

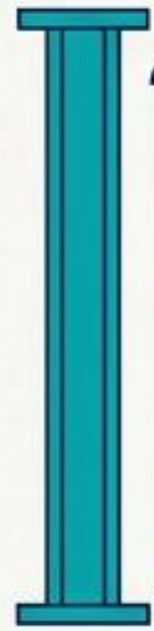


Paterson Public Schools

2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct

A Safe, Respectful, Supportive
Learning Environment.

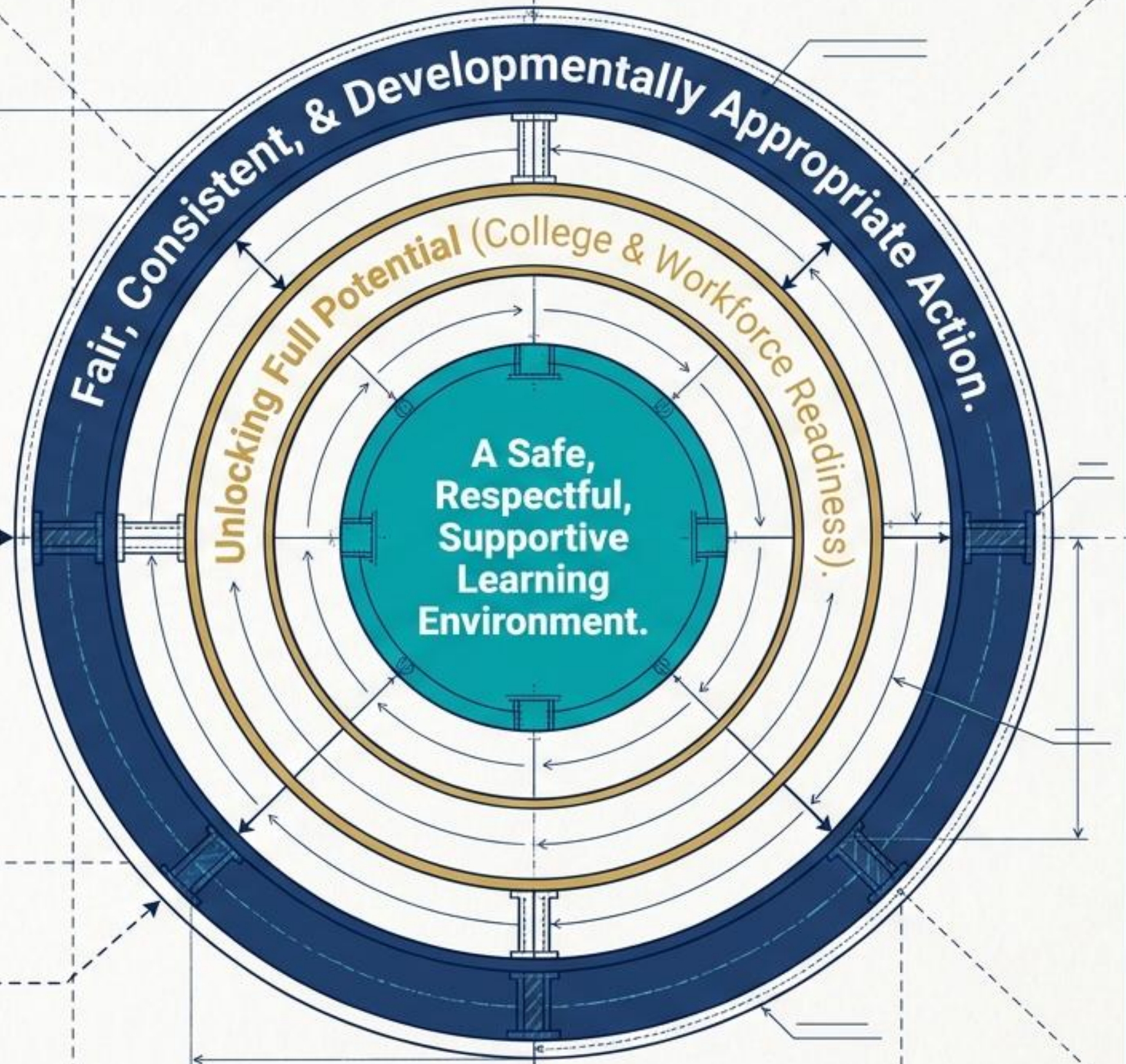
District Message and The Code of Student Conduct



"In the Paterson Public Schools, the **safety of our students and staff** is our **highest priority**... This Code will enhance our efforts to unlock the **full potential** of our students."

