



GORDON
ELEMENTARY



HARRINGTON
ELEMENTARY



HUGHES
ELEMENTARY



WALTERS
ELEMENTARY

2026-2027 Student Handbook

This handbook is intended for use by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about the District. The use of the word “parent” in this handbook means a student’s natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian. Students and their parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with this handbook, and parents should use the handbook as a resource to assist their students with following its rules and procedures.

Students must comply with all school policies, regulations, rules, and expectations. The use of the word “Policy” in this handbook includes bylaws or policies adopted by the Board of Education. Although the information in this handbook is comprehensive, it is not intended to address every situation that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a contract between the District and parents, students, or staff. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook to ensure the implementation of the school’s educational program and well-being of all students. If a situation arises that is not specifically addressed by this handbook, the administration may respond based on applicable law and policy.

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and policy.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Website

marshallpublicschools.org

Board Policies

Board Policies are available at: marshallpublicschools.org

Building Addresses/Phone Numbers

Gordon Elementary: 400 N. Gordon St., Marshall, MI 49068 - (269) 781-1270

Harrington Elementary: 100 S. Clark St., Albion, MI 49224 - (517) 629-9166

Hughes Elementary: 103 W. Hughes St., Marshall, MI 49068 - (269) 781-1275

Walters Elementary: 705 N. Marshall Ave., Marshall, MI 49068 - (269) 781-1280

District Contact Information

Main: (269) 781-1250

Fax: (269) 781-7757

Transportation: (269) 781-1340

Food Service: (269) 781-1323

Technology Help Desk: (269) 781-1294

Administration

Superintendent: Rebecca Jones

Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Kelly Fitzpatrick

Gordon Elementary Principal: Benjamin Rodgers

Harrington Elementary Principal: Beth Brownell

Hughes Elementary Principal: Matt Lefebvre

Walters Elementary Principal: Marcie Hydrick

Director of Operations: David Turner

Transportation Director: Monique Newborn

Food Service Director: Alan Breneman

Facilities Director: Brad Shedd

Communications Director: Ian Gilyard-Schnaitman

Athletic Director: Jesse Brinks

2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR

2026-2027 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2026							SEPTEMBER 2026							OCTOBER 2026						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			
NOVEMBER 2026							DECEMBER 2026							JANUARY 2027						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
FEBRUARY 2027							MARCH 2027							APRIL 2027						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY 2027							JUNE 2027							JULY 2027						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
NO SCHOOL
HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
NO SCHOOL TEACHERS REPORT
HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS
CLASS OF '27 MHS GRADUATION
HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS & LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

2026-2027 DAILY SCHEDULE

Start Time: 8:40am

End Time: 3:40pm

School staff will supervise students on school grounds five (5) minutes before the school day begins and five (5) minutes after the school day ends. **Unless students are participating in a school activity, school staff will not provide supervision before or after these times.**



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency school closure, such as a bad weather day or when school is unexpectedly closed early, the District will notify students, parents, and the general public about the closure in the following manner:

- ParentSquare
- marshallpublicschools.org
- Local media

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or any other legally protected basis, and prohibits unlawful discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, in any education program or activity that it operates, including in admission and employment.

Inquiries about unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment and retaliation, may be referred to the District's applicable Coordinator and/or an agency with jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Department of Justice.

Designated Title IX Coordinator
IAN GILYARD-SCHNAITMAN
100 E. GREEN ST.
MARSHALL, MI 49068
269-781-1259
ischnaitman@marshallpublicschools.org

Designated Section 504 Coordinator
KELLY FITZPATRICK
100 E. GREEN ST.
MARSHALL, MI 49068
269-781-1258
kfitzpatrick@marshallpublicschools.org

Designated Civil Rights Coordinator/Employment Compliance Officer
LISA EYRE
100 E. GREEN ST.
MARSHALL, MI 49068
269-781-1300
leyre@marshallpublicschools.org

The District's Non-discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Non-Retaliation Policy and Grievance Procedures is available at marshallpublicschools.org.

To report information about conduct that may constitute unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment and retaliation, or make a complaint of such conduct, please contact the applicable Coordinator listed above.

Any student who witnesses an act of unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment or retaliation, is encouraged to report it to District personnel. No student will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected discrimination. A student may also anonymously report an incident of unlawful discrimination. The District will

investigate anonymous reports pursuant to its investigation procedures described by Policy. Minor students do not need parent permission to file complaints or participate in the Grievance Process described by Policy.

A student found to have engaged in unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment or retaliation, may be subject to discipline, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with Policy 5206.

The District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law.

Examples of Unlawful Harassment

“Unlawful harassment” is verbal, written, or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a person because of the person’s membership in a Protected Class that has the purpose or effect of: (1) creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or (2) unreasonably interfering with the person’s ability to benefit from the District’s educational programs or activities.

- **Race, color, and national origin harassment** can take many forms, including, but not limited to, slurs, taunts, stereotypes, or name-calling, as well as racially motivated physical threats, attacks, or other hateful conduct. Harassment based on ethnicity, ancestry, or perceived ancestral, ethnic, or religious characteristics is considered race, color, and national origin harassment. Policy 3115 is attached to this handbook as Appendix A.
- **Disability harassment** can take many forms, including, but not limited to, slurs, taunts, stereotypes, or name-calling, as well as disability-motivated physical threats, attacks, or other hateful conduct. Policy 3115 is attached to this handbook as Appendix A.
- **Sex-based harassment** can take many forms. For the definition of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment under Title IX, see Policy 3118, attached to this handbook as Appendix A.

SECTION I: DISTRICT-WIDE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance

Students are expected to attend school every day school is in session. Students are to arrive before the first class and stay until the scheduled end of their school day. If a student is unable to attend school, the student or parent must report that absence to the main office.

If a student arrives late, the student must sign in at the office. A student may only leave school early if the student's parent notifies the office.

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent:

- the student's physical or mental illness (verification from a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner is required after 4 consecutive days of absence for illness);
- severe weather;
- medical appointments for the student;
- death or serious illness of the student's family member;
- attendance at a funeral, wedding, or graduation;
- appearance at court or for other legal matters;
- observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith;
- college planning visits.

A student who violates attendance expectations may be subject to discipline and any other applicable consequences.

Absences due to illness

The school will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school and may ask that the parent pick up the student.

Planned absences

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must contact the school at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence unless alternative arrangements are approved by the teacher in advance. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments outside of school hours.

Students are expected to:

- Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated or make alternative arrangements with their teacher in advance of the absence.
- Sign out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
- Make up all work that is assigned by teachers for the instructional time that has been missed.

For more information, see Policy 5301.

Books and Supplies

The District will provide free instruction to all students and will not charge a fee for materials necessary to complete required or elective courses. Students and parents may purchase additional supplies at their own expense. The District may charge a reasonable and refundable deposit to cover damage to textbooks and supplies. A teacher may provide a list of suggested materials that students and parents may purchase. Purchasing materials is voluntary and not required for curricular activities.

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the District. The District may assess fees to repair or replace District property that is lost, damaged, stolen, returned in a different condition, or not returned on time.

Bulletin Boards

Space may be provided within school buildings or on school electronic media for students and student organizations to post notices about student groups. Rules for posting on bulletin boards are found in Policy 5503.

Bullying

All types of student-on-student bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivation, are prohibited. The District's Anti-Bullying Policy is attached to this handbook as Appendix B.

Cell Phones and Other Wireless Communications Devices

Students may not use Wireless Communications Devices on school grounds during instructional time, except as otherwise provided in this Policy.

"Wireless Communications Device" is an electronic device capable of, but not limited to, text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, sending and receiving photos and videos, or producing email.

"Instructional time" is defined as the start of the school day when instruction begins until dismissal at the end of the school day, excluding lunch for high school students.

"School grounds" means a building, playing field, or property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by a school. School grounds does not include a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses.

Students may use Wireless Communications Devices on school grounds during school hours, including during instructional time, if the Wireless Communications Device is:

- medically necessary for a student to monitor a health issue;
- required by a student's Section 504 Plan or IEP;
- a District-owned device;
- designated by the District to be used for instructional purposes; or
- used during an emergency situation in accordance with the District's emergency operations plan under Policy 3402, so long as it does not interfere with school emergency protocols or first responders or endanger students or staff.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their Wireless Communications Devices. The District is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of any Wireless Communications Device.

