

Book Policy Manual

Section Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021

Title Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Code po2240

Status

Adopted December 18, 2017

2240 - **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic

- on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion.
- likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- A. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students;
- B. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view;
- C. encourages open-mindedness and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.

Controversial issues related to the program may be initiated by the students themselves provided they are presented in the ordinary course of classroom instruction and it is not substantially disruptive to the educational setting.

Controversial issues may not be initiated by a source outside the schools unless prior approval has been given by the principal.

When controversial issues have not been specified in the course of study, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues which

- have been approved by the Superintendent.
 - who shall report periodically such approval to the Board for their review.
- have been approved by the
 - principal.
 - department head.

In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express a personal opinion, but shall identify it as such, and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

No classroom teacher shall be prohibited from providing reasonable periods of time for activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No student shall be required to participate in such activities if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the student or his/her parents or guardians.

The Board acknowledges that it may not adopt any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs. ~~However, such exercise or expression () may () shall be limited to lunch periods or other noninstructional time periods when students are free to associate.~~

The Board also recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or activities conflicts with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for dealing with controversial issues and with parental concerns about program content or the use of particular materials.

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Legal

R.C. 3313.601

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY
Code	po2260.01
Status	
Adopted	December 18, 2017

2260.01 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended ("ADA"), and the implementing regulations (collectively "Section 504/ADA"), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Board of Education does not discriminate in admission or access to, or participation or treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board's policies and practices will not discriminate against students with disabilities and the Board will make its facilities, programs, and activities accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities. ~~will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities.~~ No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services, or learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

With respect to public preschool, elementary and secondary educational services, a qualified person with a disability means a disabled person:

- A. who is of an age during which nondisabled persons are provided educational services;
- B. who is of any age during which it is mandatory under Ohio law to provide educational services to disabled persons; or
- C. to whom the State is required to provide a free appropriate public education pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA).

With respect to vocational education services, a qualified person with a disability means a person with a disability ~~disabled person~~ who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the vocational program or activity. The Board will not deny a student with disabilities access to its vocational education programs or courses due to architectural and/or equipment barriers, or because the student needs related aids or services to receive an appropriate education.

Compliance Officer(s)

The Board designates the following individual(s) to serve as the District's 504 Compliance Officer(s)/ADA Coordinator(s) (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officer(s)").

[DRAFTING NOTE: ~~School Districts may want to consider appointing~~ Neola suggests the Board appoint both a male and a female District Compliance Officer in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. Additionally, by appointing two (2) District Compliance Officers, there should always be a Compliance Officer available to investigate a claim that pertains to the other Compliance Officer.]

(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually on the School District's web site () and:

- A. in the parent/student and staff handbooks.
- B. in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- C. ~~on the School District's web site.~~
- D. on each individual school's web site.
- E. in the School District's calendar.
- F. _____.

Building Principals shall serve as Building Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer(s) ("Building Compliance Officers").

The District Compliance Officer(s) is are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from the District Compliance Officer.

The District Compliance Officer(s) will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints.

The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA. See below. The Board will further establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards in accordance with Section 504, including the right to an impartial due process hearing. See AG 2260.01B.

Training

The District Compliance Officer(s) will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative guidelines and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.

The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.

Facilities

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, providing accommodations to parents with disabilities who desire access to their child's educational program or meetings pertinent thereto. Programs and activities will be designed and scheduled so that the location and nature of the facility or area will not deny a student with a disability the opportunity to participate on the same basis as students without disabilities.

Education

The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For ~~students with disabilities~~~~disabled students~~ who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEIA, the special education and related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form 2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan. The quality of education services provided to students with disabilities will be equal to the quality of services provided to students without disabilities.

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability who resides within the District with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home. If the Board operates a separate class or facility that is identifiable as being for persons with disabilities, the facility, program, and activities and services must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without a disability.

The Board will provide non-academic extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford qualified persons with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities. Non-academic and extracurricular services and activities may include counseling services, physical recreational athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the District, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to persons with disabilities, and employment of students. In providing or arranging for the provision of meals and recess periods, and non-academic and extracurricular services and activities, including those listed above, the District will verify that persons with disabilities participate with persons without disabilities in such services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate.

Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in education practices and the identity of the District's Compliance Officer(s) will be published on the District's website and posted throughout the District and ~~included~~~~published~~ in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

Complaint Procedures

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability, the person may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations ("Section 504"), parents and students will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of Section 504. In addition, students and their parents will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Finally, students and parents will be advised of their right to request a due process hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of persons with disabilities, and their right to examine relevant education records.

Internal complaints and requests for due process hearings must be put in writing and must identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint or the request for a hearing, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint or request for due process hearing must be filed with a District Compliance Officer within specified time limits. The District's Compliance Officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint or request.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Internal Complaint Procedures

An internal complaint may be filed by a student and/or parent. A student and/or parent may initiate the internal complaint procedure when s/he/they believe that a violation, misapplication or misinterpretation of Section 504 has occurred. Additionally, the following procedure may be used for any disagreement with respect to actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational program or placement of students who are identified as disabled or believed to be disabled pursuant to Section 504, and are not eligible under the IDEIA, except in the case of disciplinary actions where the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or requesting a due process hearing.

Step 1

Investigation by the Building Compliance Officer: A student or parent may initiate an investigation by filing a written internal complaint with the Building Compliance Officer. The complaint should fully describe the circumstances giving rise to the dispute and how the child is adversely affected. The complaint must be filed as soon as possible, but not longer than thirty (30) calendar days after disclosure of the facts giving rise to the complaint. The Building Compliance Officer shall conduct an impartial investigation of the complaint. As part of the investigation, the Building Compliance Officer shall permit the complainant to present witnesses and other evidence in support of the complaint. The investigation shall be completed within fifteen (15) ~~school~~ days of the written complaint being filed. The Building Compliance Officer will notify the complainant in writing of his/her decision.