Context Factors

1. Nature and severity of the offense
2. Age and developmental level
3. Circumstances of the incident
4. Prior disciplinary history

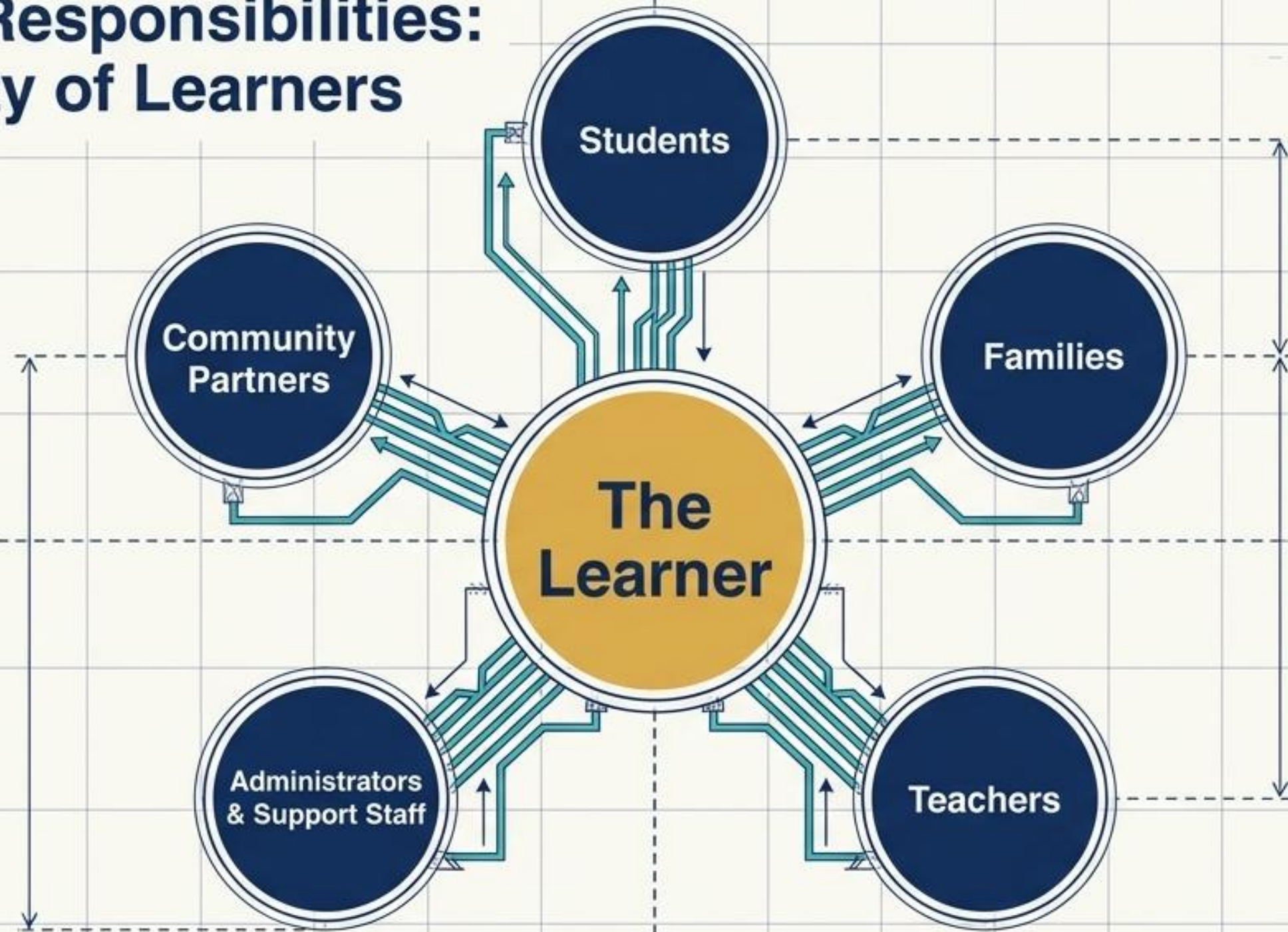


Expectations for Student Conduct

Positive student commitment and behavior are essential for active learning. All students, regardless of age or ability, can behave in ways that enhance school social relationships.