Students may not use Wireless Communications Devices while they are in locker rooms, restrooms, or any other area in which others may have a reasonable expectation of privacy unless medically necessary or required by the student's Section 504 Plan or IEP.

Taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal photographs, video, audio, or other similar data, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (including via cell phone or other electronic device), may constitute a crime under state or federal law. A student engaged in any of these activities at school, at a school event, or on school-provided transportation, may be subject to discipline pursuant to this Policy and the student code of conduct. A student engaged in any of these activities outside of school may be disciplined if the student's activities substantially disrupt the school environment.

The Superintendent, building principals, and teachers are authorized to develop building-level and classroom rules for students' use of Wireless Communications Devices. Those rules must be clearly communicated to students. A student who violates the rules or this Policy is subject to corrective or disciplinary action, consistent with Policy and the student code of conduct.

School administrators and teachers may confiscate a student's Wireless Communications Device if the student's use or possession of the Wireless Communications Device violates this Policy, the student code of conduct, or any applicable building or classroom rule. The building principal or designee may require a meeting with the student's Parent to discuss the rule violation before returning the Wireless Communications Device.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in academic dishonesty in any form. Unless specifically authorized by a teacher, prohibited behavior may include, but is not limited to:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person in obtaining credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing with other students the answers or questions on a test or assignment before the test or assignment has been submitted for a grade.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Using artificial intelligence to assist or complete an assignment or test.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty may receive no credit on that assignment or class and will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Children's Protective Services Investigations

The District will cooperate with Children's Protective Services (CPS) during an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. Cooperation may include allowing CPS access to a student without parent consent if CPS determines access is necessary to complete the investigation or prevent abuse or neglect. As a matter of law, the identity of an individual who makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is confidential and will not be disclosed.

Classroom Behavior

Teachers may establish classroom conduct rules that students must follow.

Closed Campus

The school campus is a closed campus. All students must remain on campus during school hours. Students who leave campus without authorization are subject to disciplinary action.

Communicable Diseases

The District, in conjunction with local health department officials, may exclude students who:

- Are suspected of having a communicable disease until a physician or local health department official determines the student is no longer a risk; or
- Lack documentation of immunity or are otherwise considered susceptible to a communicable disease until the local health department officials determine the risk of spreading the disease has passed.

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, COVID-19, and other conditions indicated by the local and state health departments. Any removal will only be for the contagious period or as directed by the local health department.

Concussion Protocol

Before allowing a student to participate in any athletic activity, including physical education, the District will annually:

- A. Provide state-approved educational materials on concussion awareness to each student and to the student's Parent; and
- B. Obtain a statement signed by each student and respective Parent acknowledging receipt of state-approved concussion awareness educational materials. The District will maintain this signed statement for 5 years or until the student is 18, whichever is longer.

The District's complete concussion protocol is in Policy 5712 including information on student removal from activity for possible concussion and return-to-play requirements.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be subject to discipline and required to pay to replace or restore the property.

Dress and Grooming

In general, clothing should be clean and appropriate for the climate and the situation. Student dress, cleanliness, or personal appearance that is a threat to the safety, health, or welfare of others; violates any statute, Policy 5101, or the Dress Code; or substantially disrupts the educational environment or that school officials reasonably forecast will substantially disrupt the educational environment, is grounds for remedial or disciplinary action.

The final decision in any situation involving inappropriate attire rests with building administrators.

Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change clothing immediately. If necessary, parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing, students can use extra clothing provided by the District, or the student may be sent home to change. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

Dress Code

Tops must have straps or sleeves and must cover the student's entire torso from armpit to armpit. Pants, shorts, and skirts must have an inseam at least 4 inches in length. Clothing may not display material that:

- Is materially and substantially disruptive or that school officials can reasonably forecast will create a substantial disruption;
- Is obscene, sexually explicit, indecent, or lewd;
- Promotes the use of or advertises illegal substances, including but not limited to substances illegal for minors;
- Incites violence;
- Contains "fighting words";
- Constitutes a true threat of violence;
- Demonstrates hate group association/affiliation or uses hate speech targeting groups based on their membership in a protected class; or
- Displays nipples, genitals, or buttocks.

Students who represent the District at an official or school-sponsored function or public event (e.g., athletic teams, bands, choirs, and other groups) may be required to follow specific dress requirements as a condition of participation or attendance.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must provide emergency information for each student enrolled in the District. The information should include the family physician's name, contact information for parents or a responsible adult, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes.

Fees

The District will not charge students a fee to participate in curricular activities. The District may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular and noncurricular activities to cover the District's reasonable costs. The District may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing required for participation in extracurricular and noncurricular activities or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of District-owned equipment or clothing. The activity's coach or sponsor will provide students with information about the fees charged and the equipment or clothing required.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. Each student must submit a completed permission form signed by the student's parent before being allowed to attend a field trip.

A student's failure to comply with Board Policy, the Student Code of Conduct, or any other applicable rules or behavioral expectations while on a field trip may result in disciplinary action and removal or exclusion from the trip or future field trips.

Students who have not met academic or behavioral expectations may not be allowed to attend field trips.

First Aid, Illness, or Injury at School

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

When the building principal or designee determines that a student is too ill or injured to remain at school, school staff will contact the student's parent or other designated responsible adult to pick up the student from school. If the student requires immediate medical attention, the District will first attempt to contact a parent or other designated responsible adult when reasonably possible. If contact cannot be made, the building principal or designee will take any reasonable action necessary on the student's behalf, consistent with state law.

Students showing symptoms of a communicable disease may be sent home. The District may require a statement from a licensed physician or local health official before allowing the student to return to school.

Head Lice

A student with nits within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the scalp or live lice may remain at school. The student will be restricted from activities that involve close head-to-head contact or sharing of personal items. The District will notify the student's parent and provide educational materials on head lice prevention and treatment.

District personnel will not ostracize or embarrass a student with lice or nits and will maintain student confidentiality.

If a student has a persistent infestation after 6 weeks or 3 separate cases within 1 school year, the District will form a team that may include the student's parents, teacher, social workers, or administrators to determine the best approach to resolve the issue.

Homeless Children and Youth

The District will provide a free public education to homeless children and youth who are in the District and will afford them the educational rights and legal protections provided by federal and state law. Homeless children and youth will not be stigmatized or segregated based on their homeless status and will have the same access to services offered to students who are not homeless.

A student or parent in a homeless situation who requires assistance should contact the District's homeless liaison:

KELLY FITZPATRICK
100 E. GREEN ST.
MARSHALL, MI 49068

For detailed information about Homeless Children and Youth, see Policy 5307.

Immunizations

For a student entering the District for the first time and entering 7th grade, a parent must provide the building principal or designee with a certificate stating that the student has received at least 1 dose of an immunizing agent against each disease specified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or other responsible agency or documentation of an applicable approved exemption.

The student's parent must provide the certificate or documentation at the time of registration, or no later than the first day of school. A parent of a student who has not received all doses of any required immunizing agent must provide the District an updated immunization certificate demonstrating that the immunizations have been completed as required by the MDHHS. The updated certificate must be provided within 4 months of the student entering the District for the first time or upon entering 7th grade. The District will not permit a student to attend school unless the parent provides evidence of immunizations or exemptions consistent with Policy 5713 and state law.

Law Enforcement Interviews

Law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration. Students may be questioned by law enforcement consistent with Policy 5201. Students may be questioned by school officials at any time, without parent notice or consent, consistent with the District's obligation to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

Limited English Proficiency

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to a student's equal participation in the District's instructional or extracurricular programs. Those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular programs offered by the District.

Locker Use

Pursuant to Policy 5102, lockers are District property and may be made available for student use. Lockers are assigned to students on a temporary basis, and District administration may revoke a student's locker assignment at any time. The District retains ownership of lockers notwithstanding student use.

Students have no expectation of privacy in their lockers. The building principal or designee may inspect lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause and without advance notice. Upon the request of the building principal or designee, law enforcement may assist with searching lockers.

During a locker search, student privacy rights will be respected for any items that are not illegal or violate Board Policy or building rules.

