THE CATALYST ACADEMY FAMILY HANDBOOK ADDENDUM 2026-2027

Registration & Attendance	
CSDNB Family Handbook Reference	**The Catalyst Academy**
Neighborhood School Assignment p.13	Students attending The Catalyst Academy are placed here through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process. They do not attend their neighborhood school.
School Attendance Guidelines p.15	An unreported absence is an unexcused absence. If your child has unexcused absences, a PPT will be scheduled. Parents will be expected to attend the PPT to discuss attendance concerns.
Family School Liaison p. 16	The Catalyst Academy School Social Worker, Lily McCarthy, serves as the liaison for the family school connection.
Transportation	
CSDNB Family Handbook Reference	**The Catalyst Academy**
General Overview p. 20	Parents may also contact the School Secretary, Karin White, at 860-827-4577 with questions, comments or concerns regarding student transportation.
Preschool and Kindergarten p. 21	The Catalyst Academy is for students in Kindergarten through grade 12. Students in **kindergarten through grade 5** who receive special transportation per their Individualized Education Program (IEP) are required to have an adult at the bus stop at all times.
CSDNB Transportation Privilege Consequences p. 24 - 25	Given that The Catalyst Academy is an alternative school placement and the unique needs of attending students, the following revisions apply to the district's consequences for students who receive specialized transportation per the Individualized Education Program (IEP). ● **Second Referral** - (C) The school administrator will issue a bus detention rather than a (1) day bus suspension. The student will remain after school and take a late bus home at 2:00 pm. ● **Third Referral** - (C)The school administrator will issue a (1) day suspension from the bus rather than a (3) day bus suspension. ● **Fourth Referral** - (C)The school administrator will issue a (3) day bus suspension rather than a (5) day bus suspension. ● **Fifth Referral** - (B) The school administrator will issue a (5) day bus suspension. A PPT may be scheduled to consider alternative options for transportation. Catalyst Academy students receiving regular transportation may be subject to the progressive discipline as defined by the CSDNB Transportation Privilege

	Consequences.
Health and Medical	
CSDNB Family Handbook Reference	**The Catalyst Academy**
Emergencies p. 28	Parents will be contacted if the school nurse, school psychologist, school social worker or school administrator contacts 911 or 211-Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS).
School-Based and Community Health Centers p. 30	The Catalyst Academy currently has partnerships with three behavioral and mental health providers: Community Health Center (CHC), Klingberg Family Centers and The Root Center. The school social worker may make a referral or parents may request that a referral be made for these services. Once the school social worker submits the referral, the parents will need to participate in an intake meeting.
Academic Information and Special Education Programs	
CSDNB Family Handbook Reference	**The Catalyst Academy**
STEAM p. 37	Given that The Catalyst Academy is an alternative school placement, the special education teachers, K-12, design and implement a multi-modal approach to learning, including hands-on, visual and auditory, to address the unique academic and behavioral needs of their students. The CSDNB STEAM program is offered at the district's elementary schools.
English as a Second Language p.37	The IEP will address language acquisition needs for students who are eligible for ESL and Special Education services. Annual standardized testing will be conducted as required by the Connecticut State Department of Education for students with dual eligibility.
Assessments p. 40	● DIBELS will be administered to students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. ● State Tests- students who are determined to be eligible, per the IEP will be administered alternative state tests.
Grade Placement - Performance and Retention p. 41	The student's IEP and PPT recommendations will inform decisions about grade placement and retention.