AVA HANDBOOK ADDENDUM – PENNSYLVANIA ACT 20 OF 2026

Effective Date: 2026–2027 School Year

This addendum supplements the Antietam Virtual Academy (AVA) Student/Parent Handbook and is intended to reflect changes to Pennsylvania law, (**Section 1743-A of the Pennsylvania Public School Code**), which amended provisions of the Pennsylvania Public School Code applicable to cyber charter schools and virtual education programs.

All provisions of the AVA Handbook remain in effect unless specifically modified by this addendum.

1. Weekly Student Wellness Checks

In accordance with **Section 1748.1-A of the Pennsylvania Public School Code**, AVA will conduct a ***state mandated*** wellness check for each enrolled student at least once during any week consisting of three or more full or partial days of academic instruction.

A wellness check is intended to:

1. Ensure the well-being of the student; and
2. Verify the student's participation in the educational program.

The wellness check will require the student to be **visibly seen and communicated with in real time** by a teacher, administrator, or other authorized school representative, either in person or through electronic means.

A wellness check may be satisfied through synchronous online instruction when the student is visibly seen and communicates in real time with an authorized school representative.

Participation in certain school activities, including applicable health screenings, standardized testing, advising, tutoring, or in-person school-sponsored activities, may also satisfy the weekly wellness-check requirement when permitted by law and AVA policy.

2. Missed Wellness Checks

If a student does not complete a required wellness check, AVA will follow its established wellness-check and attendance procedures.

The school may contact the student's parent or guardian and require additional communication or a meeting to ensure that the student's well-being is confirmed and that the student is participating appropriately in the educational program.

Parents/guardians are expected to cooperate with the school in completing required wellness checks and in addressing any concerns regarding a student's participation or well-being.

3. Child Safety and Mandatory Reporting

If, during a wellness check or other interaction with a student, an AVA administrator, employee, or authorized representative observes an indication of abuse, neglect, or harm to a child, the individual will follow all applicable requirements under Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law, including mandatory reporting requirements.

The purpose of the wellness-check process is not only to verify educational participation but also to help ensure the safety and well-being of students participating in virtual education.

4. Privacy and Electronic Communication

AVA will conduct electronic wellness checks and other virtual interactions in accordance with applicable federal and Pennsylvania privacy laws and district policies.

Parents/guardians and students are expected to maintain appropriate access to the technology necessary for participation in the virtual educational program and to cooperate with reasonable procedures established by AVA to verify student identity, participation, attendance, and well-being.

Student Participation

I have read and agree to comply with the guidelines described in the Antietam Virtual Academy Student-Parent Handbook in regards to my participation in the Antietam Virtual Academy and its online courses. Further, I agree to put forth my best effort and attend regularly to be successful as an AVA and ASD student. I agree to contact the Supervisor with any questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian Participation

I have read and agree to comply with the guidelines described in the Antietam Virtual Academy Student-Parent Handbook in regards to my student’s participation in the Antietam Virtual Academy and its online courses. I agree to monitor my child’s attendance and completion of coursework. Finally, I agree to contact the Supervisor with any questions or concerns.

Student Signature:_____ Date:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____