Lost and Found

All lost and found items are to be taken to the lost and found area located near the main office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed items may be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the media specialist or designee on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all materials checked out in the borrower's name. A fine may be charged for overdue materials. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulates on materials charged to the student. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to materials.

Medication

Whenever possible, parents should arrange student medication schedules to eliminate the need for administration of medication at school. When a student requires prescription or over-the-counter medication at school, the following procedures apply:

- The student's parent must annually submit a written request and consent form as required by the District.
- A building principal or designee must request that the parent supply medications in the exact dosage required whenever feasible.
- The building principal or designee will notify the student's parent of any observed adverse reaction to medication.
- All medications must be in the original container.

For additional information and requirements, see Policy 5703.

Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors/Inhalers

A student may possess and use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector or inhaler with written approval from the student's healthcare provider and consistent with Policy 5703. A minor student must also have written permission from the student's parent. The required documentation must be submitted to the building principal or designee. If a student is authorized to self-possess or self-administer an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector or inhaler, the building principal or designee will notify the student's teachers and other staff as appropriate.

Additionally, the school must maintain a written emergency care plan drafted by a physician in collaboration with the student's parent. The emergency care plan will contain specific instructions related to the student's needs. The physician and parent should update the emergency care plan as necessary to address any changes in the student's medical circumstances.

Parent Involvement in Education

A copy of the District's Parent Involvement in Education policy, Policy 5401, is attached as Appendix C.

Parties

Classes may have seasonal or curriculum-related parties during the year. Students must follow all expectations and rules established by the teacher or other relevant staff during the party. Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed in the classroom.

Playground/Recess Rules

Staff will supervise students when the students use the playground or recess area during the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and circumstances, the District does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, or surrounding areas.

Protection of Pupil Rights

The District respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy as required by law. The policy is available on the District's website or upon request from the District's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the Superintendent. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the Superintendent. A copy of the District's annual notice to parents regarding the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment is attached as Appendix D.

Public Display of Affection

Students may not engage in public display of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

Unless a parent has provided the building principal or designee with a court order that provides otherwise, District personnel will treat each parent, regardless of custody or visitation rights, the same as to accessing student records, meeting and conferring with District personnel, visiting a child at school, and transporting a child to or from school. District personnel are not responsible for enforcing visitation or parenting time orders.

Parents, regardless of custodial status, will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The District is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

Search and Seizure

To maintain order and discipline in school and protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student or the student's personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, athletic bag) as permitted by law and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. As noted in "Locker Use," student lockers and desks are school property and remain at all times under the District's control. Student lockers and desks are subject to search at any time for any reason and without notice or consent.

School officials may use canines, metal detectors, wands, or other tools to conduct searches.

A student's failure to permit a search and seizure may be grounds for disciplinary action. A student's person and personal effects may be searched whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student possesses illegal or unauthorized materials. If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, these items may be turned over to law enforcement or stored in a secure place at school until a disciplinary hearing.

Student Education Records

The District may collect, retain, use, and disclose student education records consistent with state and federal law. See Policy 5309 for an overview of the District's collection, retention, use, and disclosure of student records.

Parents may inspect and review their minor child's education records, regardless of custody status, unless a court order specifies otherwise. An eligible student (i.e., a student who is 18 years or older or an emancipated minor) may also inspect and review their education records.

Right to Request Explanation or Interpretation

A parent or eligible student may request, in writing, an explanation or interpretation of a student's education records. School officials will respond to any reasonable request.

Right to Request Amendment of Education Records

A parent or eligible student may request that a student's education record be amended if the parent or eligible student believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights as explained in Policy 5309.

Directory Information

The District designates the following information as directory information:

- a. student names, addresses, and telephone numbers;
- b. grade level;
- c. enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time);
- d. dates of attendance (e.g., 2023-2027);

- e. degrees, honors, and awards received.

School officials may disclose “directory information” without the prior written consent of a parent or eligible student unless the parent or eligible student specifically notifies the District that the parent or eligible student does not consent to the disclosure of the student’s directory information for 1 or more of the uses for which the District would commonly disclose the information.

A Directory Information Opt Out Form is attached to this handbook as Appendix E. This form allows the parent or eligible student to elect not to have the student’s directory information disclosed for 1 or more of the listed uses. Upon receipt of a completed Directory Information Opt Out Form, school officials may not release the student’s directory information for any of the uses selected on the form.

Address Confidentiality Program

The District will not disclose a student’s or parent’s phone number or address or the parent’s employment address to another person who is the subject of a court order that prohibits disclosure of the information if the District has received a copy of the order. The District will not disclose a confidential address, phone number, or email address in violation of the Address Confidentiality Program Act if the student or the student’s parent notifies the District that the student or the student’s parent has obtained a participation card issued by the department of attorney general.

Technology

Use of District technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to use computers, the Internet, and other District technology resources for school-related educational purposes only. Students and their parents are required to sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement attached as Appendix F before they may use or access District technology resources. Students who violate the District’s Acceptable Use Agreement may have technology privileges terminated or suspended and may be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Threat Assessment and Response

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe environment for all members of the school community. Our commitment to security includes creating and maintaining a safe school climate and supportive culture as a foundation for preventing violence and mitigating risk.

Students are encouraged to report any threat immediately. Threats may be reported to any District employee in-person, by e-mail, or by telephone. Students may also report threats through the OK2SAY program.

Transportation Services

School Vehicle Rules

Riding in school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school

vehicles. In addition, students must comply with the Student Code of Conduct while in school vehicles.

When in school vehicles, the following rules apply:

- A. Students must promptly comply with any directive given by the driver.
- B. Students must wait in a safe place for the vehicle to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- C. Students may not fight or engage in bullying, harassment, or horseplay while riding or waiting for school vehicles.
- D. Students must enter the vehicle without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to a seat.
- E. Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- F. Students may not throw or pass objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- G. Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- H. Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
- I. Students may converse in ordinary tones and volumes but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is moving. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- J. Students may not open windows without the driver's permission. Students may not dangle body parts or other items (e.g., legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- K. Students must secure any item(s) that could break or cause injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident.
- L. Students must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
- M. Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
- N. Students may not vandalize or intentionally cause damage to the vehicle.
- O. Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.

Video cameras may be placed on vehicles and buses to monitor student behavior on the vehicle/bus. Exceptions or modifications to these rules may be made as necessary to accommodate a student with a disability.

School Vehicle Misconduct Consequences

Students who violate the school vehicle rules will be referred to the building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include parent notification, suspension of vehicle/bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, and suspension or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive and school officials have discretion to impose any listed consequence they deem appropriate in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be reported to law enforcement.

Video Surveillance and Photographs

The District may monitor any District building, facility, property, bus, or vehicle with video recording equipment other than areas where a person has a legally recognized and reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., restrooms and locker rooms). Except in those school areas, a person has no expectation of privacy.

The District may use video recordings for any lawful purpose, including student discipline, assisting law enforcement, or investigations.

Students may not make recordings: on school property; when on a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the District; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event unless otherwise authorized by Policies 5210 or 5805, applicable law, or a District employee.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are transferring from the District must submit written notice to the building principal at least 1 week before the withdrawal.

SECTION II: ACADEMICS

To encourage students and parents to stay apprised of student academic information, grades, attendance, and other information can be accessed via PowerSchool.

If you need to register for PowerSchool, contact the main office.

Grades

Report cards will be issued at least once each marking period. Report cards will be sent out through ParentSquare. To request a hard copy of your student's report card please contact the main office.

Homework

Classroom teachers may assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact their student's teacher.

Each student is expected to spend time preparing for classes outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student and each class.

Placement

The District has the sole discretion to make promotion, retention, and placement decisions for its students, consistent with state and federal law. The District may consider parent requests that a student be placed in a particular classroom, building, educational program, or grade. The District's placement decision is final.

Students with Disabilities

Eligible students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are entitled to a free appropriate public education. The District will follow state and federal law and applicable rules and regulations in identifying, locating, evaluating, and educating students with disabilities.

A parent who believes their student is eligible for special education or accommodations due to a disability or suspected disability should contact the main office.

SECTION III: STUDENT CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, AND ATHLETICS

Students are encouraged to participate in the various student clubs, activities, and athletics offered by the District.