Rights and Responsibilities: A Community of Learners



**All members of the school community have the right to be treated respectfully...
and to be in a safe and orderly environment free of discrimination and harassment.**

Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Families

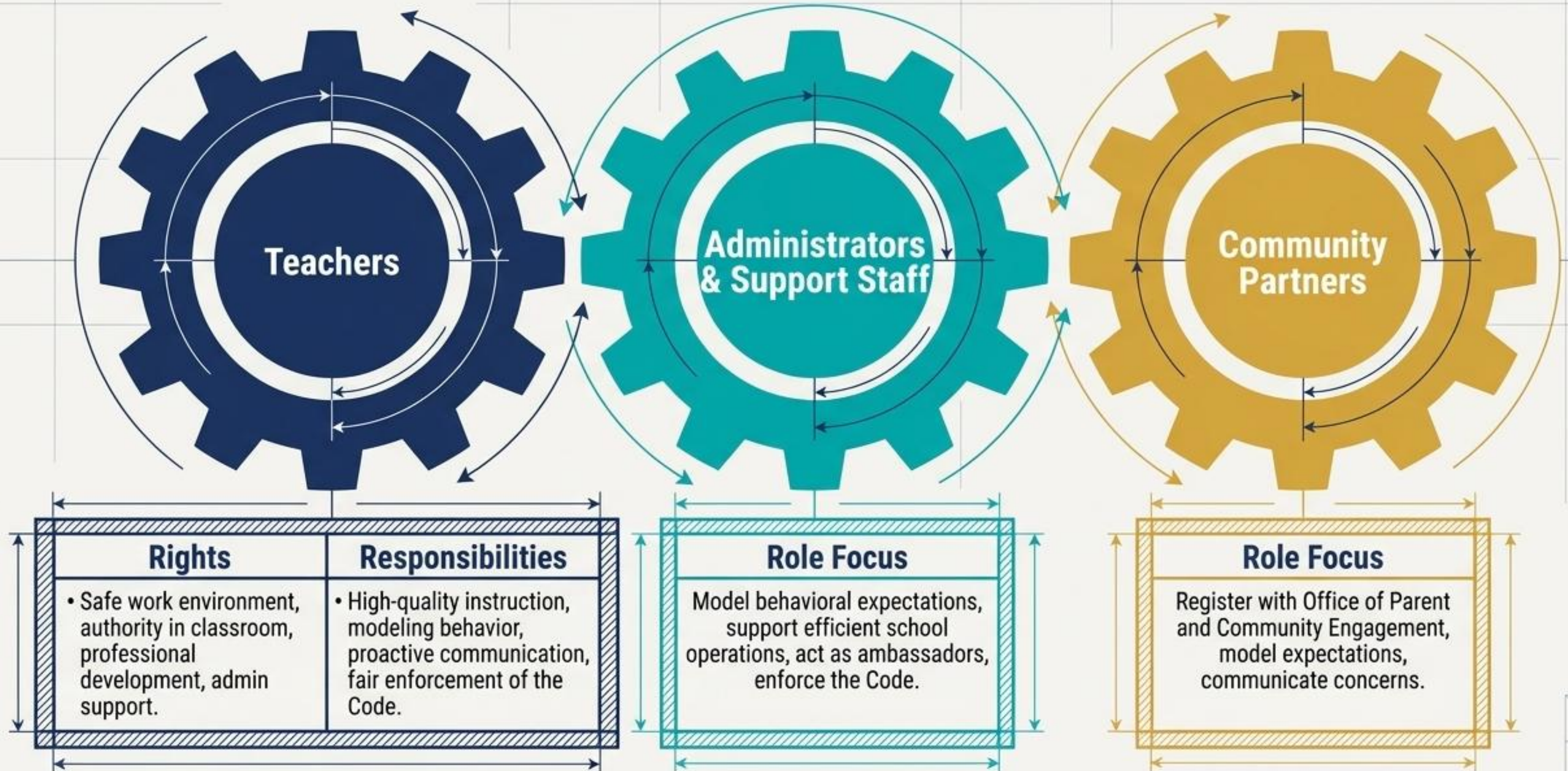
Students



Families



Rights and Responsibilities of Teachers, Administrators, and Community Partners



Use of AI

Do (Responsible AI Use)



Use as a learning aid to brainstorm ideas and practice skills.



Verify information generated (it can be inaccurate/incomplete).



Follow teacher guidance for specific assignments.

Don't (Violations)



Do not replace critical thinking or independent work.



