LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience ***in a Public School Setting***

Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 4, 2026

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Xander Lowry; Sheryl Shyloski; Michael Hansen; Marianne DeBruyn; Devin Berke

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Cynthia McCollum

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Noah Ventola, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Sean Kennedy, Assistant Principal of Mile Creek School; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology;, Andrea Montovani, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme- Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Ainsley Rinoski and Marielle Munster, High School Student Representatives; 10 community members from LOL

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Jason Kemp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Election of Board Secretary
Mr. Hansen nominated Sheryl Shyloski for Board Secretary

VOTE: The Board voted unanimously to elect Sheryl Shyloski as Board Secretary

III. Consent Agenda

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: neviaseri@region18.org www.region18.org

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 7, 2026
MOTION: Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2026 as presented.

VOTE: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

IV. Visitors
1. Report from Student Representatives
Ainsley Rinoski and Marielle Munster reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: This month at the high school all sports are slowly coming to an end with senior nights as well. Students had their homecoming as well as spirit week where we saw lots of student participation! Good luck to all seniors submitting college applications! The Old Lyme Players are performing Murder in the House of Horrors at the end of this week.
At LOLMS: Monday marked the close of the first quarter at the middle school. Our sixth-grade students have begun working on their Invention Convention projects. Students identify real-world problems and apply science, engineering, and problem-solving skills to design innovative solutions. Seventh- and eighth-grade students have started their National History Day projects. NHD challenges students to conduct authentic historical research and present their findings through a variety of formats, including exhibits, presentations, and documentaries. Our annual fall dance was a tremendous success, with nearly 200 students attending. We are grateful to all of our parent volunteers for helping to make this event a success. Fall sports wrapped up last week, with students participating in cross country, soccer, volleyball, and field hockey. Throughout the season, our student-athletes demonstrated strong effort and sportsmanship. We hosted a Unified kickball event with students from Westbrook, which provided a wonderful opportunity for students to build friendships and strengthen connections with peers. We wrapped up the month with our fall Spirit Week, which concluded with a staff-student soccer game.
Elementary- Both elementary schools have completed data team meetings at all grade levels. Teams comprehensively reviewed benchmarking and curriculum-based assessment scores for all students, made plans for instruction and support based on their analysis of data. Both schools are also in the process of planning their Veteran's Day assemblies. At Mile Creek, the PTO sponsored a fun "Spooktacular" event for students. We had a school-wide community meeting during which Old Lyme's Water and Recycling Coordinator Rachel Petersen, was introduced to students and shared information about how she can support our Green Team's initiatives in the areas of recycling and composting. On Friday we wrapped up our "Socktober" care and share initiative. Student Leaders collected and counted all of the hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and personal care items collected that will be donated to The Madonna place in Norwich. More than 1,200 items were donated! At Lyme School, our third graders enjoyed beautiful weather on their field trip to Camp Hazen, and our first grade students got a tour of Gillette Castle and learned about surrounding landforms on their field trip. The Lyme School PTO sponsored a Read-a-Thon for all students and a combined total of over 32,000 minutes in a 3-week period. The event culminated with the top 3 readers getting to pour buckets of green slime on Mrs. Hine's head at the Town Meeting. This seemed to be very motivating and we anticipate even more reading minutes next year!
In the Preschool Program: October was a busy and exciting month at preschool! We enjoyed a visit to the PGN Library and welcomed our middle school book buddies, who shared stories with us and helped lead some fun activities. We wrapped up the month with a festive Black and Orange Spirit Day! During

November, our classroom themes will include healthy eating, Thanksgiving, turkeys, and family. We will be reading several versions of *Stone Soup* and working together to create our own special version. We look forward to sharing it with our families at our Stone Soup Celebration on Thursday, November 20th! We are also excited about our annual Veterans Day Celebration! We will walk to the Old Lyme Town Hall, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and learn about the monument honoring local veterans. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about our community and show appreciation for those who have served our country. Our Artist of the Month is Piet Mondrian, our Color of the Month is yellow, and our Shape of the Month is the square. We look forward to a fun-filled November full of learning, creativity, and special memories!

3. Public Comment – No public comment

V. Correspondence

Mr. Kemp reviewed a summary of the correspondence that the Board received over the last month. The correspondence is attached to the minutes for informational purposes. *The opinions expressed in the attached correspondence are solely those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the position of the Regional School District #18 Board of Education or its employees.*

Sender	Date	Subject
Peter Caron	October 28, 2026	STOP THE ROCK CRUSHER AT 308-1 MILE CREEK ROAD

VI. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the November personnel report which reflected the following:

Vacancies 2026-2027	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Third Grade Teacher (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Lyme Consolidated
Art Teacher (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Lyme Consolidated (.5 FTE) Center School (.2 FTE)
Speech Pathologist (Long-Term Substitute Position)	LOLHS/LOLMS

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Nathaniel Backus	Physical Education Teacher (.5 FTE) (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Mile Creek	November 9, 2026
Shawn Hatchel	Campus Security Officer	Lyme School	October 22, 2026

Douglas Kiem(Long-Term Substitute Position)	Chemistry and Physics Teacher	LOLHS	October 26, 2026
Isabella Cubero	Custodian	LOLHS	November 9, 2026
Seven Hogan	Custodian	LOLHS	November 9, 2026
Margaret Eldredge	Finance & Accounting Supervisor	Districtwide	November 19, 2026
Dominic Clark	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	November 9, 2026
Maddie Cann (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Fifth Grade Teacher	Mile Creek	February 2027
Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Isaac Corcio	Custodian	LOLHS	October 16, 2026
Adam Eldridge	Finance & Accounting Supervisor	Districtwide	November 2, 2026

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the November enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,217 students in-house, two less from this time last month.

Mr. Neviaser gave an update on the progress towards the district goals.

Curriculum

In collaboration with school leaders, educators, families, and students, develop a districtwide Personal Technology Use and Purposeful Screen Time Policy to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and ethical awareness.

Visited all faculty meetings to review process and sent out staff survey

Human Resources

In accordance with state guidelines and the Region 18 Educator Support Plan, develop single point rubrics for "service providers" (non-classroom teachers) and gather feedback on the process to inform revisions for future years.

Reviewed other district's rubrics and are working on developing on our own.

Community

Continue to streamline parent and community communication by increasing the effective use of ParentSquare's advanced features.

No new updates

Facilities

Bring construction activities to a conclusion while minimizing classroom disruption, adhering to the approved budget and design, and maintaining existing facilities in alignment with the district's Capital Improvement Plan.

All construction activities are complete. Trailer has been removed from MC. Still completing commissioning and punch list items as well as training on new systems.

Sustainability

Maintain and monitor a composting program at each school to reduce food waste while educating students on sustainable practices.
Working with the OL town recycling coordinator on a number of different activities and planning future activities.

Board of Education
Through professional development, mentorship, and training, continue to onboard new members and strengthen institutional knowledge that supports the high standards and expectations of Lyme-Old Lyme.
Two members attended a CABE workshop on budgeting with Holly as one of the presenters.