A student's failure to comply with Policy, the Student Code of Conduct, or any other applicable rules or behavioral expectations while participating in or attending a student club, activity, or athletic competition, meeting, event, or practice, may result in disciplinary action.

Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Participation is open to students who meet the eligibility requirements established by the District and any applicable governing body.

The District has exclusive control over extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance.

Student athletes are also subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct (see Appendix G) and any applicable team rules.

For more information, see Policy 5507.

Student-Initiated Non-Curricular Clubs

Students may voluntarily form clubs that are not directly related to the school curriculum. Membership in a student-initiated, non-curricular club must be open to all interested and eligible District students, and the club may not refuse membership to a student based on any protected classification under state or federal law.

For more information about student-initiated non-curricular clubs, including how to form a club, see Policy 5510.

Transportation To/From Extracurricular Activities

The District may provide transportation to students who participate in school-sponsored events. If District-provided transportation is available, students must ride to and from those events in a school vehicle unless otherwise excused by the activity sponsor.

SECTION IV: DISCIPLINE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Discipline Generally

The District may discipline students who engage in misconduct, up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.

The District will take steps to effectively discipline students in a manner that appropriately minimizes out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. The District will comply with applicable laws related to student discipline, including the consideration of specific factors and possible use of restorative practices.

If an administrator determines that an emergency requires the immediate removal of a student from school, the administrator may contact the student's parent or local law enforcement or take other measures to have the student safely removed from school.

Students who are involved in extracurricular activities and engage in misconduct may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences provided in this handbook.

The District reserves the right to refer to an appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct which may constitute a crime. The District will cooperate with those agencies in their investigations as permitted by law.

The District's rules and policies apply to any student who is on school property or school-affiliated transportation, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity or function, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operation, discipline, or general welfare of the school, regardless of location, date, or time.

Forms of School Discipline & Applicable Due Process

After-School Detention

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of a detention so that parents may make transportation arrangements for the student the following day.

Saturday School

The building administrator may require a student to attend Saturday School. Students follow strict rules and must work on assignments the entire time, except for short breaks. Students who do not follow Saturday School rules will be removed and will face further disciplinary action.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension, during which students follow strict rules and must work on assignments the entire time, except

for short breaks. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Snap Suspension - Suspension from Class, Subject, or Activity by Teacher

A teacher may suspend a student from any class, subject, or activity for up to 1 full school day if the teacher has good reason to believe that the student:

- Intentionally disrupted the class, subject, or activity;
- Jeopardized the health or safety of any of the other participants in the class, subject, or activity; or
- Was insubordinate during the class, subject, or activity.

Any teacher who suspends a student from a class, subject, or activity must immediately report the suspension and its reason to the building principal or designee. If a student is suspended from a class, subject, or activity, but will otherwise remain at school, the building principal or designee must ensure that the student is appropriately supervised during the suspension and, if the student is a student with a disability, that all procedures applicable to students with disabilities are followed.

Any teacher who suspends a student from a class, subject, or activity must, as soon as possible following the suspension, request that the student's parent attend a parent/teacher conference to discuss the suspension. The building principal or designee must attend the conference if either the teacher or the parent requests the building principal's attendance. The building principal or designee must make reasonable efforts to invite a school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker to attend the conference.

Removal for 10 or Fewer School Days

Before a student is suspended for 10 or fewer school days, an administrator will: (1) provide the student verbal notice of the offense the student is alleged to have committed, and (2) provide the student an informal opportunity to respond and explain what happened. Except in emergency circumstances, an administrator will not suspend the student unless, after providing the student notice and an opportunity to explain, the administrator is reasonably certain that the student committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that suspension is the appropriate consequence. The building administrator will consider the 7 factors provided in the Student Code of Conduct before suspending a student.

Removal for More than 10 and Fewer than 60 School Days

Before a student is suspended for more than 10 school days but less than 60 school days, the Superintendent or designee will provide the parent or student with: (1) written notice of the offense the student is suspected to have committed; (2) an explanation of the evidence relied upon by the District in arriving at the conclusion that disciplinary action may be warranted; and (3) an opportunity for a hearing at which the student may present evidence and witnesses to show that the student did not commit the alleged offense or that suspension is not an appropriate consequence.

The Superintendent or designee will provide the parent or student at least 3 calendar days' notice before the hearing. The parent and student may be represented, at their cost, by an attorney or another adult advocate at the hearing.

The Superintendent or designee will not suspend the student unless, following the hearing, he or she is convinced by a preponderance of the evidence that the student committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that suspension is the appropriate consequence. The Superintendent or designee will consider the 7 factors noted in the Student Code of Conduct before suspending a student.

A parent or student may appeal the Superintendent's or designee's decision to the Board. The appeal must be submitted to the Board within 3 calendar days of the decision. The Board will hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board's decision is final. The student's suspension will run while the appeal is pending.

Removal for 60 or More School Days

Before the Board suspends or expels a student, the Superintendent or designee must provide the parent or student with: (1) written notice of the offense the student is suspected to have committed; (2) an explanation of the evidence relied upon by the District in arriving at the conclusion that disciplinary action may be warranted; and (3) an opportunity for a Board hearing at which the student may present evidence and witnesses to show that the student did not commit the suspected offense or that suspension or expulsion is not an appropriate consequence.

The Superintendent or designee will provide the parent or student at least 3 calendar days' notice before the hearing. The parent and student may be represented, at their cost, by an attorney or another adult advocate at the hearing.

The Board will not suspend or expel the student unless, following the hearing, a majority of the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the student committed misconduct that should result in suspension or expulsion under either the Student Code of Conduct or Board Policy and that suspension or expulsion is the appropriate consequence. The Board will consider the 7 factors noted in the Student Code of Conduct before suspending or expelling a student. The Board's decision is final.

Student Code of Conduct

This Student Code of Conduct is meant to be a guide and is subject to the discretion of administration and the Board.

Administration will, as required or permitted by state law, always consider the use of restorative practices as an alternative to, or in addition to suspension or expulsion. Nothing in the following table limits the District's ability to impose more or less severe disciplinary consequences depending on the situation's unique circumstances and the following factors:

- A. The student's age;
- B. The student's disciplinary history;
- C. Whether the student has a disability;

- D. The seriousness of the behavior;
- E. Whether the behavior posed a safety risk;
- F. Whether restorative practices will be used to address the behavior; and
- G. Whether a lesser intervention would properly address the behavior.

The District will also comply with Policy 5206 Section I for victims of an alleged sexual assault.

Nothing in this handbook limits the District's authority to discipline a student for conduct that is inappropriate in school, but that is not specifically provided in this table. Depending on the circumstances of a particular situation, separate athletic or extracurricular sanctions may be imposed, in accordance with the applicable handbook or rules.

**APPENDIX A: NON-DISCRIMINATION, ANTI-HARASSMENT, AND NON-RETALIATION
(INCLUDING TITLE IX AND ELLIOTT-LARSEN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT)**

3115 *Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Non-Retaliation*

The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, height, weight, familial status, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or any other legally protected basis in admission, access to District programs and activities, or employment. Unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment and retaliation, in District programs, services, and activities is prohibited.

Title IX sexual harassment is covered by Policy 3118.

A contract to which the District is a party will be read to include a covenant by the contractor and its subcontractors not to discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hiring, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, age, height, weight, and marital status.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to designate one or more employees to serve as the District's applicable Coordinator(s), as described in Policy 3115B.

Definitions: For definitions related to the District's non-discrimination, anti-harassment, and non-retaliation policy, including examples of prohibited conduct, see Policy 3115A – Definitions.

Designation of Coordinators: To find the appropriate coordinator/compliance officer, see Policy 3115B – Designation of Coordinators.

Supportive Measures: For more information about supportive measures, see Policy 3115C – Supportive Measures.

Informal Resolution: For more information about informal resolution, see Policy 3115D – Informal Resolution.

Grievance Procedure and Remedies: For more information about the grievance procedure for investigating unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation complaints, and for possible remedies, see Policy 3115E – Grievance Procedure and Remedies.

Complaint Dismissal and Appeals: For more information about dismissing a complaint, appealing a complaint dismissal, or appealing a determination of responsibility, see Policy 3115F – Complaint Dismissal and Appeals.