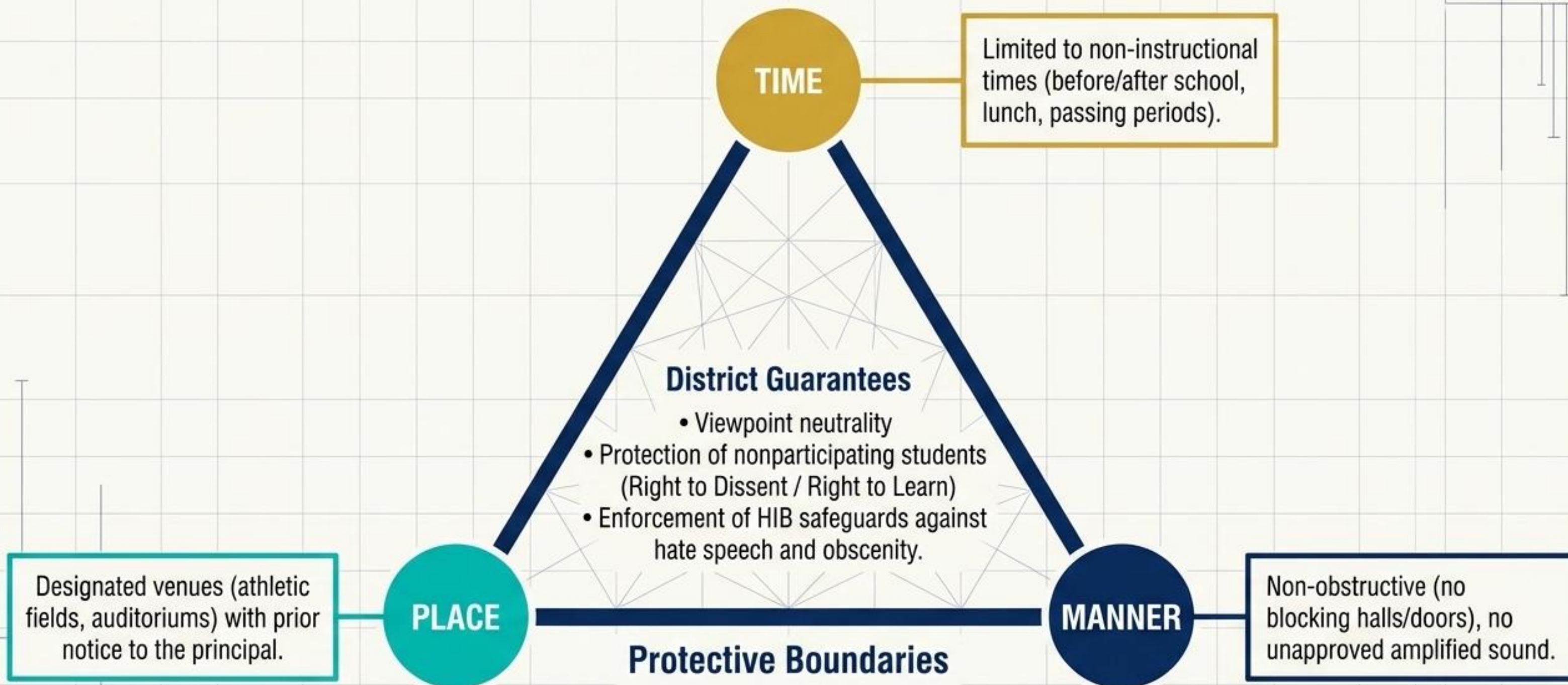
Do not share personal, confidential, or sensitive information.



Do not violate Policy #5701 (Academic Integrity).

AI is a tool to enhance learning, not to complete work on your behalf.

Student Demonstrations



Use of Internet-Enabled Devices (Policy #5516)

Bell-to-Bell

First Bell

Strict Prohibition of Smart Devices

Dismissal

Exemption



IEP/504
accommodations



Documented
health plans



Translation
services



Emergencies

4-Step Escalation Tracker

Offense 1:

Confiscated, student
pickup at day's end
(Category 1).

Offense 2:

Confiscated,
mandatory parent
pickup (Category 1).

Offense 3:

Confiscated,
mandatory parent
pickup (Elevated to
Category 2).

Offense 4:

Confiscated,
mandatory parent
pickup (Category 2).

Audio/Video recording of
others is strictly prohibited
without consent and violates
privacy rights.