2. Business Manager's Report

Overall year-to-date spending is in line with a few fluctuations noted. Certified Salaries are considerably lower compared to the prior year due to an additional payroll in 2025–26 resulting from a 27-pay-period calendar. This variance is expected to balance out as the current fiscal year progresses. Special Education is more in line with typical years on spend to date. Last year, there were some additional student needs identified early in the school year resulting than higher than expected spend. Support Services appears to show a big change year over year; however, any change in spending on such a small budget number appear more impactful in percentages than actual dollars spent. The variance can also be attributed to the timing of purchases, and there is currently no concern with this line-item year to date. Administrative Services spending compared to the prior year is primarily affected by the timing of technology purchases, with no current concerns in this area. The district is continuing to closely monitor heating oil and diesel costs due to ongoing world events. The district is paying market rates and continues to monitor pricing daily to identify opportunities to lock in pricing for the remainder of the current year and next. Additionally, electricity usage continues to be a bit difficult to pinpoint as the balancing of the campus systems from the Pre-K to 8 project continues.

	2026-2027 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$9,858,720
Town of Lyme	$2,060,252

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was no new spending. The remaining balance is $179,866.

VII. Educational Presentation- There is no educational presentation this month

VIII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities.* Discussion included long-term planning for the septic system, with an estimated 15-year outlook, and options for replacing the storage shed or securing off-site storage as the trailers are demolished. Paving at Mile Creek was also discussed. The water pumps serving the main campus and town are nearing the end of their life and have developed leaks. Additionally, changing federal standards for PFAS will require further testing.
b. *Finance.* Water pumps serving main campus and the town's estimated cost of $65,000.

Possible cost sharing will be discussed.

c. *Communications*. Mrs. Compagno is finalizing the annual report summary distributed by the Town of Old Lyme. Focus on Education will be completed toward the end of November. Exploring ideas to keep parents and the community engaged and discussed possibly sharing school information with local papers.
d. *Policy*. Discussed and approved updates on *Policy 5114, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process* due to a few legal changes. Also, discussed and approved *Policy 5117 School Attendance Areas* which was last revised in 2012. Allowing flexibility in adjusting enrollment zones to meet the changing needs of the regional school district.
e. *LEARN*. Sheryl Shyloski will serve as the new Region 18 Board Representative for the 2026–2027 term.
f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report
g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. Fine-tuning of the HVAC system is ongoing, but the majority of the work has been completed.

Mr. Kemp shared information about several upcoming events and initiatives, including the CABE/CAPSS Convention on November 20, the New Board of Education Leadership Conference, School Finance webinar through Holly and CASBO, additional opportunities to come. Mr. Kemp also shared information about the series of virtual office hours and the ongoing work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on K-12 Education Funding and Accountability.

New Business
1. Tuition Student Request for Kindergarten 2027-2028 School Year

MOTION: Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to approve the tuition student request for Kindergarten 2027-2028 School Year as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Tuition Student Request for Pre-K 4 Program 2027-2028 School Year

MOTION: Mrs. Shyloski made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the tuition student request for Pre-K 4 Program 2027-2028 School as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. 2027-2028 School Calendar

Mr. Neviaser noted that the calendar remains consistent with previous years, with no significant changes. The schedule has been shared and approved with the PTO and unions.

MOTION: Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to approve the 2027-2028 School Calendar as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. Policy Review
Policy 5114 *Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process*
Mr. Neviaser explained the CABE policy was updated to reflect recent changes to state statutes.

MOTION: Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to waive the second reading and to Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted 6 in favor of the motion

Abstain: Mr. Lowry as he was out of town during the Policy and Communications meeting.

Policy 5117 *School Attendance Areas*
Mr. Neviaser explained the policy is being updated to align with current practices and clarify that school district attendance areas will be reviewed and revised annually, based on a number of factors.

MOTION: Mrs. Shyloski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to waive the second reading and to Policy 5117 School Attendance Areas as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

IX. Old Business

X. Executive Session
Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing LOLA negotiations (Lyme-Old Lyme Administrators Contract). Mr. Neviaser was invited to attend the executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment
The regular meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. James and a second by Mr. Berke.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Shyloski, Secretary

The opinions expressed in the attached correspondence are solely those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the position of the Regional School District #18 Board of Education or its employees.

Summary of Communication to Board of Education
November 4, 2026

Sender	Date	Subject
Peter Caron	October 28, 2026	STOP THE ROCK CRUSHER AT 308-1 MILE CREEK ROAD

Rooney, Paige

From: Neviaser, Ian
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 8:18 AM
To: Rooney, Paige
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY-STOP THE ROCK CRUSHER AT 308-1 MILE CREEK ROAD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Turner, Ronald <turnerr@region18.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 6:56 PM
To: Neviaser, Ian <neviaseri@region18.org>
Subject: Fw: EXTERNAL: PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY-STOP THE ROCK CRUSHER AT 308-1 MILE CREEK ROAD

FYI

From: Peter Caron <speter.caron@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2026 18:27:04
To: Turner, Ronald <turnerr@region18.org>; Howe, Brian <howeb@region18.org>; milecreekpto@gmail.com <milecreekpto@gmail.com>; Hansen, Michael (BOE) <hansenm@region18.org>; DeBruyn, Marianne (BOE) <debruynm@region18.org>; James, Anna (BOE) <jamesa@region18.org>; Kemp, Jason (BOE) <kempj@region18.org>; Lowry, Alexander (BOE) <lowrya@region18.org>; Shyloski, Sheryl (BOE) <shyloskis@region18.org>; Lodge, Gavin (BOE) <lodgeg@region18.org>; mccollum@region18.org <mccollum@region18.org>
Subject: EXTERNAL: PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY-STOP THE ROCK CRUSHER AT 308-1 MILE CREEK ROAD

Dear Neighbors and School Community,
I am writing to you today because the safety, health, and future of our children in Old Lyme are facing a massive threat.
For more than four years, neighbors have been fighting town authorities to control the once-abandoned gravel pit located at **308-1 Mile Creek Road**, owned by Ronald Swaney. This operation has a clear history of ignoring town rules. In fact, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission had to issue a unanimous Cease & Desist order against the owner for illegal, unpermitted work—including clear-cutting trees, destroying land within 100 feet of the wetlands, and causing severe damage to the Three Mile River ecosystem. Because the owner refused to cooperate with town requirements, the town was forced to start legal proceedings, and that court litigation is still ongoing today.
Despite these major environmental violations, the situation just got much worse. On **October 15, 2026**, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted unanimously to uphold the renewal of the pit's excavation permit, ignoring our neighborhood appeals. Even worse, this decision allows a heavy-duty **rock crusher** to be used on the property.
A rock crusher is a massive machine that smashes large boulders into gravel and stone. The danger this brings to our community cannot be overstated:

- **Silica Dust Danger:** Crushing rock releases highly dangerous silica dust into the air. This microscopic dust penetrates deep into lungs and causes permanent damage.

- **Threat to Our Schools:** Children breathe faster than adults and their lungs are still developing, making them the most vulnerable to this toxic dust. **Mile Creek School is only 1.5 miles away**, and our other town schools sit directly within range of airborne dust.
- **Vibrations and Noise:** A rock crusher creates intense, non-stop vibrations and low-frequency thrumming. This shakes nearby homes, impacts mental well-being, and causes ground compaction that ruins local water flow and hydrology.

The owner is already preparing to start. A massive mountain of boulders is piled up on the property, and the crusher could arrive any day now.

The ZBA is supposed to protect the people of Old Lyme, not the profits of a single developer who has repeatedly violated our laws. **We must act now to save our air, our wetlands, and our children's health.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY:

Please write a letter or email demanding that the town take immediate action to stop rock crushing in our residential zones.

Send your letter to First Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker at mshoemaker@oldlyme-ct.gov to demand leadership on this crisis.

Send your letter to the Zoning Officer (ZEO) Eric Knapp. At eknapp@oldlyme-ct.gov Explicitly request that the ZEO forward your letter directly to the following boards:

- **The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** oldlyme-ct.gov
- **The Planning & Zoning Commission**
- **The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission**

We cannot sit back and allow our children's health to be compromised. Please take five minutes to write your letter today. Thank You for your concern, Millie Caron, 860-235-3058 442 Shore rd. I'm attaching an article that explains the devastating use of a crusher.

Regional School District Eighteen
November 2026 Enrollment Report

Breakdown by School

Grade	Center	MC	Lyme	Middle	High	Total	
PreK (3)	23					23	(+1)
PreK (4)	65					65	
K		44	37			81	
1st		31	18			49	
2nd		66	33			99	(-1)
3rd		53	33			86	
4th		51	37			88	
5th		65	32			97	
6th				84		84	
7th				97		97	
8th				83		83	(-1)
9th					99	99	
10th					90	90	(+1)
11th					83	83	(-1)
12th					93	93	(-1)
Totals	**88**	**310**	**190**	**264**	**365**	**1217**	**(-2)**

Special Education (various facilities)	7
Grasso Tech	5
Marine Science Magnet School of SE CT	8
New London STEM Magnet School	1
Regional Multicultural Magnet School	1
New London Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Pathway	1
Sound School	1
Three Rivers Middle College High School	0
Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication	2
Total Out of District	26
GRAND TOTAL	**1243**

Breakdown by Town

Grade	Old Lyme	Lyme	Tuition	Total
PreK (3)	20	3	0	23
PreK (4)	57	7	1	65
K	60	20	1	81
1	38	10	1	49
2	79	19	1	99
3rd	71	15	0	86
4th	68	20	0	88
5th	86	11	0	97
6th	64	18	2	84
7th	82	13	2	97
8th	70	13	0	83
9th	81	16	2	99
10th	74	15	1	90
11th	63	17	3	83
12th	68	23	2	93
Totals	**981**	**220**	**16**	**1217**
Out of District	21	5	0	26
TOTAL	**1002**	**225**	**16**	**1243**

Impact to Towns		Old Lyme	Lyme
11/1/2026	1227	1002	225
% of total census		81.7%	18.3%

All special education including prek and out of district = 200

Lyme-Old Lyme Public Schools ·2027-2028 Calendar

August 2027				4
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September 2027				20
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October 2027				20
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November 2027				18
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

December 2027				17
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

January 2028				20
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February 2028				16
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29			

March 2028				23
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

April 2028				15
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

May 2028				22
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

June 2028				8
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Approved by BOE on November 4, 2026

School Hours	
Mile Creek/Lyme	8:45-3:15
LOLMS/LOLHS	7:40-2:10
Preschool (am)	8:50-11:20
Preschool (pm)	12:20-2:50
Preschool (full)	8:50-2:50
Early Dismissal	
Mile Creek/Lyme	12:15
LOLMS/LOLHS	11:10
Preschool	11:20

Date	Event/Holiday
August 23,24,25	Professional Development Day (Full) No school for students
August 26	Opening Day for Students
September 3	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
September 6	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
October 8	Professional Development Day (HALF) Early dismissal for students PK-12.
October 11	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
November 2	Professional Development Day (Full) No school for students
November 22-23	PreK4 - 8 parent conferences. Early dismissal for students PK-12.
November 24-26	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
December 23	Professional Development Day (HALF) Early dismissal for students PK-12.
December 24-31	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
January 17	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
February 18	Professional Development Day (HALF) Early dismissal for students PK-12.
February 21-25	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
March 2-3	PreK4 - 12 Parent Conferences and PreK3 peer visits. Early dismissal for students PK-12.
April 10-14	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
May 26	Professional Development Day (HALF) Early dismissal for students PK-12.
May 29	School Holiday (Schools Closed)
June 9-12	Tentative Final Days Early dismissal for students PK-12 both days. Snow days are added at end of year.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

The Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education is committed to creating a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors. This policy aims to balance the necessity of maintaining safety and order within our schools while adhering to progressive discipline and restorative practices, which seek to address and correct inappropriate behavior while promoting accountability, personal growth, and the repair of harm.

Students are expected to comply with school rules and Board policies and may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or violates a publicized policy of the Board. Students may be disciplined for conduct off school grounds if such conduct is seriously disruptive to the educational process and violates Board policy.

Policy Objectives

1. **Ensure Safety and Order**: Maintain a secure and disciplined school environment conducive to learning and free from violence, threats, and disruptive behaviors.

2. **Promote Equity and Fairness**: Apply disciplinary measures in an equitable, consistent, and unbiased manner, ensuring that all students are treated with dignity and respect.

3. **Support Progressive Discipline**: Implement a progressive discipline model that focuses on intervention and prevention strategies to address and correct student behavior before it escalates.

4. **Implement Restorative Practices**: Incorporate restorative practices that emphasize accountability, reparation of harm, and the restoration of relationships within the school community.

5. **Encourage Personal Responsibility**: Foster a sense of personal responsibility and self-discipline in students, helping them to understand the consequences of their actions and to make better choices in the future.

6. **Engage Families and Communities**: Involve parents, guardians, and community members in the disciplinary process to support students in their behavioral and academic growth.

Policy Guidelines

1. **Clear Expectations and Communication:**

- Establish and communicate clear behavioral expectations and the consequences of violating them.

- Ensure that all students, staff, and parents/guardians are aware of the discipline policy and procedures.

2. **Progressive Discipline Framework:**

   - Utilize a tiered approach to discipline that escalates in response to the severity and frequency of the behavior.

   - Implement early intervention strategies such as counseling, mentoring, and behavior modification plans to address minor infractions.

3. **Restorative Practices:**

   - Employ restorative practices such as mediation, peer counseling, and restorative circles to address conflicts and repair harm.

   - Encourage students to take responsibility for their actions and to actively participate in the resolution process.

4. **Consistent and Fair Application:**

   - Ensure that disciplinary measures are applied consistently and fairly across all student populations.

   - Monitor and address any disparities in the application of disciplinary actions to prevent discrimination or bias.

5. **Supportive Interventions:**

   - Provide support services such as counseling, social work, and mental health resources to help students address underlying issues contributing to behavioral problems.

   - Develop individualized behavior plans for students with recurring or severe behavioral issues.

6. **Engagement and Collaboration:**

   - Engage families in the disciplinary process through regular communication and involvement in restorative practices.

   - Collaborate with community organizations and resources to support students and families in addressing behavioral and social-emotional needs.

7. **Training and Professional Development:**

- Provide ongoing training for staff on progressive discipline, restorative practices, and culturally responsive approaches to student behavior.

- Encourage staff to develop skills in conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and positive behavior support.

Review and Accountability

The Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education will regularly review the effectiveness of its discipline policy, incorporating feedback from students, staff, parents, and the community. Data on disciplinary actions and their outcomes will be collected and analyzed to ensure continuous improvement and the achievement of policy objectives.

By adopting this balanced approach to discipline, the Lyme/Old Lyme Public School District aims to create a school environment where all students can learn, grow, and succeed while feeling safe and supported.

A. Definitions

1. **"Exclusion"** shall be defined as any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes.

2. **"Removal"** shall be defined as an exclusion from a classroom for all or a part of single class period, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond ninety (90) minutes.

3. **"In-School Suspension"** means an exclusion from regular classroom activity for no more than five consecutive days, but not exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. Such suspensions shall be served in any school building under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education.

4. **"Suspension"** means an exclusion from school privileges or from transportation services, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which suspension was imposed. An out-of-school suspension for students in grades 3-12 shall not exceed ten days. An out-of-school suspension imposed for children in preschool to second grade shall not exceed five days.

All suspensions shall be in-school unless the administration determines for any student in grades three through twelve that (1) the student being suspended poses such danger to persons or property or such disruption of the educational process that the student (grades three to twelve) shall be excluded from school during the period of the suspension, or (2) that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence pf previous disciplinary issues that have led to suspensions or expulsion of the student and efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary issues through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive support strategies.

A student in grades preschool to two, inclusive, may be given an out-of-school suspension if it is determined by the administration that such suspension is appropriate based on evidence that the student's conduct on school grounds is of a violent or sexual nature that endangers persons. In addition, a person's duty as a mandated reporter to report suspected child abuse or neglect is not limited by this provision.

5. **"Expulsion"** shall be defined as an exclusion from school privileges for any student in grades three to twelve, inclusive, for more than ten (10) consecutive school days and shall be deemed to include but not be limited to, exclusion from the school to which such student was assigned at the time such disciplinary action was taken, provided that assignment to a regular classroom program in a different school in the district shall not constitute a suspension or an expulsion. Such period of exclusion may extend to the school year following the school year in which the exclusion was imposed, up to one calendar year. To be expelled, the student's conduct must be found to be both violative of a Board policy and either seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangering persons or property.

Unless an emergency exists, no student shall be expelled without a formal hearing. Whenever such student is a minor, the notice shall also be given to the parents or guardians of the student at least five business days before such hearing, not including the day of such hearing. If an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice shall include information concerning the parent's or guardian's and the student's legal rights and concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the student shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

6. **"Emergency"** shall be defined as a situation under which the continued presence of the student in the school imposes such danger to persons or property or such disruption of the educational process that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.

7. **"Days"** is defined as days when school is in session.

8. **"School-sponsored activity"** is defined as any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board of Education and includes activities conducted on or off school property.

9. **"Possess"** means to have physical possession or otherwise to exercise dominion or control over tangible property.

10. **"Deadly weapon"** means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack,

bludgeon, or metal knuckles. A weapon such as a pellet gun and/or airsoft pistol may constitute a deadly weapon if such weapon is designed for violence and is capable of inflicting death or serious bodily harm.

11. **"Firearm"** as defined in 18 U.S.C.§921, means 1) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; 2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; 3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or 4) any destructive device. Firearm does not include any antique firearms. For purposes of this definition "destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the weapons described herein. A "destructive device" does not include an antique firearm; a rifle intended to be used by the owner solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes; or any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon.

12. **"Vehicle"** means a **"motor vehicle"** as defined in Section 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, snowmobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or sail.

13. **"Martial arts weapon"** means a nunchaku kama, Kesari-fondo, octagon sai, tonfa, or Chinese star.

14. **"Dangerous Drugs and Narcotics"** is defined as any controlled drug in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §219-240.

15. **"Alternate education"** means a school or program maintained and operated by the Board of Education that is offered to students in a nontraditional setting and addresses their social, emotional, behavioral, and academic needs. Such program must conform to SBE guidelines and conform to C.G.S. 10-15 and 16 (180 days/900 hours).

16. **"Dangerous Instrument"** means any instrument, article, or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a "vehicle" or a dog that has been commanded to attack.

17. **"Seriously disruptive of the educational process"** means, as applied to off-campus conduct, any conduct that markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operation of a school.

B. Removal from Class

1. All teachers are hereby authorized to remove a student from class when such student causes a serious disruption of the educational process within the classroom.

2. Such teacher shall send the student to a designated area and shall immediately inform the building Principal or his/her designee as to the name of the student and the reason for the removal.

3. No student shall be removed from class more than six (6) times in any year nor more than twice in one week, unless such student is referred to the Building Principal or his/her designee and granted an informal hearing in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

4. A school principal or other school administrator shall notify a parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, caused self-harm, or caused physical harm to a teacher, another student or other school employee not later than twenty-four hours after such behavior occurs. Such notice shall include, but not be limited to, informing such parent or guardian that the teacher of record in the classroom in which such behavior occurred may request a behavior intervention meeting.

Any teacher of record in a classroom may request a behavior intervention meeting with the crisis intervention team for the school, for any student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, or caused self-harm or physical harm to such teacher or another student or staff member in such teacher's classroom. The crisis intervention team shall, upon the request of such teacher and notifying such student's parent or guardian, convene a behavior intervention meeting regarding such student. The participants of such behavior intervention meeting shall identify resources and support to address such student's social, emotional and instructional needs. Not later than seven days after the behavior intervention meeting, the crisis intervention team shall submit to the parent or guardian of such student, in the dominant language of such parent or guardian, a written summary of such meeting, including, but not limited to, the resources and supports identified.

C. Exclusion from Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

Participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not an entitlement. Students involved in such programs are expected to follow all school rules and demonstrate good citizenship. Failure to do so may result in partial or complete exclusion from said activities and programs. Activities include, but are not limited to, athletic programs, musical or drama productions, clubs, field trips, and school trips out-of-state and abroad.

D. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, including Removal from Class, Suspension and/or Expulsion

Conduct which may lead to disciplinary action (including, but not limited to, removal from class, suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with this policy) includes conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity (including on a school bus), and conduct off school grounds, as set forth above. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Striking or assaulting a student, members of the school staff or other persons.

2. Theft.

3. The use of obscene or profane language or gestures, the possession and/or display of obscenity or pornographic images or the unauthorized or inappropriate possession and/or display of images, pictures or photographs depicting nudity.

4. Violation of smoking, dress, transportation regulations, or other regulations and/or policies governing student conduct.

5. Refusal to obey a member of the school staff, law enforcement authorities, or school volunteers, or disruptive classroom behavior.

6. Any act of harassment based on an individual's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, disability, national origin or ancestry.

7. Refusal by a student to identify himself/herself to a staff member when asked, misidentification of oneself to such person(s), lying to school officials or otherwise engaging in dishonest behavior.

8. Inappropriate displays of public affection of a sexual nature and/or sexual activity on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity.

9. A walk-out from or sit-in within a classroom or school building or school grounds.

10. Blackmailing, threatening or intimidating school staff or students (or acting in a manner that could be construed to constitute blackmail, a threat, or intimidation, regardless of whether intended as a joke).

11. Possession of any weapon, weapon facsimile, deadly weapon, martial arts weapon, electronic defense weapon, pistol, knife, blackjack, bludgeon, box cutter, metal knuckles, pellet gun, air pistol, explosive device, firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, whether functional or not, or any other dangerous object or instrument. The possession and/or use of any object or device that has been converted or modified for use as a weapon.

12. Possession of any ammunition for any weapon described above in paragraph 11.

13. Unauthorized entrance into any school facility or portion of a school facility or aiding or abetting an unauthorized entrance.

14. Possession or ignition of any fireworks, combustible or other explosive materials, or ignition of any material causing a fire. Possession of any materials designed to be used in the ignition of combustible materials, including matches and lighters.

15. Unlawful possession, sale, distribution, use, or consumption of tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems (e.g. e-cigarettes), vapor products, drugs,

narcotics or alcoholic beverages (or any facsimile of tobacco, drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages, or any item represented to be tobacco, drugs or alcoholic beverages), including being under the influence of any such substances or aiding in the procurement of any such substances. For the purposes of this Paragraph 15, the term "electronic nicotine delivery system" shall mean an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or other substance to a person inhaling from the device and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device. For the purposes of Paragraph 15, the term "vapor product" shall mean any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may or may not include nicotine that is inhaled by the user of such product. For the purposes of this Paragraph 15, the term "drugs" shall include, but shall not be limited to, any medicinal preparation (prescription and non-prescription) and any controlled substance whose possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption is illegal under state and/or federal law.

16. Sale, distribution, or consumption of substances contained in household items; including, but not limited to glue, paint, accelerants/propellants for aerosol canisters, and/or items such as the aerators for whipped cream; if sold, distributed or consumed for the purpose of inducing a stimulant, depressant, hallucinogenic or mind-altering effect.

17. Unlawful possession of paraphernalia used or designed to be used in the consumption, sale or distribution of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, as described in subparagraph (15) above. For purposes of this policy, drug paraphernalia includes any equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in growing, harvesting, manufacturing, producing, preparing, packaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing controlled drugs or controlled substances into the human body, including but not limited to items such as "bongs," pipes, "roach clips," vials, tobacco rolling papers, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled drugs or controlled substances.

18. The destruction of real, personal or school property, such as, cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property in any way.

19. Accumulation of offenses such as school and class tardiness, class or study hail cutting, or failure to attend detention.

20. Trespassing on school grounds while on out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

21. Making false bomb threats or other threats to the safety of students, staff members, and/or other persons.

22. Defiance of school rules and the valid authority of teachers, supervisors, administrators, other staff members and/or law enforcement authorities.

23. Throwing snowballs, rocks, sticks and/or similar objects, except as specifically authorized by school staff.

24. Unauthorized and/or reckless and/or improper operation of a motor vehicle on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity.

25. Leaving school grounds, school transportation or a school- sponsored activity without authorization.

26. Use of or copying of the academic work of another individual and presenting it as the student's own work, without proper attribution; or any other form of academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism.

27. Possession and/or use of a cellular telephone, Smartphone, mobile or handheld device, or similar electronic device, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity in violation of Board policy and/or administrative regulations regulating the use of such devices.

28. Possession and/or use of a beeper or paging device on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity without the written permission of the principal or his/her designee.

29. Unauthorized use of any school computer, computer system, computer software, Internet connection, or similar school property or system, or the use of such property or system for inappropriate purposes.

30. Possession and/or use of a laser pointer, unless the student possesses the laser pointer temporarily for an educational purpose while under the direct supervision of a responsible adult.

31. Hazing.

32. **"Bullying"** is defined as unwanted and aggressive behavior among children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.

33. Cyberbullying, defined as any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone, or other mobile electronic devices, or any electronic communications.

34. Acting in any manner that creates a health and/or safety hazard for staff members, students, or the public, regardless of whether the conduct is intended as a joke.

35. Engaging in a plan to stage or create a violent situation for the purposes of recording it by electronic means; or recording by electronic means acts of violence for purposes of later publication.

36. Engaging in a plan to stage sexual activity for the purposes of recording it by electronic means; or recording by electronic means sexual acts for purposes of later publication.

37. Using computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy.

38. Use of a privately owned electronic or technological device in violation of school rules, including the unauthorized recording (photographic or audio) of another individual without permission of the individual or a school staff member.

E. Scope of the Student Discipline Policy

a. Conduct on School Grounds or at a School-Sponsored Activity

Students may be disciplined for conduct on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity that endangers persons or property, is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or violates a publicized policy of the Board.

b. Conduct off School Grounds

Students may be disciplined for conduct off school grounds if such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violates a publicized policy of the Board.

In determining whether such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and the Board of Education may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to the following factors:

1. whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school;

2. whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement;

3. whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in section Conn. Gen. Stat.§ 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and

4. whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

In making a determination as to whether such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and/or the Board of Education may also consider whether such off-campus conduct involved the illegal use of drugs.

F. Mandatory Expulsion

It shall be the policy of the Board to expel a student, grades preschool, and kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, for one full calendar year if:

1. The student, on grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, was in possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921*, as amended from time to time, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in C.G.S. 53A-3; or the student, off school grounds, did possess such firearm in violation of C.G.S. 29-35 or did possess and use such firearm, instrument or weapon in the commission of a crime; or the student, on or off school grounds offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (9) of C.G.S. 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under C.G.S. 21-277 and 21a-278.

2. Such student shall be expelled for one calendar year if the Board of Education or impartial hearing officer finds that the student did so possess or so possess and use, as appropriate, such weapon or firearm, instrument or weapon or did so offer for sale or distribution such controlled substance.

3. The Board may modify the period of a mandatory expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

4. A firearm, as defined by C.G.S. 53a-3, includes any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles.

5. A student enrolled in a preschool program provided by the Board of Education, state or local charter school or interdistrict magnet school shall not be expelled from such school except that a student shall be expelled for one calendar year from such preschool program pursuant to the mandatory expulsion requirement in compliance with the Gun-Free School Act, as described in this section.

**A firearm; c l lrrently deji l led by 18 U.S.C 921, is any weapon that can expel a projectile by an explosive actio l l and includes explosive devices, i l lce l ldiaries, poison gases, a l ld firearm frames, receivers, mufflers or silencers.*

G. Suspension Procedure

Unless an emergency exists, as that term is defined in paragraph A, no student shall be suspended without an informal hearing by the administration, at which such student shall be informed of the reasons for the disciplinary action and given an opportunity to explain the situation, provided nothing herein shall be construed to prevent a more formal hearing from being held if the circumstances surrounding the incident so require. The

administration shall then determine whether suspension or in-school suspension is warranted.

If an emergency situation exists, the hearing outlined above shall be held as soon as possible after the exclusion of the student.

Prior to conducting any hearing regarding the suspension of a student, an administrator, school counselor or school social worker at the school in which the student is enrolled, shall contact the local homeless education liaison designated by the local or regional board of education for the school district, pursuant to Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as amended from time to time, to determine whether such student is a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11343a, as amended from time to time. If it is determined that such student is a homeless child or youth, the administration shall consider the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the student during the hearing.

In the case of suspension, the administration shall notify the student's parents and the Superintendent of Schools not later than twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension as to the name of the student who has been suspended and the reason therefore. Any student who is suspended shall be given an opportunity to complete any class work, including, but not limited to, examinations that such student missed during the period of his/her suspension.

The administration shall also have the authority to suspend a student from transportation services whose conduct while awaiting or receiving transportation violates the standards set forth in paragraph D, above. The administration shall have the authority to immediately suspend any student from school when an emergency exists, as that term is defined in paragraph A, above.

Out-of-School Suspensions

All suspensions shall be in-school suspensions, except the Board of Education may authorize the administration of schools under its direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any student:

1. Grades preschool to two, if during the informal hearing outlined above, the administration:

    a. Determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such students based on evidence that such student's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes serious physical harm;

    b. Requires that such students receive services that are trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program, or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, for such student upon such student's return to school immediately following the out-of-school suspension; and

c. Considers whether to convene a planning and placement team meeting for the purposes of conducting an evaluation to determine whether such student may require special education or related services.

2. Grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, resulting from a due process hearing:

a. The administration determines that the student being suspended poses such danger to persons or property or such disruption of the educational process (as defined above in section E) that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension.

b. The administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such student based on evidence of:

i. previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such student; and

ii. efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies. An in-school suspension may be served in the student's school or any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by such board.

Length of Suspension Period:

In determining the length of a suspension period, the administration may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, or expulsion.

An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed ten school days for students in grades 3-12.

An out-of-school suspension shall not exceed five school days for children in preschool through grade 2.

For any student who is suspended for the first time and who has never been expelled, the school administration may shorten the length of or waive the suspension period if the student successfully completes an administration-specified program and meets any other administration-required conditions. Such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians.

General provisions:

No student shall be suspended more than ten times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless such student is granted a formal hearing pursuant to sub sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, section 4-181a, and as outlined in section I below is first granted.

No student shall be placed on in-school suspension more than fifteen times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless such student is granted a formal hearing pursuant to sub sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, section 4-181a, and as outlined in in section I below is first granted.

H. Expulsion Procedures

The Board of Education may, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, expel any student for one or more of the reasons stated in this policy if, after holding a formal hearing, it is in the judgment of the Board of Education that such disciplinary action is in the best interest of the school system.

A special education student's handicapping conditions shall be considered before making a decision to expel. A Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting must be held to determine whether the behavior or student actions violative of Board of Education standards set forth in policy governing suspension and expulsion are the result of the student's handicapping condition.

For any student expelled for the first time and who has never been suspended, except for a student who has been expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the student successfully completes a Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Such Board specified program shall not require the student or the parent/guardian of such student to pay for participation in the program.

Prior to conducting formal hearing, as required by PA 25-93 Section 38 subsection 3, an administrator, school counselor or school social worker at the school in which the student is enrolled shall contact the local homeless education liaison designated by the local or regional board of education for the school district, pursuant to Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as amended from time to time, to make a determination whether such student is a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11343a, as amended from time to time.

If it is determined that such student is a homeless child or youth:

1. The local or regional board of education, or the impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, shall consider the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the student during the hearing.

2. No such student may be expelled without a plan of interventions and supports to mitigate the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the student.

3. If such child or youth has been expelled for a second time, a meeting with the local homeless education liaison shall be provided by the local or regional board of education.

Upon receipt of a recommendation for expulsion from the Superintendent of Schools the Board shall, after giving written notice as detailed below in section K Notification,

conduct a hearing prior to taking any action on the expulsion of said student, provided however, that in the event of an emergency as defined in this policy, the student may be expelled prior to the hearing but in such case even a hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

Expulsion hearings (formal hearings) conducted by the Board will be heard by any three or more Board members. A decision to expel a student must be supported by a majority of the Board members present, provided that no less than three (3) affirmative votes to expel are cast.

Alternatively, the Board may appoint an impartial hearing officer composed of one or more persons to hear and decide the expulsion matter, provided that no member of the Board may serve on such panel.

An attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

I. Formal Hearings/Due Process

1. Any hearing conducted under this paragraph shall at least include the right to:

   a. Notice prior to the date of the proposed hearing which shall include a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing and a statement of the legal jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held and a statement that students under sixteen years old who are expelled and students between sixteen and eighteen who have been expelled for the first or second time and who comply with conditions set by the Board of Education, must be offered an alternative educational opportunity;

   b. A short and plain statement of the matters asserted, if such matters have not already been provided in a statement of reasons requested by the student;

   c. The opportunity to be heard in the student's own defense;

   d. The opportunity to present witnesses and evidence in the student's defense;

   e. The opportunity to cross-examine adverse witnesses;

   f. The opportunity to be represented by counsel at the parents'/student's own expense; and

g. Information concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services;

h. The opportunity to have the services of a translator, to be provided by the Board of Education whenever the student or his/her parent or legal guardian do not speak the English language;

i. The prompt notification of the decision of the Board of Education, which decision shall be in writing if adverse to the student concerned.

2. Record keeping:

The record of the hearing held in any expulsion case shall include the following:

a. All evidence received and considered by the Board of Education;

b. Questions and offers of proof, objections, and ruling on such objections;

c. The decision of the Board of Education rendered after such hearing; and

d. A copy of the initial letter of notice of proposed expulsion, a copy of any statement of reasons provided upon request, a statement of the notice of hearing, and the official transcript, if any, or if not transcribed, any recording or stenographic record of the hearing.

3. Rules of evidence at hearings:

Rules of evidence at expulsion hearings shall ensure fairness, but shall not be controlled by the formal rules of evidence, and shall include the following:

a. Any oral or documentary evidence may be received by the Board of Education, but, as a matter of policy, irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded. In addition, other evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, suspension, or expulsion may be received for considering the length of an expulsion and the nature of the alternative educational opportunity, if any, to be offered;

b. The Board of Education shall give effect to the rules of privilege by law;

c. In order to expedite a hearing, evidence may be received in written form, provided the interest of any party is not substantially prejudiced thereby;

d. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts;

e. A party to an expulsion hearing may conduct cross-examination of witnesses where examination is required for a full and accurate disclosure of the facts;

f. The Board of Education may take notice of judicially cognizable facts in addition to facts within the Board's specialized knowledge provided, however, the

parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and an opportunity shall be afforded to any party to contest the material so noticed;

g. A stenographic record or tape-recording of any oral proceedings before the Board of Education at an expulsion hearing shall be made, provided, however, that a transcript of such proceedings shall be furnished upon request of a party, with the cost of such transcript to be paid by the requesting party. Findings of fact made by the Board after an expulsion hearing shall be based exclusively upon the evidence adduced at the hearing.

J. Expunging Records

Suspension:

Whenever a student is suspended pursuant to the provisions of this section, notice of the suspension and the conduct for which the student was suspended shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record.

Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or regional Board of Education if a student graduates from high school, or in the case of a suspension of a student for which the length of the suspension period is shortened or the suspension period is waived pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or regional board of education (1) if the student graduates from high school, or (2) if the administration so chooses, at the time the student completes the administration-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the administration pursuant to subsection (e) of Section 10-233d., whichever is earlier.

Expulsion:

Whenever a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included in the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion of a student in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in Section 29-38 of the general statutes.

1. shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board of Education if a student graduates from high school, or

2. may be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board of Education before a student graduates from high school if:

a. in the case of a sh1dent for which the length of the expulsion period is shortened or the expulsion period is waived pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) Section 10-233d., such Board determines that an expungement is warranted at the time such student completes the board-specified program and

meets any other conditions required by such Board pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of Section 10-233d. or

b. such student has demonstrated to such Board that the conduct and behavior of such student in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement. The Board of Education, in determining whether to expunge such notice, may receive and consider evidence of any subsequent disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of such student.

K. Notification

1. All students and parents within the jurisdiction of the Board of Education shall be informed, annually, of Board Policy governing student conduct by delivery to each said student of a written copy of said Board Policy.

2. The parents or guardian of any minor student either expelled or suspended shall be given notice of such disciplinary action no later than 24 hours of the time of the institution of the period of expulsion or suspension.

3. The notice of an expulsion hearing shall be given at least five (5) business days before such hearing to the student and his/her parents or guardians, if said student is less than 18 years of age shall include information concerning the parent's/guardian's and the student's legal rights and concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available (CT legal services as a source of such services) and how to access such services. The notification shall reference the maximum number of suspension days before the expulsion days proceed. 5 consecutive days for students in pre-school to second grade, I 0 consecutive days for students in grades 3-12, a statement that an attorney or other advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent/guardian of the student shall be notified of the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

L. Stipulated Agreements

In lieu of the procedures used in this section, the Administration and the parents (or legal guardians) of a student facing expulsion may choose to enter into a Joint Stipulation of the Facts and a Joint Recommendation to the Board concerning the length and conditions of expulsion. Such Joint Stipulation and Recommendation shall include language indicating that the parents (or legal guardians) understand their right to have an expulsion hearing held pursuant to these procedures, and language indicating that the Board, in its discretion, has the right to accept or reject the Joint Stipulation of Facts and Recommendation.

If the Board rejects either the Joint Stipulation of Facts or the Recommendation, an expulsion hearing shall be held pursuant to the procedures outlined herein. If the Student is eighteen years of age or older, the student shall have the authority to enter into a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation on his or her own behalf.

If the parties agree on the facts, but not on the disciplinary recommendation, the Administration and the parents (or legal guardians) of a student facing expulsion may also choose to enter into a Joint Stipulation of the Facts and submit only the Stipulation of the Facts to the Board in lieu of holding the first part of the hearing, as described above. Such Joint Stipulation shall include language indicating that the parents understand their right to have a hearing to determine whether the student engaged in the alleged misconduct and that the Board, in its discretion, has the right to accept or reject the Joint Stipulation of Facts. If the Board rejects the Joint Stipulation of Facts, a full expulsion hearing shall be held pursuant to the procedures outlined herein.

M. Students identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA")

If the Board of Education expels a student who has been identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), it shall off an alternative educational opportunity to such student in accordance with the requirements of IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time.

N. Procedures Governing Suspension and Expulsion of Students Identified as Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA")

A. Suspension of IDEA students

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Administration suspends a student identified as eligible for services under the IDEA (an "IDEA student") who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The administration shall make reasonable attempts to immediately notify the parents of the student of the decision to suspend on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mall to the parents on the date that the decision to suspend was made.

2. During the period of suspension, the school district is not required to provide any educational services to the IDEA student beyond that which is provided to all students suspended by the school district.

B. Expulsion and Suspensions that Constitute Changes in Placement for IDEA Students

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the administration recommends for expulsion an IDEA student who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the procedures described in this section shall apply. The procedures described in this section shall also apply to students whom the administration has suspended in a manner that is considered under the IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time, to be a change in placement:

1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to recommend for expulsion (or to suspend if a change in placement) on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mail to the parents on the date that the decision to recommend for expulsion (or to suspend if a change in placement) was made.

2. The school district shall immediately convene the student's planning and placement team ("PPT"), but in no case later than ten (10) school days after the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement was made.

The student's PPT shall consider the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion or suspension, which constitutes a change in placement, in order to determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.

3. If the student's PPT finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement.

4. If the student's PPT finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion or suspension that constitutes a change in placement.

5. During any period of expulsion or suspension of greater than ten (10) days per school year, the Administration shall provide the student with an alternative education program in accordance with the provisions of the IDEA.

6. When determining whether to recommend an expulsion or a suspension that constitutes a change in placement, the building administrator (or his or her designee) should consider the nature of the misconduct and any relevant educational records of the student.

C. Transfer of IDEA Students for Certain Offenses:

School personnel may transfer an IDEA student to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student:

1. Was in possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930(g)(2), as amended from time to time, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, or

2. Knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school or at a school-sponsored activity; or

3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

The following definitions shall be used for this subsection XII. C.

1. **Dangerous weapon** means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2.5 inches in length.

2. **Controlled substance** means a drug or other substance identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812(c).

3. **Illegal drug** means a controlled substance but does not include a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or under any other provision of federal law.

4. **Serious bodily injury** means a bodily injury which involves: (A) a substantial risk of death; (B) extreme physical pain; (C) protracted and obvious disfigurement; or (D) protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

O. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Identified as Eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504")

A. Except as provided in subsection B below, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the Administration recommends for expulsion a student identified as eligible for educational accommodations under Section 504 who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the school district that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to recommend the student for expulsion.

2. The district shall immediately convene the student's Section 504 team ("504 team") for the purpose of reviewing the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion. The 504 team will determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.

3. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration shall not proceed with the recommended expulsion.

4. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion.

B. The Board may take disciplinary action for violations pertaining to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol against any student with a disability who currently is engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol to the same extent that such disciplinary action is taken against nondisabled students. Thus, when a student with a disability is recommended for expulsion based solely on the illegal use or possession of drugs or

alcohol, the 504 team shall not be required to meet to review the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion.

P. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Committed to a Juvenile Detention Center

A. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this section. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement.

B. If a student who committed an expellable offense seeks to return to a school district after participating in a diversionary program or having been detained in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement and such student has not been expelled by the board of education for such offense under subdivision (A) of this subsection, the Board shall allow such student to return and may not expel the student for additional time for such offense.

Q. Alternative Educational Opportunity

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to offer any student under the age of sixteen (16) who is expelled, an alternative educational opportunity which shall be equivalent to alternative education, as defined, by C.G.S. 10-74j with an individualized learning plan, (1) if the Board provides such alternative education, or (2) in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of Education (by 8/15/17), which includes the kind of instruction to be provided and the number of hours to be provided, during the period of expulsion.

Any parent or guardian of such student who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an alternative educational opportunity shall not be subject to the provision of Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Any expelled student who is between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18), not previously expelled, and who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered such alternative educational opportunity if he or she complies with conditions established by the Board of Education. other than the one from which the student has been excluded.

Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the assignment of a student (who is seventeen (17) years of age or older) to any such adult education program or placement of such student in a regular classroom program of a school.

Any student participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under C.G.S. 10-184. In determining the nature of the alternative education opportunity to be offered under this Section, the Board of Education may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary issues that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion.

The Board of Education is not obligated to provide such alternative educational opportunity to any student eighteen years of age or older. The Board of Education is also required to offer such alternative educational opportunity, as defined, to any student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who is expelled because of conduct which endangers persons, and involved the following, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event:

1. Possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, or

2. Offering an illegal drug for sale or distribution.

3. If the Board expels a student for the sale or distribution of a controlled substance, the Board shall refer the student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. If a student is expelled for possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instruments (those that can be used to cause death or serious injury) or martial arts weapons the Board shall report the violation to the local police department.

4. This provision shall not apply to students requiring special education who are described in subdivision (I) of sub-section (e) of C.G.S. 10-76a. The alternative educational opportunity for any such student shall be established by the IEP team (PPT) in accordance with the procedures described above.

R. Other Considerations

1. If a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for the notice of an expulsion of a student in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board if the Board determines that the student's conduct and behavior in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement or if the student graduates from high school.

2. If a student's expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board.

3. If a student in grades preschool to eight, is expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board may expunge from the students' cumulative education record the notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled if the Board determines that the conduct and behavior of the student in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement.

4. The Board may adopt the decision of a student expulsion hearing conducted by another school district, provided such Board of Education held a hearing pursuant to C.G.S. 10-233d(a). Adoption of such decision shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of this Board. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative education opportunity in accordance with item K above.

5. Whenever a student against whom an expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school and after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record and (2) the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision.

6. A student expelled for possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon shall have the violation reported to the local police department.

7. The period of expulsion shall not extend beyond a period of one calendar year. A period of exclusion may extend into the next school year.

8. An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education/Superintendent of Schools (choose which). Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.

9. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by the local Board of Education. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement.

10. Prior to placing any student in an out-of-district placement due to the challenging behavior of such student, the Board of Education shall conduct a functional behavior assessment of such student and develop or update a behavioral intervention plan for such student.

A functional behavior assessment and a behavioral intervention plan shall not be required if the time required to conduct such assessment or develop or update such plan would put the safety of such student, any other student, or any staff at such student's school at risk.

Not later than two business days following the decision not to conduct such assessment, or develop, or update such plan for such student, the local or regional board of education shall file a notice with the Department of Education of the reasons that such assessment was not conducted or such plan was not developed or updated.

S. Change of Residence During Expulsion Proceedings

A. Student moving into the school district

1. If a student enrolls in the district while an expulsion hearing is pending in another district, such student shall not be excluded from school pending completion of the expulsion hearing unless an emergency exists, as defined above. The Board shall retain the authority to suspend the student or to conduct its own expulsion hearing.

2. Where a student enrolls in the district during the period of expulsion from another public school district, the Board may adopt the decision of the student expulsion hearing conducted by such other school district. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with statutory requirements. The Board shall make its determination based upon a hearing held by the Board, which hearing shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis of the previous public school district's expulsion would also warrant expulsion by the Board.

B. Student moving out of the school district:

Where a student withdraws from school after having been notified that an expulsion hearing is pending, but before a decision has been rendered by the Board, the notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative record and the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If the Board subsequently renders a decision to expel the student, a notice of the expulsion shall be included on the student's cumulative record.

T. Compliance with Documentation and Reporting Requirements

A. The Board of Education shall include in all disciplinary reports the individual student's state-assigned student identifier (SASID).

B. The Board of Education shall report all suspensions and expulsions to the State Department of Education.

C. If the Board of Education expels a student for sale or distribution of a controlled substance, the Board shall refer such student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training and inform the agency of its action.

D. If the Board of Education expels a student for possession of a deadly weapon or firearm, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §53a-3, the violation shall be reported to the local police.

Readmission of Student from a Residential Placement

A District student who has committed an expellable offense who seeks to return to a District school, after participating in a diversionary program or having been detained in a juvenile

detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement, for one year or more, in lieu of expulsion from the District, shall be permitted to return to the appropriate school setting within the District. Further, the District shall not expel the student for any additional time for the offense(s).

Students and parents shall be notified of this policy annually.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record, as amended

10-74j Alternative education (PA 15-133)

10-222d Safe school climate plans. Definitions. Safe school climate assessments.

10-233a through 10-233f Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, PA 07-66, PA 07-122, PA 08-160, PA 09-82, PA 09-6 (September Special Session), PA 10-111, PA 11-126, PA 14-229, PA 15-96, PA 16-147, PA 17-220, PA 19-91, PA 25-67 and PA 25-93.

10-2331Expulsion and suspension of children in preschool programs

19a-342a Use of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product prohibited.

29-38 Weapons in vehicles

53a-3 Definitions.

53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.

53-344b Sale and delivery of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor products to minors.

53-206 Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited.

PA 15-96 An Act Prohibiting Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions for Students in Preschool and Grades Kindergarten to Two.

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.

Title Ill - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)

Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994

P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendments of 1997.

Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.

P.L. 108-446 The individuals with Disabilities Education improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.

18 U.S.C. §921 - Definitions of "firearms"

18 U.S.C. §930(g)(2) - Definition of "dangerous weapon" 18 U.S.C. §1365(h)(3) - Identifying "serious bodily injury" 21 U.S.C. §812(c)- Identifying "controlled substances"

Public Act 24-45 An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief, School Discipline and Disconnected Youth, Sections 13-14

Public Act 24-93 An Act Concerning Various and Assorted Revisions to the Education Statutes, Section 11 and Section 12

Public Act 25-67 An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special

Education Services in Connecticut (Section 13)

Public Act 25-93 An Act Increasing Resources for Students, Schools and Special Education (Sections 38 & 39)

Public Act 26-1 An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers

Policy adopted: November 4, 2026

Students Policy

School Attendance Areas

The Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education shall establish attendance zone guidelines to facilitate educational programs and to use existing facilities most effectively. The Board of Education will establish and annually review and revise school district attendance areas based on educational needs of the students, enrollment needs, building capacity, and associated policies regarding student transportation and safety.

Attendance Outside of Assigned Area

Parents requesting that their children attend a school other than the one assigned must file a written statement to this effect. In general, permission or refusal of such a request will include consideration of whether or not:

1. there is room within the grade and/or school which the parent has requested.

2. parents will assume responsibility for transportation. There will be no new or additional financial, scheduling or administrative transportation burdens or costs to the District from the requested change. Parents may volunteer to be responsible for transportation of the student, but this shall be at their own risk and expense. The School District's transportation obligation to the student is limited to free public transportation to and from the school the student would normally attend under the Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education attendance area policies and administrative regulations.

3. the request is justified by good and sufficient cause, particularly educational or medical reasons that cannot be addressed at the assigned school. Supportive data, where necessary, such as recommendations from professional sources, must be provided by the parents or guardians, but do not guarantee approval of an attendance waiver.

OR

The request will enable the district to create more equitable class sizes at a given grade. Attendance waivers are exceptions. The following are <u>not</u> generally considered as valid reasons for waivers:

1. school of attendance of brothers, sisters or friends, unless a sibling is currently assigned to the same school.

2. place or time of employment of parents, guardians or students.

3. personal convenience of family or student.

Additionally:

1. Any student who begins any grade shall be allowed, upon written application, to finish that school year in the school where he/she started that year if the family has moved out of that school attendance area but within Regional School District 18.

2. All out of area assignments will be reviewed annually. Requests granted will remain in effect unless enrollment imbalances have occurred.

3. All requests will be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools.

4. The Superintendent of Schools will approve or disapprove all requests for attendance out of established school boundaries. The Superintendent will consult with appropriate school staff prior to making the decision.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

Policy Adopted: November 4, 2026