Reserved

Training and Notice: For more information about training requirements and notice of the District's non-discrimination policy, see Policy 3115H – Training Requirements and Policy Notice.

3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment

Consistent with Policy 3115, the District prohibits unlawful sex discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, in any of its education programs or activities in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations.

This Policy addresses allegations of Title IX sexual harassment that occurred on or after August 14, 2020 unless the District previously investigated the allegations under a different policy pursuant to the now-vacated Title IX 2024 regulations. Allegations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation not covered by this Policy should be addressed under the District's applicable non-discrimination or anti-harassment policies. Allegations alleging both Title IX sexual harassment and other forms of Unlawful Discrimination and Unlawful Harassment (e.g., race, age, disability) that cannot be reasonably separated into distinct complaints should be investigated under this Policy. Complaints that include allegations of Title IX sexual harassment may be investigated under this Policy or bifurcated and investigated pursuant to the applicable Grievance Procedure under Policies 3115-3115H. Investigating other forms of discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, pursuant to this Policy will fulfill the District's investigation requirements under Policies 3115-3115H, 4104, and 5202, but nothing in this paragraph limits the District's right to determine at any time that a non-Title IX allegation should be addressed under Policies 3115-3115H, 4104 or 5202 or any other applicable Policy.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to designate one or more employees who meet the training requirements in Section M of this Policy to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator(s). The Title IX Coordinator will designate an Investigator, Decision-Maker, and Appeals Officer, if applicable, for each Formal Complaint made under this Policy. If a Formal Complaint is made under this Policy against the Title IX Coordinator, the Board President will designate the persons who will serve as the Investigator, Decision-Maker, and Appeals Officer and will work with District administrators to ensure that all other requirements of this Policy are met.

The Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, and Informal Resolution Facilitator cannot be the same person on a specific matter, and the persons designated to serve in those roles may or may not be District employees. Any person serving as the Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, or Informal Resolution Facilitator must meet the training requirements in Section M of this Policy.

Inquiries about Title IX's application to a particular situation may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

A. Definitions

For purposes of this Policy only, the below terms are defined as follows:

1. "Sexual Harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
 - a. a District employee conditioning the provision of a District aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
 - b. unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would determine 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
 - c. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 USC 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 USC 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 USC 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 USC 12291(a)(30).
 - i. "Sexual assault" is an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It includes unlawful sexual intercourse (including incest and statutory rape) and any sexual act, including rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or fondling, directed against another person without the consent of that person, including when that person is incapable of giving consent.
 - A) Rape: (Except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - B) Sodomy: Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - C) Sexual Assault With an Object: To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - D) Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

- E) Incest: Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
 - F) Statutory Rape: Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.
- ii. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the Complainant. The existence of such a relationship is based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
 - iii. "Domestic violence" means felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Complainant, person with whom the Complainant shares a child, person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner, person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant under the domestic or family violence laws of Michigan; or any other person against an adult or youth Complainant who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of Michigan.
 - iv. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.
2. "Actual Knowledge" means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator or any District employee. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only District employee with actual knowledge is the Respondent.
 3. "Appeals Officer" is the person designated by the District to decide appeals of a dismissal or determination of responsibility for matters investigated under this Policy. The Appeals Officer may not be the same person as the Investigator, Title IX Coordinator, Decision-Maker, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a specific matter.
 4. "Complainant" is a person who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Title IX sexual harassment.
 5. "Consent" means a voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity by a person legally capable of consenting. Someone who is incapacitated cannot consent. Past consent does not imply future consent. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with

another. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Coercion, force, or threat of either invalidates consent. Sexual conduct or relationships between District employees, volunteers, or contractors and students, regardless of age or consent, are prohibited.

6. “Day,” unless otherwise indicated, means a day that the District’s central office is open for business.
7. “Decision-Maker” is the person designated by the District to review the investigation report and provide a written determination of responsibility that provides the evidentiary basis for the Decision-Maker’s conclusions. The Decision-Maker may not be the same person as the Investigator, Title IX Coordinator, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a specific matter.
8. “Education Program or Activity” means any location, event, or circumstance over which the District exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the harassment occurred.
9. “Formal Complaint” means a written document or electronic submission signed and filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the sexual harassment allegation.
10. “Grievance Process” is the process by which the District investigates and determines responsibility for Formal Complaints.
11. “Investigator” is the person designated by the District to investigate a Title IX Formal Complaint. The Investigator cannot be the same person as the Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a specific matter. The Title IX Coordinator may serve as the Investigator on a particular investigation, unless the Title IX Coordinator has a conflict of interest or bias.
12. “Report” means an account of alleged Title IX sexual harassment made by any person (regardless of whether the reporting party is the alleged victim).
13. “Respondent” is a person who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Title IX sexual harassment.
14. “Supportive Measures” are non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized supports offered and implemented by the Title IX Coordinator as appropriate, as reasonably available, and at no-cost to the Complainant and the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or when no Formal Complaint has been filed. Supportive measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District’s education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District’s educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

15. “Title IX Coordinator” is the person(s) designated by the District to coordinate the District’s Title IX compliance. The Title IX Coordinator may not be the same person as the Appeals Officer or Decision-Maker on any matter. A person not serving as a Title IX Coordinator in a particular matter is not disqualified from serving in another role in that matter. The Title IX Coordinator may also serve as the Investigator or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a particular investigation, unless the Title IX Coordinator signed the Formal Complaint.

B. Posting Requirement

The Title IX Coordinator’s contact information (name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number), along with the District’s Title IX nondiscrimination statement, must be prominently posted on the District’s website and in any catalogs or handbooks provided to applicants for admission or employment, students, parents/guardians, and unions or professional organizations with a collective bargaining or professional agreement with the District.

The District will provide notice of this Policy to all applicants, students, parents/guardians, employees, and unions or professional organizations with a collective bargaining or professional agreement with the District by prominently posting this Policy on its website and referencing this Policy in its handbooks, which will include the Title IX Coordinator’s name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number.

C. Designation of Title IX Coordinator

All Coordinators, including the Title IX Coordinator, are identified in Policy 3115B.

D. Reporting Title IX Sexual Harassment:

A person may make a report of sexual harassment or retaliation at any time. Reports may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that result in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person’s verbal or written report.

Any District employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of possible sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator by the end of the next day.

Any other person who witnesses an act of sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to a District employee and may do so anonymously. No person will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected sexual harassment or retaliation.

E. General Response to Sexual Harassment

1. District's Obligation to Respond without Deliberate Indifference

Upon actual knowledge of Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. The District will be deemed to be deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

If the Title IX Coordinator receives a report of sexual harassment and the Complainant does not file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must evaluate the information and determine whether to sign and file a Formal Complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator determines not to sign and file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must address the allegations in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

2. Response to Report of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Upon receipt of a report of sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint.

3. Formal Complaint Filed

Upon the receipt of a Formal Complaint, the District must follow the Grievance Process in Section F of this Policy. A Formal Complaint may be submitted using a designated Title IX Sexual Harassment Formal Complaint Form.

4. Equitable Treatment

The District will treat the Complainant and Respondent equitably throughout the Grievance Process, which may include offering supportive measures as described in Subsection E(6) of this Policy.

5. Documentation and Recordkeeping

The Title IX Coordinator will document all sexual harassment reports and all incidents of sexual harassment that the Title IX Coordinator receives or personally observes.

The District will retain this documentation in accordance with applicable record retention requirements in Section N of this Policy.

6. Supportive Measures

After receiving a report of Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of

supportive measures, with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint. If the District does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the Title IX Coordinator must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

The District may provide, as appropriate, non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services to the Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or when no Formal Complaint has been filed.

Supportive measures should be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party.

Supportive measures are offered without charge and are designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. District-provided counseling;
- b. course-related adjustments, such as deadline extensions;
- c. modifications to class or work schedules;
- d. provision of an escort to ensure that the Complainant and Respondent can safely attend classes and school activities; and
- e. no-contact orders.

All supportive measures must be kept confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the District's ability to provide the supportive measures.