Security Statement, Lockers, and Searches

Electronic Security



- Use of walk-through body scanners, bag scanners, wands, and cameras.
- Video footage is strictly confidential and managed by the Superintendent's designee.

Lockers & Storage



- District property. No expectation of privacy.
- Keep locked, do not share combinations, avoid storing valuables.

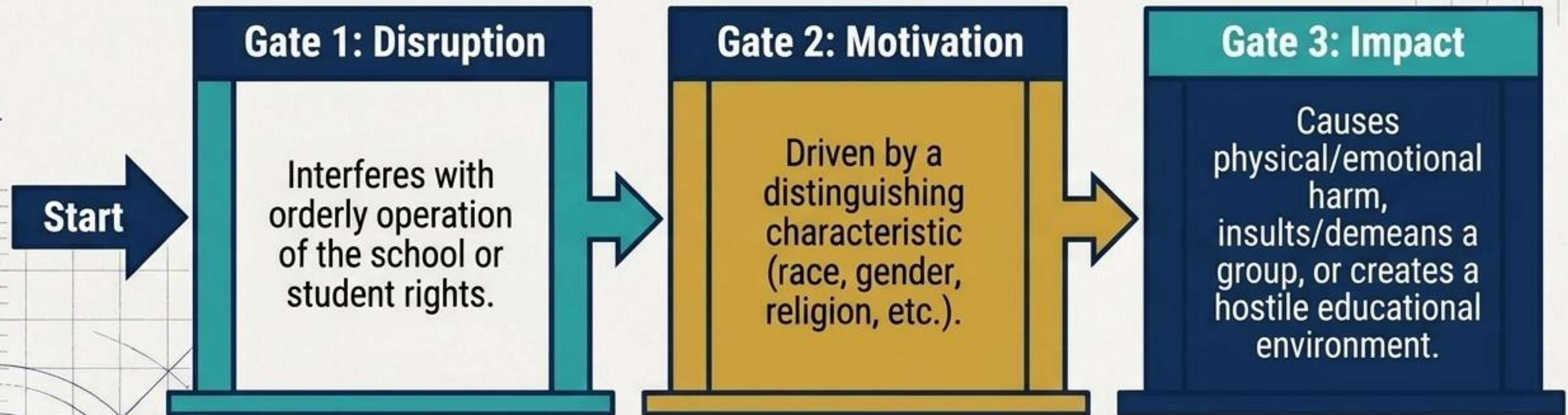
Searches & Seizures



- Requires reasonable suspicion of a rule/law violation.
- Manual and wand searches permitted (no cavity/strip searches by school staff).
- Refusal to comply results in isolation until police/parents arrive.

Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, and Hazing

"3-Part HIB Test" Flowchart



Sidebar Note: HIB covers gestures, written/verbal acts, and electronic communication (cyberbullying) on or off school grounds.

Sexting, Dating Violence, and Substance Abuse

Pathway 1 (Sexting)

Disseminating illegal images triggers school discipline **PLUS** mandatory law enforcement reporting (risk of criminal prosecution and lifetime registry).

Pathway 2 (Dating Violence)

Prompt investigation (Policy 5519), written notification to both parties, remediation/education strategies, and disciplinary consequences.

Pathway 3 (Alcohol, Tobacco, Vaping, Illicit Drugs)

Zero-tolerance on school grounds.

Suspicion

Mandatory drug/alcohol screening.

Possession

Immediate disciplinary action/suspension.

Dress Code

An annotated checklist "Safe & Appropriate" diagnostic checklist.



Required/Expected

- School uniforms expected.
- Athletic footwear required for physical education.



Prohibited: Safety Hazards

- Platform shoes, flip-flops, slippers, untied laces.
- Coats/jackets must be in lockers.



Prohibited: Disruptive/Inappropriate

- Hats/hoods (except medical/religious).
- See-through clothing, sagging pants, exposed midriffs.
- Shorts/skirts above fingertips.
- Gang paraphernalia, profanity/drug references.

Context Note: Dress styles must not disrupt the educational environment or pose a health/safety danger.

Student ID Cards

Front Callout

Must be visible at all times on school grounds.
(Note: \$5.00 replacement fee for lost/damaged cards).



Back Callout (Safety Net)

Mandatory inclusion of crisis resources:
The NJ Suicide Prevention Hopeline (855-654-6735) and the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988).

Student Attendance: Chronic Absenteeism vs. Truancy

Chronic Absenteeism



Definition:

Missing 10% or more of the school year (approx. 18 days).

Scope:

Includes BOTH excused and unexcused absences.