Step 2

Appeal to the District Compliance Officer: If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily at Step 1, the student or parent may appeal the Building Compliance Officer's decision in writing to the District Compliance Officer. The appeal must be made within five (5) school days following receipt of the Building Compliance Officer's decision. The District Compliance Officer will review the case, may conduct an informal hearing, and will notify all parties in writing of his/her decision within ten (10) ~~school~~ days of receiving the appeal.

Step 3

If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily at Step 2, the student or parent may request a due process hearing, provided the complaint involves an issue related to the identification, evaluation, or placement of the student.

If it is determined that the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the Building and District ~~Compliance Officers~~ ~~COs~~ must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

OCR Complaint

At any time, if a student or parent believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The OCR can be reached at:

U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights

Cleveland Office
 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 325
 Cleveland, Ohio 44115
 (216) 522-4970
 FAX: (216) 522-2573
 TDD: (216) 522-4944
 E-mail: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov
 Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the OCR does not review the result of individual placement and other educational decisions, so long as the District complies with the "process" requirements of Subpart D of Section 504.

Retaliation

~~Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.~~

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

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Legal 29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
 34 C.F.R. Part 104
 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

Book	Policy Manual
Section	2000 Program
Title	NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
Code	po2266
Status	Active
Adopted	November 23, 2020

2266 - **NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX AND FORMAL COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES**

Introduction

The Board of Education of the School District (hereinafter referred to as "the Board" or "the District") does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), in its education programs or activities, and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to the enrollment of students and employment of District staff. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits Sexual Harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the District has actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this Policy. Board employees, students, third-party vendors and contractors, guests, and other members of the School District community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this Policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs and activities.

The Board has adopted a grievance process and procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations but does not fall within the definitions set forth below. The grievance process and procedures to be applied in those other instances are included in Policy 2260 (Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity). The grievance process and procedures in Policy 2266 specifically address how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination for Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond to allegations falling within the definitions contained within this Policy 2266.

Coverage

This Policy applies to Sexual Harassment that occurs within the District's education programs and activities and that is committed by a member of the School District community or a Third Party where the District has substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education's implementing regulations for Title IX, this Policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the Sexual Harassment occurs in the District's education programs or activities. Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States is governed by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws if committed by a Board employee.

Definitions

Words used in this Policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Sexual Harassment: "Sexual Harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- A. A Board employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (often called "quid pro quo" harassment);
- B. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
- C. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)A(v), or "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

"Sexual assault" means any forcible or non-forcible sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent, as classified under the Uniform Crime Reporting system of the FBI, to include:

1. Penetrative Sexual Assault – penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Attempts to commit penetrative sexual assault are also included within this definition.
2. Fondling – Kissing, touching of the private body parts of another person, causing another to touch one's private body parts, or disrobing of another for the purpose of sexual gratification without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
3. Incest – Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
4. Statutory Rape – Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.
5. "Consent" refers to words or actions that a reasonable person would understand as agreement to engage in the sexual conduct at issue. A person may be incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. A person who is incapacitated is not capable of giving consent.
6. "Incapacitated" refers to the state where a person does not understand and/or appreciate the nature or fact of sexual activity due to the effect of drugs or alcohol consumption, medical condition, disability, or due to a state of unconsciousness or sleep.

D. "Domestic violence" includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

1. a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
2. a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
3. a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
4. a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred; or
5. any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

E. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

F. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to either (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Complainant: "Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Respondent: "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Parties: "Parties" means the Complainant and the Respondent.

Formal Complaint: "Formal Complaint" means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation(s) of Sexual Harassment. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint with the District, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity. A "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal that the Board provides for this purpose) that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a Complainant or a party to the Formal Complaint and must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

Actual Knowledge: "Actual knowledge" means notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator or any Board employee except the Respondent. "Notice" includes, but is not limited to, a report of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This standard is not met when the only District official with actual knowledge is the Respondent.

Supportive Measures: "Supportive measures" means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate and reasonably available and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter Sexual Harassment or retaliation. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, school/campus escort services, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus (including school buildings and facilities) and other similar measures.

Education Program or Activity: "Education program or activity" refers to all operations of the District, including but not limited to in-person and online educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs, regardless of where they occur. It also includes locations, events and circumstances that take place off-school property/grounds over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs.

School District community: "School District community" refers to students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties: "Third Parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Inculpatory Evidence: "Inculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to establish a Respondent's responsibility for alleged Sexual Harassment.

Exculpatory Evidence: "Exculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to clear or exonerate a Respondent from responsibility for allegations of Sexual Harassment.

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this Policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Eligible Student: "Eligible Student" means a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Title IX Coordinator(s)

The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations:

Randy Banks
Assistant Superintendent-Operations
614-450-6000
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, OH 43085
rbanks@wscloud.org

Angie Adrean
Assistant Superintendent-Academics
614-450-6000
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, OH 43085
aadrean@wscloud.org

The Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent. Questions about this Policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall notify applicants for enrollment and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board of the following information:

The Board of the School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to enrollment or students and employment of staff. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

Randy Banks
Assistant Superintendent-Operations
614-450-6000
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, OH 43085
rbanks@wscloud.org

Angie Adrean
Assistant Superintendent-Academics
614-450-6000
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, OH 43085
aadrean@wscloud.org

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Superintendent shall also prominently display the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information – including name(s) and/or title(s), phone number(s), office address(es), and e-mail address(es) – and this Policy on the District's website and in each handbook or catalog that the Board makes available to applicants for enrollment and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements.