7. Respondent Removal

a. Emergency Removal (Student)

The District may only remove a student Respondent from a District program or activity if, following an individualized safety and risk analysis, the District determines that there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other person arising from the sexual harassment allegations. The District must provide the Respondent with notice and an opportunity to immediately challenge the removal decision. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

b. Administrative Leave (Employee)

The District may place an employee Respondent on non-disciplinary administrative leave during the pendency of the Grievance Process. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

8. Law Enforcement

In appropriate circumstances, a District employee will notify law enforcement or Child Protective Services, consistent with Policies 4202, 5201, and 5701.

The District will attempt to comply with all law enforcement requests for cooperation with related law enforcement activity. In some circumstances, compliance with law enforcement requests may require the District to briefly suspend or delay its investigation. If an investigation is delayed, the District will notify the parties in writing of the delay and the reasons for the delay.

If the District's investigation is suspended or delayed, supportive measures will continue during the suspension or delay. If the law enforcement agency does not notify the District within 10 days that the District's investigation may resume, the District will notify the law enforcement agency that the District intends to promptly resume its investigation.

F. Grievance Process

1. Generally

The Grievance Process begins when a Formal Complaint is filed or when the Title IX Coordinator signs a Formal Complaint and concludes the date the parties receive the Appeals Officer's written decision or the date on which an appeal is no longer timely. The District will endeavor to complete the Grievance Process within 90-120 days, absent extenuating circumstances or delays as described below. The District will treat both the Complainant and the Respondent equitably throughout the Grievance Process.

Neither the Title IX Coordinator, the Decision-Maker, the Investigator, Appeals Officer, nor any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process will have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or for or against an individual Complainant or Respondent.

The Grievance Process requires an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

Throughout the Grievance Process, there is a presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct unless, in the determination of responsibility, the Decision-Maker finds the Respondent responsible for the alleged conduct.

At any point, the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, or Appeals Officer may temporarily delay the Grievance Process or permit a limited extension of time frames for good cause. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, absence of a party, party's advisor, or witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for accommodations (e.g., language assistance or accommodation of disabilities). If there is a delay or extension, the parties will receive written notice of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action.

Any disciplinary action resulting from the Grievance Process will be issued in accordance with District Policy, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, and individual employee contracts.

After the investigation portion of the Grievance Process has concluded, the Decision-Maker will endeavor to issue a determination of responsibility within 30 days, absent extenuating circumstances.

2. Notice of Allegations

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the District must provide written notice to the parties who are known at the time that includes:

- a. a copy of this Policy, which includes the District's Grievance Process, and any informal resolution process;
- b. the sexual harassment allegations, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time so that parties may prepare a response before the initial interview. Sufficient details include parties involved in the incident, if known; the alleged conduct constituting sexual harassment; and the date and time of the alleged incident;
- c. a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct;
- d. a statement that a determination of responsibility is made at the Grievance Process's conclusion;
- e. a statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, although any attorney or advisor who is not a District employee will be at the party's own cost;
- f. a statement that the parties will be provided an opportunity to inspect and review any evidence before the investigation report is finalized; and
- g. if the Complainant or Respondent is a student, and the District's Student Code of Conduct addresses false statements by students during an investigation or the disciplinary process, a citation to that portion of the Code of Conduct. If, during the course of an investigation, the Investigator

decides to investigate allegations that are not included in the initial notice, the District will provide notice of the additional allegations to the Complainant and Respondent.

3. Informal Resolution

During the Grievance Process, *after* a Formal Complaint has been filed but before a determination of responsibility has been made, the District may offer to facilitate an informal resolution process, or either party may request the informal resolution process. A Formal Complaint must be filed to initiate the informal resolution process.

Informal resolution does not require a full investigation and may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including, but not limited to, arbitration, mediation, or restorative justice. The Title IX Coordinator will determine the informal resolution process that will be used, including the person who will facilitate that process.

Informal resolution is not available for a Formal Complaint alleging that an employee sexually harassed a student.

A party is not required to participate in an informal resolution process.

When offering informal resolution, the Title IX Coordinator must (1) provide both parties written notice of their rights in an informal resolution; and (2) obtain written, voluntary consent from both parties to enter into the informal resolution process. The written notice must contain the:

- a. allegations;
- b. informal resolution requirements, including the circumstances under which the informal resolution precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations;
- c. right to withdraw from informal resolution and resume the Grievance Process at any time prior to a final resolution; and
- d. any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or that could be disclosed.

4. Investigation

The District has the burden of proof and the burden to gather evidence sufficient to reach a determination of responsibility.

a. Investigation Process

The District will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected

under a legally recognized privilege unless the person holding the privilege has waived the privilege in writing.

The District may not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's medical records, including mental health records, which are made and maintained by a healthcare provider in connection with the party's treatment unless the District obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for the Grievance Process.

The Investigator must provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory or exculpatory evidence. The Investigator cannot restrict parties from discussing the allegations under investigation, nor can the Investigator restrict parties from gathering or presenting relevant evidence.

Parties may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, including an attorney, during the Grievance Procedure. If a party chooses an advisor who is not a District employee, the District is not responsible for any associated costs. The Investigator or Title IX Coordinator may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties (e.g., abusive, disruptive behavior or language will not be tolerated; advisor will not interrupt the investigator to ask questions of witnesses).

The Investigator must provide the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings (if any), investigative interviews, and meetings, to a party whose participation is invited or expected. Written notice must be provided a sufficient time in advance so that a party may prepare to participate.

As described in Section L of this Policy, retaliation against a person for making a complaint or participating in an investigation is prohibited.

The Investigator must ensure that the Complainant and Respondent have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation so that each party has the opportunity to meaningfully respond to the evidence before the investigation's conclusion. This evidence includes (1) evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility, and (2) inculpatory or exculpatory evidence obtained from any source.

Before the investigation's completion, the Investigator must send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 calendar days to submit a written response to the Investigator. The party's response must be considered by the Investigator before completing the final investigation report.

b. Investigation Report

The Investigator must create an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and submit the investigation report to the Decision-Maker.

At least 10 calendar days before a determination of responsibility is issued, the Investigator must send the investigation report to each party for review and written response. Written responses to the investigation report must be submitted directly to the Decision-Maker.

The Investigator will endeavor to complete the investigation and finalize the report within 60 days.

5. Determination of Responsibility

The Decision-Maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process.

Before the Decision-Maker reaches a determination of responsibility, and after the Investigator has sent the investigation report to the parties, the Decision-Maker must:

- a. afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness; and
- b. provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant unless offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged misconduct, or the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

If the Decision-Maker decides to exclude questions from either party as not relevant, the Decision-Maker must explain the decision to the party proposing the questions.

The Decision-Maker must issue a written determination of responsibility based on a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not) simultaneously to both parties. The written determination of responsibility must include:

- a. identification of the sexual harassment allegations;
- b. description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination of responsibility, including any:
 - i. notification to the parties;

- ii. party and witness interviews;
 - iii. site visits;
 - iv. methods used to collect evidence; and
 - v. hearings held.
- c. factual findings that support the determination;
- d. conclusions about the application of any relevant code of conduct, policy, law, or rule to the facts;
- e. a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including:
 - i. a determination of responsibility;
 - ii. any disciplinary action taken against the Respondent (consistent with Policies 4309, 4407, 4506, 4606, or 5206, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, or individual employee contracts); and
 - iii. whether remedies designed to restore and preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided to the Complainant.
- f. appeal rights.

2. Appeals

Notice of the determination of responsibility or dismissal decision must include notice of the parties' appeal rights.

Both parties may appeal a determination of responsibility or the decision to dismiss a Formal Complaint in whole or in part for the following reasons only:

- a. A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome.
- b. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination of responsibility or dismissal decision was made that could affect the outcome.
- c. The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, or Decision-Maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against the Complainant or Respondent, generally or individually, that affected the outcome.

An appeal must be filed with the Title IX Coordinator within 5 calendar days of the date of the determination of responsibility or dismissal decision.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will assign an Appeals Officer who will provide both parties written notice of the appeal and an equal

opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the determination or dismissal decision.

The Appeals Officer must provide a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result to both parties simultaneously. The Appeals Officer will endeavor to decide an appeal within 30 days.

The Appeals Officer cannot be the same person who acts as the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on the same matter. The Appeals Officer also cannot have a conflict of interest or bias against Complainants and Respondents generally or individually.

The determination of responsibility is final upon the date the parties receive the Appeals Officer's written decision or on the date on which an appeal is no longer timely.