Impact:

Lowers reading proficiency, increases dropout risk, masks academic deficits.

Truancy



Definition:

Unexcused absences only.

Scope:

Legal metric. 10 days = Truant by law.



Impact:

Triggers home visits, mandatory court appearances, and fines.



Bottom Alert: Reaching 20 unexcused absences in a class results in loss of credit or grade retention.

Tardiness, Cutting Class, Arrival, and Dismissal

Arrival & Dismissal Timeline



Tardiness & Cutting Escalation

Tardy Escalation

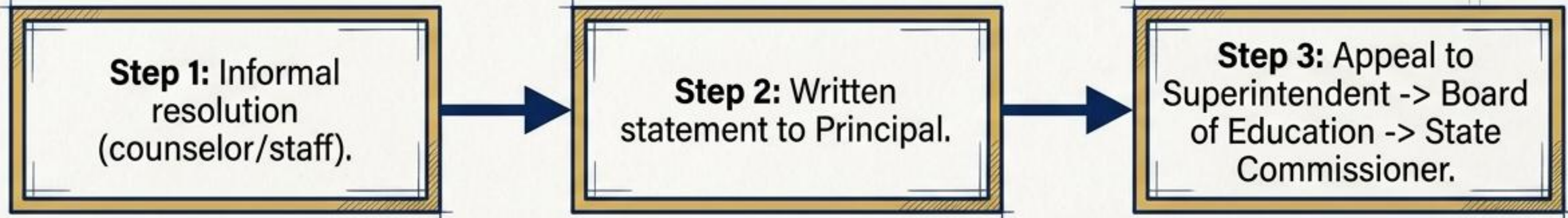
-  Missing >50% of class = a Cut.
-  **3 Tardies** = written warning + detention.

Cutting Escalation

-  **Cutting:** Being absent without permission.
-  **1 Cut** = detention.
-  **5+ Cuts** = Saturday detention, ISS, alternative placement.

Grievances and Student Records

Grievances (Right to Redress)



Student Records (FERPA Rights)



Infractions and Offenses: Protective Frameworks

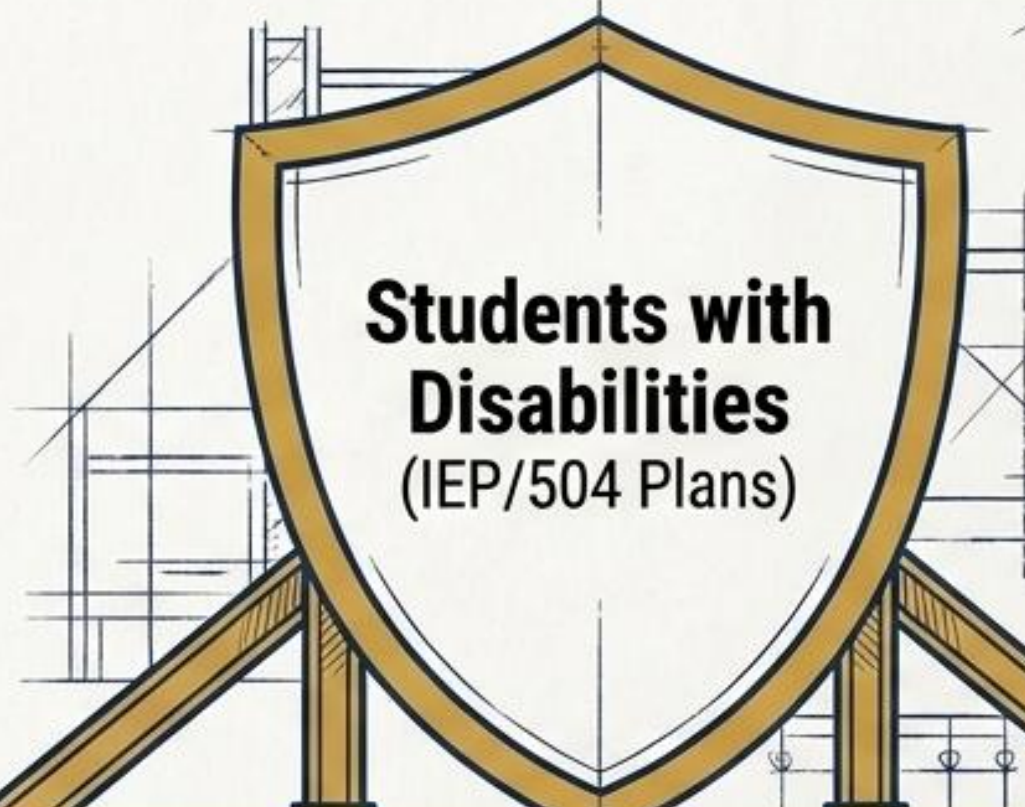


Kindergarten - Grade 2

(N.J.A.C. 6A:10A-2.2)

Policy: Students in K-2 general/special ed shall NOT be suspended or expelled.

Exceptions: Zero Tolerance for Guns Act, or conduct of a violent/sexual nature that endangers others.



Students with Disabilities

(IEP/504 Plans)

Policy: Subject to discipline per their plan.

Protection: Removals exceeding 10 days require a Manifestation Determination hearing to see if conduct was caused by the disability or failure to implement the IEP.

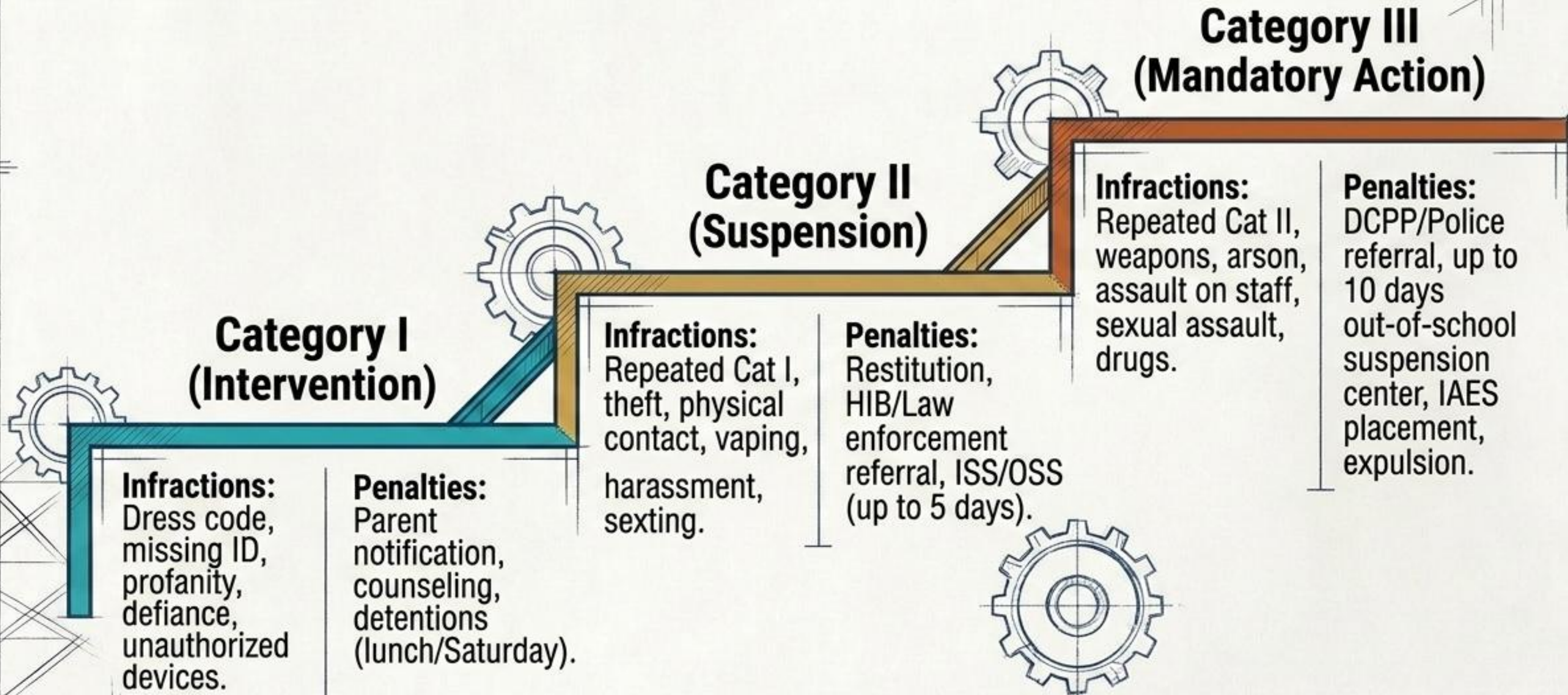
Restorative Practices and Discipline Hearings

- Governed by N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2.
- Provides short/long-term suspensions and expulsions.
- Ensures fair notice, right to be heard, and legal frameworks for severe (Category III) infractions.