Grievance Process and Procedures

The Board is committed to promptly and equitably resolving student and employee complaints alleging Sexual Harassment. The District's response to allegations of Sexual Harassment will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, including providing supportive measures to the Complainant and Respondent, as appropriate, and following this Grievance Process before imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions, other than supportive measures, against the Respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator, along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

If a determination of responsibility for Sexual Harassment is made against the Respondent, the Board will provide remedies to the Complainant. The remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. Potential remedies include, but are not limited to, individualized services that constitute supportive measures. Remedies may also be disciplinary or punitive consequences imposed against a Respondent who violates this Policy.

Report of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment

Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the Title IX Coordinator's contact information listed above, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's oral or written report. Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours),

by using the telephone number(s) or electronic mail address(es), or by mail to the office address(es), listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

Students, Board members, and Board employees are required, and other members of the School District community, and Third Parties are encouraged, to report allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment promptly to the/a Title IX Coordinator or to any Board employee, who will in turn notify the/a Title IX Coordinator. Reports can be made orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es) of the sexual discrimination or harassment, and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a report involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the person making the report should submit it to the Superintendent, or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report. In that circumstance, the Superintendent will designate a qualifying individual to serve as the Title IX Coordinator.

The Board does business with various vendors, contractors, and other third-parties who are not students or employees of the Board. Notwithstanding any rights that a given vendor, contractor, or third-party Respondent may have under this Policy, the Board retains the right to limit any vendor's, contractor's, or third-party's access to school grounds for any reason. The Board further retains all rights it enjoys by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any vendor, contractor, or third-party irrespective of any process or outcome under this Policy.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a Formal Complaint. A person does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint with law enforcement authorities. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to Title IX may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at any time.

Any allegations of Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity not involving Sexual Harassment will be addressed through the procedures outlined in other Board policies and/or administrative guidelines, the applicable Student Code of Conduct, and applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Because the Board is considered to have actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment if any Board employee has such knowledge, and because the Board must take specific actions when it has notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment, a Board employee who has independent knowledge of or receives a report involving allegations of sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment must notify the/a Title IX Coordinator within two (2) days of learning the information or receiving the report. The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to R.C. 2151.412 and Policy 8462 – Student Abuse and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention and the reporting individual submitted a written complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator.

If a Board employee fails to report an incident of Sexual Harassment of which the Board employee is aware, the Board employee may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

When a report of Sexual Harassment is made, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) days of the Title IX Coordinator's receipt of the report of Sexual Harassment) contact the Complainant (including the parent/guardian if the Complainant is under 18 years of age or under guardianship) to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any provided supportive measures shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

Emergency Removal: Subject to limitations and/or procedures imposed by State and/or Federal law, the District may remove a student Respondent from its education program or activity on an emergency basis after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis. The purpose of the individualized safety and risk analysis is to determine whether the student Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment that justifies removal. If the District determines the student Respondent poses such a threat, it will so notify the student Respondent and the student Respondent will have an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. See Policy 5610 – Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Student, Policy 5610.03 – Emergency Removal of Students, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights.

If the Respondent is a non-student employee, the District may place the Respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

For all other Respondents, including other members of the School District community and Third Parties, the Board retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its school grounds and other properties at any time and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment or otherwise.

Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment

A Formal Complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information set forth above. If a Formal Complaint involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the Complainant should submit the Formal Complaint to the Superintendent, who will designate another person to serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for the limited purpose of implementing the grievance process and procedures with respect to that Formal Complaint.

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a Formal Complaint or signs a Formal Complaint, the District will follow its Grievance Process and Procedures, as set forth herein. Specifically, the District will undertake an investigation and objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of this grievance process.

It is a violation of this Policy for a Complainant(s), Respondent(s), and/or witness(es) to knowingly make false statements or knowingly submit false information during the grievance process, including intentionally making a false report of Sexual Harassment or submitting a false Formal Complaint. The Board will not tolerate such conduct, and any individual engaging in such conduct is subject to disciplinary consequences.

Timeline

The District will seek to conclude the grievance process, including resolving any appeals, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator offers informal resolution processes, the informal resolution processes may not be used by the Complainant or Respondent to unduly delay the investigation and determination of responsibility. The timeline, however, may be subject to a temporary delay of the grievance process or a limited extension for good cause with written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; and the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. The Title IX Coordinator will provide the parties with reasonable updates on the status of the grievance process.

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of the following to the parties who are known:

- A. Notice of the Board's grievance process, including any informal resolution processes;
- B. Notice of the allegations of misconduct that potentially constitutes Sexual Harassment as defined in this Policy, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice must:
 1. include a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
 2. inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence.
 3. inform the parties of any provision in the Student Code of Conduct, this Policy, and/or

Employee/Administrator Handbook that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, during the course of the investigation, the investigator becomes aware of allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the original notice provided to the parties, the investigator will notify the Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether the investigator should investigate the additional allegations; if the Title IX Coordinator decides to include the new allegations as part of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The District shall investigate the allegations in a Formal Complaint, unless the conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint:

- A. would not constitute Sexual Harassment (as defined in this Policy) even if proved;
- B. did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or
- C. did not occur against a person in the United States.

If one of the preceding circumstances exist, the Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss the Formal Complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses the Formal Complaint due to one of the preceding reasons, the District may still investigate and take action with respect to such alleged misconduct pursuant to another provision of an applicable code of conduct, Board policy, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

The Title IX Coordinator may dismiss a Formal Complaint, or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation:

- A. a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein;
- B. the Respondent is no longer enrolled in the District or employed by the Board; or
- C. specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.

If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a Formal Complaint or allegations therein, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.

Consolidation of Formal Complaints

The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of Sexual Harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of Sexual Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Where a grievance process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this Policy to the singular "party," "Complainant," or "Respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

Informal Resolution Process

Under no circumstances shall a Complainant be required as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, to waive any right to an investigation and adjudication of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. Similarly, no party shall be required to participate in an informal resolution process.

If a Formal Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator may offer to the parties an informal resolution process. If the parties mutually agree to participate in the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall designate a trained individual to facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication. The informal resolution process may be used at any time prior to the decisionmaker(s) reaching a determination regarding responsibility.

If the Title IX Coordinator is going to propose an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide to the parties a written notice disclosing:

- A. the allegations;
- B. the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations; and
- C. any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared and the prohibition on the use of statements made during the informal resolution meeting in the Formal Complaint process, unless such statements are independently obtained by the investigator or decision-maker.

Any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the Formal Complaint.

Before commencing the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall obtain from the parties their voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.

During the pendency of the informal resolution process, the investigation and adjudication processes that would otherwise occur have stayed and all related deadlines are suspended.

The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations that a Board employee or another adult member of the School District community or Third Party sexually harassed a student.

The informal resolution process is also not available to resolve allegations involving a sexual assault involving a student Complainant and a student Respondent.

Investigation of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment

In conducting the investigation of a Formal Complaint and throughout the grievance process, the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility is on the District.

In making the determination of responsibility, the decision-maker(s) is(are) directed to use the preponderance of the evidence standard. The decision-maker(s) is charged with considering the totality of all available evidence, from all relevant sources.

The District is not permitted to access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the party provides the District with voluntary, written consent to do so; if a student party is not an Eligible Student, the District must obtain the voluntary, written consent of the student's parent or legal guardian.

Similarly, the investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) may not require, allow, rely upon or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege in writing.

As part of the investigation, the parties have the right to:

- A. present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence; and
- B. have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The District may not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the Complainant or Respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding except as set forth herein.

The District establishes the following restrictions, which apply equally to both parties, regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings: the advisor may not engage in disruptive behavior during any meeting or related proceeding; the advisor may not be a witness in the proceeding; the advisor may not answer questions for any party or witness.

Board Policy 2461 – Recording of District Meetings Involving Students and/or Parents controls whether a person is allowed to audio record or video record any meeting or grievance proceeding.

Neither party shall be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

The District will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. The investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) must provide a minimum of two days' notice with respect to investigative interviews and other meetings.

Both parties shall have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the investigator will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and simultaneously send the report to each party and the party's advisor, if any, for their review and written response. The investigator shall also provide a copy of the report to the decision maker and the Title IX coordinator at that time. The investigator will send the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the decision-maker(s) issuing a determination regarding responsibility.

Determination of Responsibility

The Title IX Coordinator shall appoint a decision-maker(s) to issue a determination of responsibility. The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s).

During the ten-day period following issuance of the investigator's report, and before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

The decision maker may also make inquiries of any party or witness regarding additional information sought by the decision maker. In any such instance, the decision maker shall provide the additional information to the parties and allow them two days for their written review and response, all prior to the decision maker issuing a determination of responsibility.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

The determination regarding responsibility: The decision-maker will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker(s) must apply the preponderance of the evidence standard to each finding of fact and to the ultimate determination of whether a violation of this Policy exists.

The written determination will include the following content:

- A. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment pursuant to this Policy;
- B. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
- C. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. Conclusions regarding the application of the applicable code of conduct to the facts;
- E. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the decision-maker imposes on the Respondent(s), and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity should be provided by the District to the Complainant(s); and
- F. The procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) to appeal.

Disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a student Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this Policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), ranging from informal discipline (i.e., re-assignment, detention) to formal discipline (i.e., suspension/expulsion).

If the decision-maker(s) determines the student Respondent is responsible for violating this Policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. An authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedies and consequences in compliance with Policy 5600 – Student Discipline, Policy 5605 – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities, Policy 5610 – Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students, Policy 5601.01 – Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students, Policy 5610.02 – In-School Discipline, Policy 5610.03 – Emergency Removal of Students, Policy 5610.04 – Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges, Policy 5610.05 – Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights. Discipline of a student Respondent must comply with the applicable provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, and their respective implementing regulations, where applicable.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the employee Respondent is responsible for violating this Policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. An authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement the discipline in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual. Disciplinary sanctions/consequences that may be imposed on an employee Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this Policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment) range from verbal counseling up to and including termination of employment. Discipline of an employee will be implemented in accordance with Federal and State law, Board policy, and applicable provisions of any relevant collective bargaining agreement.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the third-party Respondent is responsible for violating this Policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including imposition of sanctions. Disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a non-student/non-employee member of the School District community or Third Party who is determined responsible for violating this Policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), ranging from oral or written warnings up to cancellation of contracts or restrictions from Board property. The Superintendent will take appropriate action based on the recommendation.

The decision-maker(s) will provide the written determination to the Title IX Coordinator, who will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.

In recommending a disciplinary sanction/consequence, the decision maker will consider the severity of the incident, previous disciplinary violations (if any), and any mitigating circumstances.

The District's resolution of a Formal Complaint ordinarily will not be impacted by the fact that criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

At any point in the grievance process and procedures, the Superintendent may involve local law enforcement and/or file criminal charges related to allegations of Sexual Harassment that involve a sexual assault.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

If the decision maker determines that Respondent did not engage in conduct in violation of this Policy 2266, the District may apply its other policies and codes of conduct to Respondent's actions.

Appeal

Both parties have the right to file an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, or from the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- A. A procedural irregularity occurred that affected the outcome of the matter (e.g., material deviation from established procedures);
- B. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- C. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) that affected the outcome of the matter.

The parties may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed under this Policy. However, a respondent retains all rights provided to them to under State law or any applicable collective bargaining agreement or statute.

Any party wishing to appeal the decision-maker's determination of responsibility, or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, must submit a written appeal to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) days after receipt of the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein.

As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not be the same person(s) as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator(s). The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) and shall receive the same training as required of other decision-makers.

Both parties shall have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

The parties' written statements in support of, or challenging, the determination of responsibility must be submitted within five days after the Title IX Coordinator provides notice to the non-appealing party of the appeal.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The original decision-maker's(s') determination of responsibility will stand if the appeal request is not filed in a timely manner or the appealing party fails to show clear error and/or a compelling rationale for overturning or modifying the original determination. The written decision will be provided to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide it simultaneously to both parties. The written decision will be issued within ten days of when the parties' written statements were submitted.

The determination of responsibility associated with a Formal Complaint, including any recommendations for remedies/disciplinary sanctions, becomes final when the time for filing an appeal has passed or, if an appeal is filed, at the point when the decision-maker(s) for the appeal's decision is delivered to the Complainant and the Respondent. No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

Retaliation

Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this Policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this Policy, constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a report of Sexual Harassment, filing a Formal Complaint, or participating in an investigation, is a serious violation of this Policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation related to a complaint of sexual harassment may be filed according to the grievance procedures set forth above. Complaints alleging retaliation related to a complaints of sexual discrimination must be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination under Board Policy 2260.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this Policy.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy shall not constitute retaliation; provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Confidentiality

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination pursuant to Board Policy 2260, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment under this Policy, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the Complainant's and Respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigative record and determination of responsibility). The Complainant and Respondent and their advisors will be advised of the identities of all parties, advisors, and witnesses and the evidence contributed.

Application of the First Amendment

The Board will construe and apply this Policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Training

The District's Title IX Coordinator, along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, must receive training on:

- A. the definition of Sexual Harassment (as that term is used in this Policy);
- B. the scope of the District's education program or activity;

- C. how to conduct an investigation and implement the grievance process, appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and
- D. how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interests, and bias.

All Board employees will be trained concerning their legal obligation to report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This training will include practical information about how to identify and report Sexual Harassment.

Recordkeeping

As part of its response to alleged violations of this Policy, the District shall create, and maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. In each instance, the District shall document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. If the District does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the District in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

The District shall maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years the following records:

- A. each Sexual Harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions recommended and/or imposed on the Respondent(s), and any remedies provided to the Complainant(s) designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity;
- B. any appeal and the result therefrom;
- C. any informal resolution and the result therefrom, and
- D. all materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.

The District will make its training materials publicly available on its website. If a person is unable to access the District's website, the Title IX Coordinator will make the training materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this Policy, including, but not limited to, investigator, decision maker, decision maker for appeals, and facilitator of informal resolution processes.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, and facilitator of informal resolution processes.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this Policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, and facilitator of informal resolution processes to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

Discretion in Application

The Board retains discretion to interpret and apply this Policy in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable, even if the Board's interpretation or application differs from the interpretation of any specific Complainant and/or Respondent.

Despite the Board's reasonable efforts to anticipate all eventualities in drafting and approving this Policy, it is possible unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances may not be specifically or reasonably addressed by the express Policy language, in which case the Board retains discretion to respond to the unanticipated or extraordinary circumstance in a way that is not clearly unreasonable.

The provisions of this Policy are not contractual in nature, whether in their own right, or as part of any other express or implied contract. Accordingly, the Board retains discretion to revise this Policy at any time, and for any reason. The Board may apply Policy revisions to an active case provided that doing so is not clearly unreasonable.

Legal

R.C. 3313.207/208/209, 5104

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX)

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)

42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq., Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.

42 U.S.C. 1983

34 C.F.R. Part 106

OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)

20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES
Code	po2266
Status	
Adopted	November 23, 2020

THIS IS THE UPDATED TEMPLATE FROM NEOLA TO COMPARE TO OUR ATTORNEY-REVIEWED POLICY THAT WAS JUST ADOPTED IN NOVEMBER 2020.

2266 - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES

Introduction

The Board of Education of the _____ School District (hereinafter referred to as "the Board" or "the District") does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), in its education programs or activities, and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment.

[DRAFTING NOTE: In the new Title IX regulations, the term "admission" refers to admission to postsecondary institutions (i.e., institutions of graduate higher education, institutions of undergraduate higher education, institutions of professional education, and institutions of vocational education); thus, if a K-12 school does not operate a vocational program (e.g., a school or institution that has as its primary purpose preparation of students to pursue a technical, skilled, or semiskilled occupation or trade, or to pursue study in a technical field, whether or not the school or institution offers certificates, diplomas, or degrees and whether or not it offers fulltime study), the K-12 school does not officially need to include "admission and" in the preceding sentence (and where that phrase is used throughout this policy); Neola, however, has elected to include it because all K-12 schools "enroll" students and often the term "enroll" is viewed as synonymous with the term "admit." Since K-12 schools cannot discriminate when enrolling students into the education programs or activities that they operate, it seems appropriate to include the term "admission."] The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits Sexual Harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the District has actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Board employees, students, third-party vendors and contractors, guests, and other members of the School District community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs and activities.

Coverage

This policy applies to Sexual Harassment that occurs within the District's education programs and activities and that is committed by a member of the School District community or a Third Party.

This policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs off school grounds, in a private setting, and outside the scope of the District's education programs and activities; such Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity may be prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws () and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) **[END OF OPTION]** if committed by a Board employee.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education's implementing regulations for Title IX, this policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the Sexual Harassment occurs in the District's education programs or activities. Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States is

governed by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative guidelines, applicable State and/or Federal laws () and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) **[END OF OPTION]** if committed by a Board employee.

Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Sexual Harassment: "Sexual Harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- A. A Board employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (often called "quid pro quo" harassment);
- B. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, **and** objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
- C. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)A(v), or "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

"Sexual assault" means any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent, and the "nonforcible" sex offenses of Incest and Statutory Rape. Sexual assault includes rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, fondling, incest, and statutory rape.

1. ~~**[DRAFTING NOTE: Select Option 1 or Option 2. While Neola is comfortable with Option 2, given that offenses 2 (sodomy) and 3 (sexual assault with an object) pick up parts of Option 1 that are not included in Option 2, Neola suggests the Board consult with its local legal counsel concerning which definition of "Rape" to adopt. By way of background, Option 1 represents the definition of "Rape" that is required by the Clery Act's regulations — i.e., the definition contained in the Summary Reporting System ("SRS") of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting ("UCR") Program. Unfortunately, the SRS is being faded out effective January 2021; at that time, the SRS is being replaced by the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which contains a different definition of "Rape" — i.e., the definition contained in Option 2. Additionally, it is relevant to note that the definitions of the remaining sexual assault offenses are already derived from the NIBRS's definitions. If a Board selects Option 1, it may be necessary to later update the policy to a new definition of "Rape" (i.e., the one contained in Option 2) once the SRS is retired. Alternatively, a Board could include both definitions to hopefully minimize the need to amend this policy — even on a technical amendment basis so soon after it is adopted. If a Board elects to include both definitions, it should include the following parentheticals: (a) at the end of Option 1: "(effective until the FBI retires the Summary Reporting System, which is scheduled for January 2021"; and (b) at the end of Option 2: "(effective upon retirement of the Summary Reporting System, which is scheduled for January 2021.""]**~~

~~**[] [OPTION 1]** Rape is penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Attempted rape is included. **[END OF OPTION 1]**~~

~~**[] [OPTION 2]** Rape is the carnal knowledge of a person (i.e., penetration, no matter how slight, of the genita or anal opening of a person), without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. **[END OF OPTION 2]**~~

2. Sodomy is oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
3. Sexual Assault with an Object is using an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. An "object" or "instrument" is anything used by the offender other than the offender's genitalia.
4. Fondling is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of

temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

5. Incest is **nonforcible** sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by State law.
6. Statutory Rape is **nonforcible** sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent as defined by State law.
7. Consent refers to words or actions that a reasonable person would understand as agreement to engage in the sexual conduct at issue. A person may be incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. A person who is incapacitated is not capable of giving consent. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Title IX regulations do not require the Board to adopt a particular definition of "consent," but it is advisable to adopt a definition because "consent" is an element of each of the first four terms listed above. Since there are a number of different definitions of consent from which to choose, the Board should consult its local legal counsel concerning selecting a specific definition of consent that represents its position on the topic; the investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) will then uniformly apply the adopted definition.]**
8. Incapacitated refers to the state where a person does not understand and/or appreciate the nature or fact of sexual activity due to the effect of drugs or alcohol consumption, medical condition, disability, or due to a state of unconsciousness or sleep. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Depending on the definition of "consent" that the Board adopts, it may be necessary to define "incapacitated" in the policy. If it is not defined in the policy, it should certainly be defined in the Administrative Guideline; even if defined in the policy, the Administrative Guideline provides an opportunity to expand on the concept of "consent" and what the Board means by the term "incapacitated."]**

D. "Domestic violence" includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

1. a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
2. a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
3. a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
4. a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred; or
5. any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

E. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

F. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to – (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Complainant: "Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Respondent: "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Formal Complaint: "Formal Complaint" means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation(s) of Sexual Harassment. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint with the District, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity. A "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal that the Board provides for this purpose) that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a Complainant or a party to the Formal Complaint and must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

Actual Knowledge: "Actual knowledge" means notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator, or any District official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the Board, or any Board employee. The mere ability or obligation to report Sexual Harassment or to inform a student about how to report Sexual Harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the District. "Notice" includes, but is not limited to, a report of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This standard is not met when the only District official with actual knowledge is the Respondent.

Supportive Measures: "Supportive measures" means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter Sexual Harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, school/campus escort services, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations), leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus (including school buildings and facilities), () referral to Employee Assistance Program **[END OF OPTION]**, and other similar measures.

Education Program or Activity: "Education program or activity" refers to all operations of the District, including but not limited to in-person and online educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all activity that occurs on school grounds or on other property owned or occupied by the Board. It also includes locations, events and circumstances that take place off-school property/grounds over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs.

School District community: "School District community" refers to students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties: "Third Parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Inculpatory Evidence: "Inculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to establish a Respondent's responsibility for alleged Sexual Harassment.

Exculpatory Evidence: "Exculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to clear or excuse a Respondent from allegations of Sexual Harassment.