B. Dismissal

1. Mandatory Dismissals

The Title IX Coordinator must dismiss a Formal Complaint if:

- a. the Formal Complaint's allegations, even if substantiated, would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in this Policy;
- b. the Formal Complaint's allegations did not occur in the District's programs or activities; or
- c. the Formal Complaint's allegations did not occur in the United States.

2. Discretionary Dismissals

The Title IX Coordinator may dismiss a Formal Complaint if:

- a. the Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant wishes to withdraw the Formal Complaint in whole or in part;
- b. the Respondent's enrollment or employment ends; or
- c. specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination (e.g., several years have passed between alleged misconduct and Formal Complaint filing, Complainant refuses or ceases to cooperate with Grievance Process).

The Title IX Coordinator will promptly and simultaneously notify both parties when a Formal Complaint is dismissed. The notice must include the reasons for mandatory or discretionary dismissal and the right to appeal. Appeal rights are discussed above in Subsection F(6) of this Policy.

Dismissal of a Formal Complaint under this Policy does not excuse or preclude the District from investigating alleged violations of other policy, rule, or law, or from issuing appropriate discipline based on the results of the investigation.

C. Consolidation of Complaints

The Title IX Coordinator or Investigator may consolidate Formal Complaints where the allegations arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a Grievance Process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this Policy to the singular “party,” “Complainant,” or “Respondent” include the plural, as applicable.

D. Remedies and Disciplinary Sanctions

The District will take appropriate and effective measures to promptly remedy the effects of sexual harassment. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for the effective implementation of any remedies.

Appropriate remedies will be based on the circumstances and may include, but are not limited to:

1. providing an escort to ensure that the Complainant and Respondent can safely attend classes and school activities;
2. offering the parties school-based counseling services, as necessary;
3. providing the parties with academic support services, such as tutoring, as necessary;
4. rearranging course or work schedules, to the extent practicable, to minimize contact between the Complainant and Respondent;
5. moving the Complainant’s or the Respondent’s locker or work space;
6. issuing a “no contact” directive between the Complainant and Respondent;
7. providing counseling memoranda with directives or recommendations.

These remedies may also be available to any other student or person who is or was affected by the sexual harassment.

The District will impose disciplinary sanctions consistent with District Policy, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, or individual employee contracts. Discipline may range from warning or reprimand to termination of employment, or student suspension or expulsion.

After a determination of responsibility, the Title IX Coordinator should consider whether broader remedies are required, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. assemblies reminding students and staff of their obligations under this Policy and applicable handbooks;
2. additional staff training;
3. a climate survey; or
4. letters to students, staff, and parents/guardians reminding persons of their obligations under this Policy and applicable handbooks.

If the Complainant or Respondent is a student with a disability, the District will convene an IEP or Section 504 Team meeting to determine if additional or different programs, services, accommodations, or supports are required to ensure that the Complainant or Respondent continues to receive a free appropriate public education. Any disciplinary action taken against a Respondent who is a student with a disability must be made in accordance with Policy 5206B and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

B. False Statements

Any person who knowingly makes a materially false statement in bad faith during a Title IX investigation will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge or permanent expulsion. A dismissal or determination that the Respondent did not violate this Policy is not sufficient, on its own, to conclude that a person made a materially false statement in bad faith.

C. Confidentiality

The District will keep confidential the identity of a person who reports sexual harassment or files a Formal Complaint, including parties and witnesses, except as permitted or required by law or to carry out any provision of this Policy, applicable regulations, or laws.

D. Retaliation

Retaliation (e.g., intimidation, threats, coercion) for the purpose of interfering with a person's rights under Title IX is prohibited. This prohibition applies to retaliation against any person who makes a report, files a Formal Complaint, or participates in, or refuses to participate in a Title IX proceeding. Complaints alleging retaliation may be pursued in accordance with District Policy.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited by this Section.

When processing a report or Formal Complaint of sexual harassment, pursuing discipline for other conduct arising out of the same facts or circumstances constitutes retaliation if done for the purpose of interfering with that person's rights under Title IX.

Any person who engages in retaliation will be disciplined in accordance with District Policy, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, and individual employee contracts.

E. Training

All District employees must be trained on how to identify and report sexual harassment.

Any person designated as a Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, or any person who facilitates an informal resolution process must be trained on the following:

1. the definition of sexual harassment;
2. the scope of the District's education programs or activities;
3. how to conduct an investigation and the District's grievance process, including, as applicable, hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes; and
4. how to serve impartially, including avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

Investigators must receive training on how to prepare an investigation report as outlined in Subsection F(4)(b) above, including, but not limited to, issues of relevance.

Decision-Makers and Appeals Officers must receive training on issues of evidence and questioning, including, but not limited to, when questions about a Complainant's prior sexual history or disposition are not relevant.

Any materials used to train District employees who act as Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-Makers, Appeals Officers, or who facilitate an informal resolution process must not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of Formal Complaints. These training materials must be posted on the District's website.

F. Record Keeping

The District will maintain records related to reports of alleged Title IX sexual harassment for a minimum of seven years. This retention requirement applies to investigation records, disciplinary sanctions, remedies, appeals, and records of any action taken, such as supportive measures.

The District will also retain any materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-Makers, Appeals Officers, and any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process.

G. Office for Civil Rights

Any person who believes that he or she was the victim of sexual harassment may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at any time:

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights
Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310
Denver, CO 80204-3582
Telephone: 303-844-5695
FAX: 303-844-4303; TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.Denver@ed.gov

An OCR complaint may be filed before, during, or after filing a Formal Complaint with the District. A person may forego filing a Formal Complaint with the District and instead file a complaint directly with OCR. The District recommends that a person who has been subjected to sexual harassment also file a Formal Complaint with the District to ensure that the District is able to take steps to prevent any further harassment and to discipline the alleged perpetrator, if necessary. OCR does not serve as an appellate body for District decisions under this Policy. An investigation by OCR will occur separately from any District investigation.

APPENDIX B: ANTI-BULLYING

5207 Anti-Bullying Policy

All types of bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivating animus, are prohibited.

Prohibited Conduct

Bullying, including cyberbullying, a student at school is prohibited. Bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or electronic communication that is intended to or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more students directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with a student's educational opportunities, benefits, or programs;
- B. adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the District's orderly operations.

Retaliation or false accusations against the target of bullying, anyone reporting bullying, a witness, or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying, are prohibited.

Reporting an Incident

If a student, staff member, or other person suspects there has been a bullying incident, the person must promptly report the incident to the building principal or designee, or to the Responsible School Official(s), as defined below.

A report may be made in person, by telephone, or in writing (including electronic transmissions). If a bullying incident is reported to a staff member who is not the building principal, designee, or a Responsible School Official, the staff member must promptly report the incident to the building principal, designee, or a Responsible School Official.

To encourage reporting of suspected bullying or related activities, each building principal, after consulting the Responsible School Official(s), will create, publicize, and implement a system for anonymous reports. The system must emphasize that the District's ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.

Complaints that the building principal has bullied a student must be reported to the Superintendent. Complaints that the Superintendent has bullied a student must be reported to the Board President.

Investigation

All bullying complaints will be promptly investigated. The building principal or designee will conduct the investigation, unless the building principal or Superintendent is the subject of the investigation. If the building principal is the subject of the investigation, the Superintendent or designee will conduct the investigation. If the Superintendent is the subject of the investigation, the Board President will designate a neutral party to conduct the investigation.

A description of each reported incident, along with all investigation materials and conclusions reached, will be documented and retained.

Notice to Parent/Guardian

If the investigator determines that a bullying incident has occurred, the District will promptly notify the victim's and perpetrator's parent/guardian in writing.

Annual Reports

At least annually, the building principal or designee, or the Responsible School Official, must report all verified bullying incidents and the resulting consequences, including any disciplinary action or referrals, to the Board.

The District will annually report incidents of bullying to MDE in the form and manner prescribed by MDE.

Responsible School Official

The Superintendent is the "Responsible School Official" for this Policy and is responsible for ensuring that this Policy is properly implemented. This appointment does not reduce or eliminate the duties and responsibilities of the building principal or designee as described in this Policy.

Posting/Publication of Policy

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that this Policy is available on the District's website and incorporated into student handbooks and other relevant school publications.

