

To:	Dr. Mobley & BOT
From:	AMSA Administration
Re:	Handbook Changes
Date:	March 25, 2026

The following handbook changes are submitted for approval:

Old Language	Proposed Language/Action	Rationale
Graduation Requirements - Students are required to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams.	Students will earn graduation requirements by earning a passing score on the 9th and 10th grade MCAS exams. If a student does not pass all MCAS exams, they will be required to pass a local assessment in the appropriate subject for which they did not pass.	Aligns with new law/policy
Health Office – Health Related Dismissal. Page 44 It is not allowed to have an older sibling who is currently attending AMSA, with a driver's license, to transport a younger ill sibling home. In rare extenuating circumstances permission may be granted with administrative approval. If permission is granted then the older sibling, driving the younger sibling, is expected to return promptly to school. If they do not, permission will be revoked for all future situations and the sign out will become an unexcused absence.	It is not allowed to have an older sibling who is currently attending AMSA, with a driver's license, to transport a younger ill sibling home without parent/guardian permission. If permission is granted then the older sibling, driving the younger sibling, is expected to return promptly to school. Any student who fails to return back to school in a timely manner will be referred to the Dean of Students.	This language aligns with current practice.
Health Office – Tardy Due to Illness Page 44 TARDY DUE TO ILLNESS When a parent/guardian notifies the school of their child's absence due to early morning illness and then the child arrives at school later the same day, the parent and student are required to visit the school nurse for assessment before entering any	Delete section	This is not current practice. The nurse does not assess a student who comes in late because they did not feel well. Students who do not feel well can follow the regular process to access the health office if needed.

classrooms or academic activity. The child, in the company of his or her parent, must be assessed by the school nurse. It is at the school nurse's discretion to determine if the child will be given approval to re-enter or needs to return home.		
Health Office – Sick Student Policy. Headlice Page 44 The student has head lice (Pediculosis). They may return after they have been seen by the school nurse, in the presence of a parent/guardian before they return to the school. Please report all cases of head lice to the school nurse.	Students may return after being treated at home and parents must send an email to the health office documenting such treatment. Parents are expected to report all cases of headlice to the health office	Old language out of compliance with current DPH regulations.
Academic Dishonesty Appeals – Vice Principal's Appeal Students who feel they have been unjustly accused of cheating or plagiarism may appeal to the vice principal. They will have five (5) school days after the parent/guardian has been informed of the infraction to appeal to the vice principal.	Students who feel they have been unjustly accused of academic dishonesty may appeal to the vice principal. They will have five (5) school days after the parent/guardian has been informed of the infraction to appeal to the vice principal. The Vice Principal will make a determination based on the preponderance of the evidence.	This language adds a standard of proof to provide the vice principal a clear threshold when making a decision. This standard of proof is the same standard all other school disciplinary issues must meet.
Academic Dishonesty Appeals – Principal's Appeal If a student disagrees with the vice principal's decision, then the student can appeal to the principal in writing within five (5) school days.	Students may appeal the Vice Principal's decision to the Principal in writing within five (5) school days. The Principal will only consider new evidence provided by the student or if the Vice Principal's decision was arbitrary and capricious when making a determination.	This provides clarification on the purpose and scope of an appeal to the principal.
Page 55 – Detentions, Expulsions, Suspensions Administrative detention Parents will be notified of detentions either by the assigning teacher or by an administrator. Students will have 24 hours notice of detentions in order to arrange for transportation.	Parents of lower school students will be notified of detentions either by the assigning teacher or by an administrator. Upper school students are generally expected to communicate their receipt of detention to their parent/guardian. Students will have 24 hours notice of detentions in order to arrange for transportation, unless otherwise agreed to by the student and/or family.	This language adjustment reflects current practice for upper school students. Upper school students have been expected to display their maturity and responsibility and inform their own families for many, many years when it comes to uniform issues, tardiness or cell phones. Parents are still contacted as needed by the dean's office.

Page 55 – Detentions, Expulsions, Suspensions Saturday Detention Students may also be required to complete general maintenance activities in and around the school buildings	Remove language	Students cannot be forced to engage in physical labor at school. AMSA makes use of this practice only with explicit permission from a parent/guardian.
Page 38/39 Repeating Courses All students with a failing final grade of 50% or higher are eligible for summer school. Please refer to the Summer School section for additional details.	Remove language	Alignment to current practice
Page 38/39 Repeating Courses Students in grades 6 – 12 are subject to repeating any failed course. A student who fails multiple subjects for the school year is subject to retention. The principal or designee will refer to final credits earned (upper school only) numerical class averages, teacher feedback, and counselor input when determining a student's eligibility for promotion.	Students in grades 6 – 12 are subject to repeating any failed course. A student who fails multiple subjects for the school year is subject to retention. The principal or designee will refer to final credits earned (upper school only) numerical class averages, teacher feedback, and counselor input when determining a student's eligibility for promotion.	Added language about credits earned for upper school
Page 38/39 Repeating Courses Students who fail a course for the school year with an overall average of 50% or above are eligible for summer school credit recovery. School personnel will provide students and their families with summer school offerings either at the school, or in the surrounding area. Summer school course tuition rates are determined by the host district. Students and their families are responsible for tuition payments.	Students who fail a course for the school year with an overall average of 50% or above are eligible for summer school credit recovery and/or Academic Support course the following school year. School personnel will provide students and their families with summer school offerings either at the school, or in the surrounding area. Summer school course tuition rates are determined by the host district. Students and their families are responsible for tuition payments.	Added language about the academic support course.
Page 28 Financial Assistance	New Financial Assistance Policy	New policy

The Advanced Math and Science Academy routinely offers student activity opportunities that are fee based and parent paid. In the event that a family requests financial assistance for an activity fee, a Free and Reduced Lunch Application must be filled out and turned into the Food Services office. The Free and Reduced Lunch Application can be found on our website.

Once the application has been verified for completion by the Food Services office, it will be reviewed by the Business Office for eligibility. The school uses the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines to make a determination of eligibility for financial assistance. Please visit the "Student Life" page on amsacs.org for more information.