



STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Affirmative Action Information

Identification of Affirmative Action Officer, Policy, Plans and Grievance Procedures N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.3 (a) (b) (c)

Copies of Lodi's Annual Affirmative Action Plan are available to interested parties by contacting Albert Tarleton, Affirmative Action Officer, at Lodi High School, telephone number (973) 478-6100.

Statement of Affirmative Action

It is the policy of the Lodi School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, social/economic status or disability in its educational programs or activities and employment policies, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.1 et seq. of the New Jersey Administrative Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and P.L. 101-336, ADA of 1990.

Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to Albert Tarleton, Affirmative Action Officer, at Lodi High School, telephone number (973) 478-6100.

Affirmative Action Grievance Procedure

Purpose: To provide students, employees, and parents, a procedure by which they can seek a remedy for alleged violations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, social/economic status or disability.

The school district's existing employee grievance procedure shall be utilized to hear any complaint or charge of discrimination by an employee. The school district's existing pupil grievance procedure shall be utilized to hear any complaint or charge of discrimination by a pupil. The Affirmative Action Officer will serve as a member of the grievance committee when such charges are heard.

In keeping with federal/state anti-discrimination legislation, the following grievance procedure will be followed for the resolution of alleged violations related to discrimination as outlined above.

Procedure:

- Step #1: The grievant submits the complaint to the Building Principal/Supervisor.
- Step #2: The principal has ten (10) working days in which to investigate and respond to the grievant.

- Step # 3: If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant within ten (10) working days, the complainant may submit a written complaint to the Affirmative Action Officer. The Affirmative Action Officer will investigate the matter and will respond to the complaint in writing no later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of the written complaint.
- Step #4: The complainant may appeal the Affirmative Action Officer's decision to the Board by filing a written appeal with the Board Secretary no later than ten (10) working days after receipt of the Affirmative Action Officer's decision.
- Step #5: The Board will render a written decision no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the appeal was filed or the hearing held, whichever occurred later.
- Step #6: If the grievant is not satisfied with the Board's decision, the grievant may file the complaint to the Commissioner of Education or the NJ Division on Civil Rights.

LODI PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHILD FIND

For Children With Disabilities Birth through Age 21

➤ What is Child Find?

Child Find is an ongoing process to identify children between birth through age 21 who may have disabilities and would be eligible for early intervention services or special education and related services.

➤ What disabilities qualify for services?

Children with developmental delays or one or more of the following disabilities may be eligible for early intervention programs (EIP) through the Department of Health (from birth through age 2) or special education and related services through your local district (ages three through twenty-one).

Eligible Disability Categories			
Autistic	Deaf-Blindness	Other Health Impaired	Traumatic Brain Injury
Hearing Impairment	Emotionally Disturbed	Preschool Disabled	Visually Impaired
Cognitively Impaired	Multiple Disabilities	Social Maladjustment	
Communication Impaired	Orthopedically Impaired	Specific Learning Disability	

➤ Where are children evaluated to determine their eligibility for services?

For children birth through age two with developmental delays, contact Special Child Health: 201-634-2620. For children ages 3-21, call Lodi Public Schools, Department of Special Services: 973-473-7093.

➤ What kinds of services are available for children from birth through age two?

Infants and toddlers and their families may receive services from early intervention programs in those centers or at home. Such services include language development, occupational or physical therapy, mobility training or other services to correct or ameliorate the effects of a disability.

➤ What kinds of services are available for children with disabilities ages 3-21?

A free, appropriate public education (FAPE) may include services such as supplementary aids and services, specialized instruction within the general education class or through a resource program or a special class in or out of district.

➤ Are students in private schools eligible for public special education services as well as students in public schools?

Yes. Parents may request an evaluation to determine eligibility of their child through their private school. If eligible, special education and related services may be requested as well. Services may be provided up to

the extent that state and federal funding permits. The resident district is responsible, although the services may be provided through the district in which the private school is located or by another public agency.

➤ **Who may make a referral for services?**

Parents may request an evaluation to determine their child's eligibility for services. However, physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers and others may make a referral after discussing it with the parents. Parental permission to evaluate is required.

➤ **How are the services determined?**

Parents and Early Intervention Program professionals develop an individualized services program (ISP) to address the needs of disabled infants and toddlers.

An individualized education program (IEP) is developed for students with disabilities ages 3-21 by the parents, child study team members and teachers. The IEP includes goals and objectives and describes the nature of the program and services to be provided.

For birth through age three, call: Special Child Health 201-634-2620
For ages three through 21, call: Lodi Department of Special Services 973-473-7093



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Mr. Frank D'Amico
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education is an integral part of your child's educational experience and emphasizes the natural interdisciplinary connections between wellness and health and physical education. The primary focus is the development of knowledge and skills that influence healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global community.

The program is a mandate from the New Jersey State Department of Education and a part of all New Jersey public school programs. The N.J.S.A.18A:35-7 and 8 requires that all students in grades K-12 take at least 150 minutes of health, safety, and physical education per week each year. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) of Comprehensive Health and Physical Education provided by the NJ Department of Education were revised in June 2020. These standards and aligned curriculum will be implemented during this school year.

An overview of the Health curriculum is available on the district website through the Atlas Rubicon Public Site at <https://lodik12-public.rubiconatlas.org>. A list of overarching topics are listed below.

<u>Grade K-5</u>	<u>Grade 6-8</u>
☐ Wellness ☐ Interpersonal Skills ☐ Drugs/Medicines ☐ Relationships ☐ Personal Safety ☐ Nutrition ☐ Digital Safety ☐ Personal Growth and Development	☐ Wellness ☐ Nutrition ☐ Drugs/Medicines ☐ Personal Growth and Development ☐ Social and Emotional Health ☐ Health Conditions and Diseases ☐ Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs ☐ Dependency, Substance Disorder and Treatment ☐ Personal Safety ☐ Sexual Health

<u>Grades 9-12</u>
☐ Nutrition ☐ Human Sexuality ☐ Social Emotional Health ☐ Alcohol and Drug Abuse ☐ Disease and Health Conditions ☐ Family Life ☐ First Aid Emergency ☐ Human Development ☐ Systems of the Body

The Lodi School District acknowledges that parents/guardians are the primary family life educators for their child/children, and we are committed to partnering with you to support you in this role.

Although we strongly encourage families to have their students participate in these essential health topics, we want to acknowledge that Parents/Guardians do have the option of excluding their child from any portion of family life education instruction if it is in conflict with their conscience, morally, or religiously held beliefs. If this is the case, please fill out the form attached and submit it to your building principal.

Very truly yours,



Frank D 'Amico
Superintendent of Schools

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION OPT-OUT FORM

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Teacher's Name (Elementary School): _____

Grade: _____

I wish for my child to be excluded from the following topics as part of the health, family life, and sex education units as they are in conflict with my conscience, or moral or religious beliefs:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

*Please return this form to the Principal's Office at your child's school.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE POLICY/REGULATION NUMBER HYPERLINK TO REVIEW.

Policy/Regulation Title	Number
Academic Integrity	<u>5701</u>
Alcoholic Beverages on School Premises	<u>7435</u>
Administration of Medication	<u>5330</u>
Assaults on District BOE Members or Employees	<u>5612</u> & <u>5612R</u>
Athletic Competition	<u>2431</u>
Attendance	<u>5200</u>
Care of Injured and Ill Persons	<u>8441</u>
Dating Violence at School	<u>5519</u> & <u>5519R</u>
Dress and Grooming	<u>5511</u> & <u>5511R</u>
Electronic Communications Between Support Staff and Students	<u>4283</u>
Electronic Communications Between Teaching Staff Members and Students	<u>3283</u>
Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds	<u>7441</u>
Expectations For Student Conduct	<u>5500</u>
Grading System	<u>2624</u> & <u>2624R</u>
Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying	<u>5512</u>
Health Services	<u>5310</u>
High School Graduation	<u>5460</u>
Middle School Graduation	<u>5410.2R</u>
Promotion and Retention	<u>5410</u>
Recruitment By Special Interest Groups	<u>9713</u>
Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses	<u>5613</u> & <u>5613R</u>

Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses	5611 & 5611R
Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children	8462
Rights of Persons with Handicaps or Disabilities	1510 & 1510R
Sexual Harassment of Students	5751 & 5751R
Student Crossing of Route 46	5431
Student Discipline/Code of Conduct	5600 & 5600R
Student Intervention and Referral Services	2417
Student Records	8330
Student Right of Privacy	5770
Student Rights	5700
Student Smoking	5533
Student Supervision After School Dismissal	8601
Substance Abuse	5530 & 5530R
Tardiness	5240
Title I - District-Wide Parental Involvement	2415.04
Transgender Students	5756
Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECD)	5516
Prohibition of Gambling for Students	5502