The Superintendent or designee will submit this Policy to the MDE within 30 days after its adoption.

Definitions

"At school" means in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether it is held on school premises. "At school" also includes any conduct using a telecommunications

access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if the device or provider is owned by or under the control of the District.

“Telecommunications access device” means any of the following:

- A. any instrument, device, card, plate, code, telephone number, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, counterfeit number, or financial transaction device defined in MCL 750.157m (e.g., an electronic funds transfer card, a credit card, a debit card, a point-of-sale card, or any other instrument or means of access to a credit, deposit, or proprietary account) that alone or with another device can acquire, transmit, intercept, provide, receive, use, or otherwise facilitate the use, acquisition, interception, provision, reception, and transmission of any telecommunications service; or
- B. any type of instrument, device, machine, equipment, technology, or software that facilitates telecommunications or which is capable of transmitting, acquiring, intercepting, decrypting, or receiving any telephonic, electronic, data, internet access, audio, video, microwave, or radio transmissions, signals, telecommunications, or services, including the receipt, acquisition, interception, transmission, retransmission, or decryption of all telecommunications, transmissions, signals, or services provided by or through any cable television, fiber optic, telephone, satellite, microwave, data transmission, radio, internet based or wireless distribution network, system, or facility, or any part, accessory, or component, including any computer circuit, security module, smart card, software, computer chip, pager, cellular telephone, personal communications device, transponder, receiver, modem, electronic mechanism or other component, accessory, or part of any other device that is capable of facilitating the interception, transmission, retransmission, decryption, acquisition, or reception of any telecommunications, transmissions, signals, or services.

“Telecommunications service provider” means any of the following:

- A. a person or entity providing a telecommunications service, whether directly or indirectly as a reseller, including, but not limited to, a cellular, paging, or other wireless communications company or other person or entity which, for a fee, supplies the facility, cell site, mobile telephone switching office, or other equipment or telecommunications service;
- B. a person or entity owning or operating any fiber optic, cable television, satellite, internet based, telephone, wireless, microwave, data transmission, or radio distribution system, network, or facility; or
- C. a person or entity providing any telecommunications service directly or indirectly by or through any distribution systems, networks, or facilities.

APPENDIX C: PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

5401 *Parent Involvement in Education*

Parent Involvement

The District will take the following steps to encourage Parent involvement in their student's education:

Parents will be provided the opportunity to review District-approved curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials, including any material that will be used in connection with a survey, analysis, or evaluation, upon request.

- A. Requests to review curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials must be made to the building principal.
- B. Parents may review textbooks based on availability and may review instructional materials within a time frame determined by the building principal or designee.

Parents will be permitted to attend and observe instructional activities in a class or course in which their student is enrolled and present.

Parents must make an appointment with the building principal to observe instructional activities in a class or course in which the student is enrolled and present. The building principal will permit a Parent observation unless the building principal determines that the observation would disrupt the class or course. Frequent observations are likely disruptive. Absent unusual circumstances, as determined by the building principal, observations that last more than 30 minutes or occur on consecutive days will not be permitted. Parents who want to observe instructional activities also must adhere to Policy 3105.

Parents are not permitted to observe testing.

Parents may inspect and review their student's education records, upon written request, consistent with Policy 5309 and state and federal law.

A copy of this Policy must be included in the Student Handbook.

See Policy 5405 for Parent and Family Engagement Policy at schools receiving Title I funds.

Assessments and Surveys

State assessments

Pursuant to state law, the District will not approve Parent requests to opt students out of state assessments.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

As a condition of receiving federal funds and as required by state law, the District may be selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. Student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

The District will notify Parents of students eligible to take the NAEP before the assessment is administered. Parents wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the District in writing at least 3 school days before the assessment date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

Surveys

Parents will be notified before their student participates in surveys on certain topics in accordance with Policy 5308.

APPENDIX I: SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION GUIDE

What Is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual remarks or behaviors. It can be verbal, physical, or visual. Here are a few examples of sexual harassment:

Verbal

- Making sexual jokes, comments, or spreading rumors targeted at someone (in person or online)
- Making sexual jokes or comments about students' bodies or how they look or act
- Making jokes or comments about students' masculinity or femininity and/or who they are attracted to or love

Physical:

- Pulling at or touching someone's clothing in a sexual manner (like pulling down someone's pants or snapping a bra strap)
- Touching, pinching, or grabbing someone in a sexual way
- Brushing up against someone's body on purpose

Visual

- Posting or sharing sexual comments, pictures, or videos
- Pressuring someone to take or send sexual pictures or videos ("nudes")

Sexual harassment can make someone feel many emotions.

You may feel scared, uncomfortable, upset, embarrassed or angry.

When it comes to sexual harassment, what matters is how the action makes a person think or feel--not the intention of the person who did it.

Sexual harassment can happen anywhere or to anyone. It can take place in person or online. But no matter where sexual harassment happens, it is never okay. It is wrong and it is against the law.

What Is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any sexual act that one person chooses to do to another person without consent (permission) through physical force, threats, or pressure (verbal or emotional).

Here are a few examples of sexual assault:

- Touching someone's genitals, breast, or butt without their permission (consent) over or under clothes
- Unwanted kissing

- Physically forcing someone to perform a sexual act
- Threatening or pressuring a person to do any sexual act
- Unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal penetration with a body part or object (also known as rape)

Sexually assaulting another person is wrong and it is against the law.

In Michigan statute, this is called “Criminal Sexual Conduct.”

About Consent

- Consent means that each person agrees or gives permission.
- Anyone can change their mind at any time.
- Consent means each person understands what is going on and agrees to all of it.
- Someone needs to get consent every single time.
- Just because someone said “yes” before, does not mean “yes” now.
- It is not okay to use threats, emotional pressure, or the fact that another person is drunk or high to get what you want.

If someone doesn’t consent to sexual acts, it is sexual assault.

What if This is Happening to Me?

It is not your fault. You are not alone.

- No one has the right to sexually harass or assault anyone else.
- You have the right to feel safe and respected.
- If you feel like you won’t be harmed, tell them this is not okay and to stop.
- Consider telling a trusted adult if any of these behaviors happen to you. If the trusted adult is a teacher, coach, or school staff, they may have to tell someone else (like a principal, parents, etc.). If you’re not sure if you are ready or want to tell a trusted adult at your school, you can talk to them without saying it happened to you (“I have a friend who...”).
- If the first person isn’t helpful, keep trying until you find someone who is.
- Speaking up is a brave thing to do. Don’t be afraid to seek help from someone you trust.
- Resources listed on the next page are available 24/7 to support you.

Scientific research tells us that people who experience traumatic events like sexual harassment and sexual assault have many different responses in their brains, bodies, feelings, and behaviors. However YOU respond to trauma is okay and is normal.

What if This is Happening to Someone I Know?

Believe. Listen. Support.

- Believe them! If someone tells you that someone has sexually harassed or assaulted them, know that it is very hard to tell someone about this and that person trusts and respects you enough to share this information. Let them know that what happened is not their fault and you are there to support them.
- Listen without judgment. Give them space and time to tell you what they feel comfortable sharing.
- Ask how you can support them. What you would need might differ from what your friend needs, so always ask. Let your friend decide who else can know.

Resources

There is Help.

You can call or chat with any of the resources below 24/7. People who are trained are there to listen and support you no matter what. **You don't have to tell them your name.** They can connect you with people and organizations nearby who can help you with questions or needs.

Michigan's Hotline for Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking (Voices4)

Text or Call: 855-864-2374 **Chat:** <https://mcedsv.org/hotline/>

Youth Resources Web Page: <https://mcedsv.org/resources>

School Title IX Coordinator

If someone sexually assaulted or sexually harassed you at school or at a school event, you can choose to talk to your School District's Title IX Coordinator. Part of their responsibilities is to prevent and respond to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender. Note: If you report to a Title IX Coordinator, they are required by law to follow up and may conduct an investigation.

If you report a sexual assault or sexual harassment incident, the policies forbid someone from retaliating or doing something to get back at you. See Appendix A of the Student Handbook for your school's Title IX information and other related policies.



This resource was developed in response to Public Act 57 of 2023 by the Michigan Department of Education in partnership with the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV).