the District's website at [Policy 5411](#), and includes the use of vaping and other electronic smoking products. Students who violate this Policy will be subject to school-based discipline.

STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE (P5405 and R5405)

Students are prohibited from using, distributing, possessing, or being under the influence of prohibited substances in any of the buildings owned by the District, on District property, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off District property. Students who are found to be in violation of this prohibition shall be suspended from school and disciplined in accordance with Board Policy and the applicable student handbook. Aiding or abetting any of the above-mentioned prohibited conduct shall be treated in the same manner. The definition of "prohibited substances" is outlined in detail in Policy 5405, which is available on the District's website at [Policy 5405](#). Violations of this Policy shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in accordance with applicable law or regulations, Board Policy, and the Memorandum of Understanding in effect with local law enforcement. The District reserves the right to enforce this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation with respect to off-campus conduct to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The District, recognizing the need to address the problem of substance abuse on a District-wide basis, supports the maintenance of a Student Assistance Program. The purpose of the Student Assistance Program is three-fold: (1) to identify students who are having problems because of substance abuse or due to mental health problems, (2) to intervene when appropriate either by personal contact or through support groups, and (3) with the involvement and approval of parents/guardians, to refer those students for appropriate help. Additional information regarding the Student Assistance Program and procedures for students to seek help for themselves or on behalf of another student with a drug, alcohol, or substance abuse problem can be found in Administrative Regulation 5405, which is available on the District's website at [Regulation 5405](#).

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS (P5406 and R5406)

Unless specifically authorized otherwise by Board Policy, the administration of medication to a student during school, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activity, will be permitted only upon prior consent of the student's parent/guardian and at the direction of a licensed healthcare provider, in the following circumstances:

1. Where failure to take or make available such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or would prevent the student from attending school or participating in a school-sponsored activity; or
2. Where the administration of medication is part of a student's accommodation plan, service agreement, or Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with applicable law.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5406 are available for review on the District's website at [Policy 5406](#) and [Regulation 5406](#), respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

FIELD TRIPS (P6153 and R6153)

Students may have the opportunity to participate in supervised, school-sponsored field trips. Students are reminded that all rules and regulations of the District remain in effect. In the event that a trip is cancelled for any reason, the District shall not be responsible for monetary deposits lost due to such cancellation.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (P8012)

When pesticide applications are planned and scheduled in school buildings and/or on school grounds, the District will provide notification including: (1) posting a pest control sign in an appropriate visible area, (2) providing the pest control information sheet to all individuals working in the school building, and (3) providing required notice to all parents and guardians of students or to a list of parents or guardians who have requested notification of applications of pesticides. Records of the District's chemical pest control treatments for the past three (3) years are available to the public at the District's administrative office.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE DISTRICT (P1122 and R1122)

Complaints concerning the District's programs or operations should be directed to the staff member or the administrator immediately in charge of the area in which the complaint arises. Complaints received anonymously by the District, by the Board or by its members will not be recognized as formal correspondence; and therefore, typically will not be given a response.

The Superintendent shall promulgate Administrative Regulations detailing the process and procedures District personnel will follow for handling complaints received by the District. [Regulation 1122](#) is available for review on the District's website. Special procedures provided by law or other District Policy for handling complaints in certain areas such as discrimination, sexual harassment, and resolving issues of concern for non-contract staff shall supersede the provisions of this Policy and its accompanying Regulation.

PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (P5113 and R5113)

Students of compulsory school age are required to attend school. Regular, timely attendance will ensure every student has the opportunity to achieve. Many of the rules and procedures governing **truancy, absences, and tardiness (which can be cumulatively counted as an absence)** are mandated by Pennsylvania law and school code. The District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation governing student attendance are available on the District's website at [Policy 5113](#) and [Regulation 5113](#), respectively. It is important that students and their parents/guardians review these documents and familiarize themselves with the District's procedures.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (P5414 and R5414)

Electronic devices include all devices that can take photographs; that can record, store, transmit, receive, reproduce, initiate, or display audio or video data, calls, messages, images, or any other form(s) of communications; or that can connect to the internet. This definition includes all devices with voice, data, text, and/or navigation capabilities, those that perform word processing functions, and those that support computer and online applications (apps).

The District has the right to regulate the use of electronic devices in accordance with applicable law. Students may possess electronic devices in buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles, and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities, subject to the conditions contained in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5414 and any additional regulations imposed by the building principal or designee.

The use of electronic devices is subject to the following restrictions:

1. Electronic devices may not be used to conduct any activities that violate applicable law, Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or any applicable student handbook or code of conduct.
2. Electronic devices may not be used in any manner that interferes with, or is disruptive to, educational or extracurricular activities or events of the District.
3. Unless authorized by a teacher or building administrator for use in connection with an activity related to the curriculum or other District-sponsored activity, electronic devices must be turned off or set on silent mode when students are in classrooms and other locations where instruction is taking place.
4. Use of electronic devices in restrooms, locker rooms, and other areas where individuals would have a similar expectation of privacy is expressly prohibited.
5. Without prior permission from an administrator or teacher, students may not use electronic devices in school to capture videos, photos or audio.
6. The District is not responsible for any damages or theft that may occur to electronic devices.
7. Personal electronic devices must be used in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 (Acceptable Use of Technology).

Notwithstanding the rules set forth above, electronic devices may be used at any time for the purposes of reporting an emergency situation or a violation of Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or any applicable student handbook or code of conduct to an appropriate school official when such violation constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of members of the school community. Electronic devices may also be used in accordance with a student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement. Violations of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 5414, including any rules imposed on the use of electronic devices by individual building principals, may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5414 are available for review on the District's website at [Policy 5414](#) and [Regulation 5414](#), respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY (P8080 and R8080)

The Board recognizes the need to establish rules and regulations for the use by students, staff, and other authorized users of District-owned or issued technology resources, consistent with the educational and operational goals of the District.

District owned or issued technology resources (referred to hereafter as "District technology resources") shall mean:

1. All networks, servers and telecommunications systems maintained or operated by the District;
2. All District-owned or issued resources and hardware devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, telephones, cellular phones, drones, fax machines, printers, copiers, scanners, etc.;
3. All web-based and cloud-based storage; and
4. Web and cloud-based applications provided by the District through a third party.

The use of District technology resources shall at all times be in accordance with applicable law and other Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

The use of District technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct or violation of the terms outlined in Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080.

District technology resources shall be used primarily for school, District employment, or approved educational-related activities only. Limited incidental personal use is permitted, so long as such use otherwise complies with Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080, and further provided that such limited incidental personal use does not interfere with and is not disruptive to District or school operations or another user's use of District technology resources.

The use of drones or other unmanned aerial electronic devices on District property or at District-sponsored events is prohibited unless prior approval is granted by the Superintendent or designee, regardless of whether a drone or other unmanned aerial electronic device accesses or otherwise uses District technology resources.

The District reserves the right to conduct periodic general searches of network users' activity on District technology resources, using techniques reasonably designed to discover improper or harmful activity by students or other users. Further detail regarding the boundaries of this authority is outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 8080 and 5412.

The District reserves the right to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal use of District technology resources, and to administer appropriate discipline to users who violate Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, usage restrictions, loss of access privileges, suspension, expulsion, termination, restitution, referral to law enforcement, and/or any applicable consequence outlined in any student handbook, collective bargaining agreement, or Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, as appropriate under the circumstances.

Users of District technology resources shall have no expectation that their activity on the District network, including files, communications, and internet activity, will be private, regardless of whether activity takes place on or away from school property. Files, communications, and internet activity on District technology resources are subject to review and may be deleted without notice.

The availability of information on District technology resources does not imply endorsement by the District of such content, nor does the District guarantee the accuracy of such content.

The District shall not be responsible for any information lost, damaged or unavailable while using District technology resources or for any charges or fees resulting from such use.

The District will fully cooperate with local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to alleged illegal activities of any individuals misusing District technology resources.

Users of District technology resources shall immediately report any violations of Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080 to their building principal, immediate supervisor, or the Director of Technology or designee.

Additional Provisions Regarding District-Issued Devices to Students

By accepting a District-issued device, a student and their parent/guardian acknowledge and agree to abide by the provisions of relevant Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

At no time will any District employee remotely activate any camera device or audio listening/recording capabilities installed on a District-issued device to a student without prior parent/guardian consent.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for communicating to parents/guardians regarding any Board-approved cost sharing fees related to a student's receipt of a District-issued device.

Parents/guardians who would like their child to receive a District-issued device but cannot afford any applicable cost-sharing fee shall contact their child's counselor or building principal to discuss available solutions. Parents/guardians and students may be held financially responsible for any uninsured damage, loss, or theft of their District-issued device while such device is in the student's possession, custody or control.

If a device issued to an individual student is lost, stolen, or damaged, the student or their parent/guardian shall immediately report such incident to their building principal.

If a parent/guardian, or a student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, declines to receive a District-issued device, the building principal shall be responsible for making necessary accommodations for the student to ensure the student's education is not adversely affected. Such accommodations may include access to printed resources, access to building-based computers in areas such as libraries and help centers, or other accommodations recommended by the building principal. All accommodations will be made on an individualized basis.

As District-issued devices are property of the District, they must be returned to the District upon request.

The rules, regulations, and procedures that form the District's Acceptable Use of Technology Policy are outlined in detail in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080. A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 are available for review on the District's website at [Policy 8080](#) and [Regulation 8080](#), respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

SELF-HARMING BEHAVIOR (P5423 and R5423)

The District takes a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention and the recognition of and response to other self-harming behaviors. Students shall receive age-appropriate education on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking strategies for themselves or others, including how to engage school resources and how to refer friends for help.

"Self-harming behavior" includes (but is not limited to) threats of suicide, excessive risk taking, purposeful self-injury, and evidence of excessive alcohol consumption or harmful drug use. Once evidence of self-harming behavior is made known to a District employee, the employee must intervene in accordance with the procedures outlined in Administrative Regulation 5423, which is available on the District's website at [Regulation 5423](#). This Regulation also contains additional information regarding the prevention of suicide and other self-harming behaviors, including referral and response procedures. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to carefully review this Regulation and its associated Policy (available at [Policy 5423](#)).

HOMELESS STUDENTS AND STUDENTS EXPERIENCING EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY (P5455 and R5455)

Students experiencing educational instability are students who experience one or more school changes during a single school year due to homelessness, involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, or court ordered placements. These students are entitled to additional support from the District to remove barriers that could impact their graduation and participation in school. This includes waiver of fees and deadlines to join extracurricular activities. Further details are included in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5455, available for review on the District's website at [Policy 5455](#) and [Regulation 5455](#). Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.