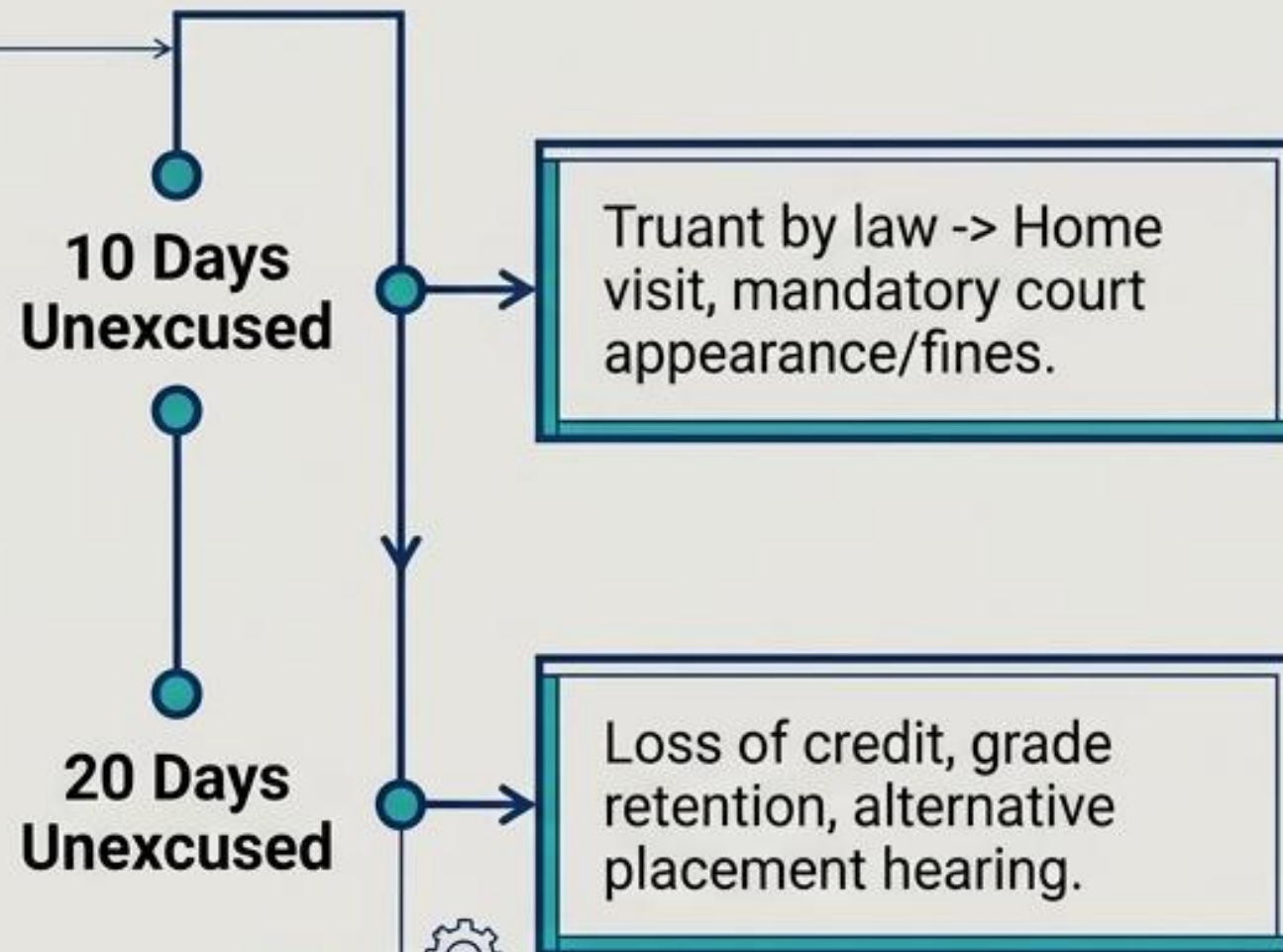
- Emphasizes conflict resolution and harm repair.
- Equitable sharing and active listening to reintegrate students.
- Cannot replace mandated Category III discipline (weapons, assault, drugs), but acts as preventative and reintegration support.

Charts of Student Discipline (Categories I, II, III)



Systemic Penalties and Community Resources

Attendance Penalty Milestones



Community Support Pillars