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Eligible Student: "Eligible Student" means a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Title IX Coordinator(s)

The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations:

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola suggests the Board consider appointing both a male and a female Title IX Coordinator. The Board must list either the Name or Title of the Title IX Coordinator; while the Board may list both the Name and Title, Neola suggests that the Board consider only listing the Title in this policy (so it does not need to revise/amend its policy whenever there is a change in the actual person(s) holding the designated position(s)), but list both the Name and Title in the requisite postings (e.g., website) and publications (e.g., handbooks) () and in the Administrative Guideline.]

(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

The Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board of the following information:

The Board of the _____ School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

(Name)

(School District Title)

(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E-mail Address)

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process and procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process and procedures are included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available at: **[insert the web address at which Policy 2266 can be found; or insert a hyperlink tied to the title of the policy]** The grievance process and procedures specifically address how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.

The Superintendent shall also prominently display the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information – including name(s) and/or title(s), phone number(s), office address(es), and e-mail address(es) – and this policy on the District's website and in each handbook or catalog that the Board makes available to applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements.

Grievance Process and Procedures

The Board is committed to promptly and equitably resolving student and employee complaints alleging Sexual Harassment. The District's response to allegations of Sexual Harassment will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, including providing supportive measures to the Complainant and Respondent, as appropriate, and following this Grievance Process before imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions, other than supportive measures, against the Respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator(s), along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

If a determination of responsibility for Sexual Harassment is made against the Respondent, the Board will provide remedies to the Complainant. The remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. Potential remedies include, but are not limited to, individualized services that constitute supportive measures. Remedies may also be disciplinary or punitive in nature and may burden the Respondent.

Report of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment

Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information listed above, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's oral or written report. Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours), by using the telephone number(s) or electronic mail address(es), or by mail to the office address(es), listed for the Title IX Coordinator(s). () Anonymous reports may be submitted using [] the online reporting form posted at **[insert the web address for the reporting form, or insert a hyperlink tied to the phrase "online reporting form" [or] () the hotline reporting number ([insert phone number])**.

Students, Board members, and Board employees are required, and other members of the School District community, and Third Parties) are encouraged, to report allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment promptly to the/a Title IX Coordinator or to any Board employee, who will in turn notify the/a Title IX Coordinator. **[DRAFTING NOTE: All Board employees are mandatory reporters pursuant to the Title IX regulations. Existing policy, however, also requires students and Board members to report any information they have concerning allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment. Neola suggests that the Board continue this additional requirement in this policy, along with the language encouraging other individuals to make such reports; this will coincide with similar requirements that are imposed on Board members and students in other nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies. If the Board decides it does not want to go beyond the scope of the regulations for purposes of this policy, it should replace the first sentence of this paragraph with either of the following: "Board employees are required to report allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment promptly to the Title IX Coordinator." OR "Board employees are required, and other members of the School District community and Third Parties are encouraged, to report allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment promptly to the/a Title IX Coordinator or to any Board employee, who in turn will notify the/a Title IX Coordinator."]** Reports can be made orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a report involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the person making the report should submit it to the Superintendent, or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for purposes of addressing that report of Sexual Harassment. **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Superintendent is the Title IX Coordinator, substitute "Board President" in place of "Superintendent."]**

The Board does business with various vendors, contractors, and other third-parties who are not students or employees of the Board. Notwithstanding any rights that a given vendor, contractor, or third-party Respondent may have under this policy, the Board retains the right to limit any vendor's, contractor's, or third-party's access to school grounds for any reason. The Board further retains all rights it enjoys by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any vendor, contractor, or third-party irrespective of any process or outcome under this policy.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a Formal Complaint. A person does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to Title IX may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at any time.

Any allegations of Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity not involving Sexual Harassment will be addressed through the procedures outlined in Board policies () and/or administrative guidelines, **[END OF OPTION]** the applicable Student Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

Because the Board is considered to have actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment if any Board employee has such knowledge, and because the Board must take specific actions when it has notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment, a Board employee who has independent knowledge of or receives a report involving allegations of sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment must notify the/a Title IX Coordinator within two (2) days of learning the information or receiving the report. **DRAFTING NOTE: The regulations do not specify within how many days the Board employee must notify the Title IX Coordinator of receiving a report of Sexual Harassment; Neola suggests "two (2) days". Alternatively, the Board could make this language more open-ended – e.g., "* * * must immediately/promptly notify the/a Title IX Coordinator of such information or report."]** The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to R.C. 2151.412 and Policy 8462 – Student Abuse and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention and the reporting individual submitted a written complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator.

If a Board employee fails to report an incident of Sexual Harassment of which the Board employee is aware, the Board employee may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

When a report of Sexual Harassment is made, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) days **DRAFTING NOTE: The regulations do not define "promptly" or otherwise specify within how many days the contact has to be made; Neola suggests "two (2) days".]** of the Title IX Coordinator's receipt of the report of Sexual Harassment) contact the Complainant (including the parent/guardian if the Complainant is under 18 years of age or under guardianship) to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any supportive measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

Emergency Removal: Subject to limitations and/or procedures imposed by State and/or Federal law, the District may remove a student Respondent from its education program or activity on an emergency basis after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis. The purposes of the individualized safety and risk analysis is to determine whether the student Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment that justifies removal. If the District determines the student Respondent poses such a threat, it will so notify the student Respondent and the student Respondent will have an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. See Policy 5610 – Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Student, Policy 5610.03 – Emergency Removal of Students, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may substitute "Superintendent" or "Title IX Coordinator" in place of "District" in the first sentence. Alternatively, the Superintendent could designate, through the administrative guideline, one or more administrators, including the Title IX Coordinator, to make emergency removal decisions after conducting the individualized safety and risk analysis. In Ohio, emergency removals may only be imposed in the manner delineated in ORC 3313.66. Additionally, emergency removals must be conducted in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.]**

If the Respondent is a non-student employee, the District may place the Respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

For all other Respondents, including other members of the School District community and Third Parties, the Board retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its school grounds and other properties at any time and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment or otherwise.

Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment

A Formal Complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information set forth above () and by _____ **DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may set forth additional method(s) by which a Formal Complaint may be filed (e.g., online portal submission).**] If a Formal Complaint involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the Complainant should submit the Formal Complaint to the Superintendent, who will designate another person to serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for the limited purpose of implementing the grievance process and procedures with respect to that Formal Complaint. **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Superintendent is the Title IX Coordinator, substitute "Board President" in place of "Superintendent" in the preceding sentence.]**

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a Formal Complaint or signs a Formal Complaint, the District will follow its Grievance Process and Procedures, as set forth herein. Specifically, the District will undertake an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

It is a violation of this policy for a Complainant(s), Respondent(s), and/or witness(es) to knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process, including intentionally making a false report of Sexual Harassment or submitting a false Formal Complaint. The Board will not tolerate such conduct, which is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct () and the Employee/Administrator Handbook. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should confirm/verify that its Student Code of Conduct and any Employee/Administrator Handbook(s) include a prohibition against intentionally making a false report, submitting a false Formal Complaint, or making a false statement or submitting false information during a Title IX grievance process. Such misconduct should be a sanctionable offense pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct and Employee/Administrator Handbook(s).]**

The Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

Timeline

The District will seek to conclude the grievance process, including resolving any appeals, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Title IX regulations do not specify a deadline for completing the grievance process; Neola suggests sixty (60) days (i.e., twelve (12) weeks) based on the following considerations: (1) within two (2) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator sends requisite notice to parties; (2) two (2) weeks (fourteen (14) calendar days) to investigate (remember the need for advance written notice to a party and adequate time for the party to prepare before any interviews/hearings/meetings; time for parties to present witnesses (including expert witnesses) and other inculpatory or exculpatory evidence); (3) at the conclusion of the investigation and before finalizing the investigative report, two (2) weeks (a minimum of ten (10) calendar days) for the parties to review the evidence and submit their feedback; (4) up to a week (i.e., seven (7) calendar days) for the investigator to consider such feedback and prepare the investigative report; (4) two (2) week (a minimum of ten (10) calendar days) for the parties to review the investigative report and submit questions and receive answers to questions submitted to parties and witnesses (if the Board permits hearings, the hearing cannot occur until the Complainant and Respondent have had a minimum of ten (10) calendar days to review the investigative report); (5) a week (i.e., seven (7) calendar days) for the decision-maker(s) to prepare the decision; (6) up to a week (Neola suggests three to five calendar days) for the parties to review the decision and submit a notice of appeal; (7) a week (seven (7) calendar days) for the parties to submit their written statements in support of or in opposition to the appeal; and (8) a week (seven (7) calendar days) for the appeal decision-maker(s) to prepare a final decision. Any informal resolution process could impact this schedule. Given this fairly aggressive timeline, the Board may want to remove the appeal process from this timeline – i.e., delete the phrase "including resolving any appeals," from the sentence, which would allow more time for potential use of the informal resolution process. Further, the preceding schedule does not provide time for a hearing that could further extend the timeline needed to complete the grievance process.]**

If the Title IX Coordinator offers informal resolution processes, the informal resolution processes may not be used by the Complainant or Respondent to unduly delay the investigation and determination of responsibility. The timeline, however, may be subject to a temporary delay of the grievance process or a limited extension for good cause with written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; and the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should consult with its local legal counsel on a case-by-case basis to determine whether there may be other reasons/good cause for a delay or extension of time – e.g., the complexity and severity of the matter, or school breaks.]** () The Title IX Coordinator will provide the parties with reasonable updates on the status of the grievance process.

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of the following to the parties who are known:

- A. Notice of the Board’s grievance process, including any informal resolution processes;
- B. Notice of the allegations of misconduct that potentially constitutes Sexual Harassment as defined in this policy, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice must:
1. include a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
 2. inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence.
 3. inform the parties of any provision in the Student Code of Conduct (), this policy, () and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook **[DRAFTING NOTE: While the Title IX regulations only reference “code of conduct” Neola suggests that the Board reference other applicable documents that expressly prohibit an individual from making false statements or knowingly submitting false information as part of the grievance process]** that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Title IX regulations do not define “upon receipt” or otherwise specify within how many days the notice must be sent; Neola suggests the Title IX Coordinator send the notice within “two (2) days” of receipt of the Formal Complaint; this suggestion is memorialized in the corresponding Administrative Guideline. Please note, however, that it could be argued that the notice should be sent sooner. Regardless, the Title IX Coordinator should have a template notice form available that can be quickly completed with the requisite information after receipt of the Formal Complaint.]

If, during the course of the investigation, the investigator becomes aware of allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the original notice provided to the parties, the investigator will notify the Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether the investigator should investigate the additional allegations; if the Title IX Coordinator decides to include the new allegations as part of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The District shall investigate the allegations in a Formal Complaint, unless the conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint:

- A. would not constitute Sexual Harassment (as defined in this policy) even if proved;
- B. did not occur in the District’s education program or activity; or
- C. did not occur against a person in the United States.

If one of the preceding circumstances exist, the Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss the Formal Complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses the Formal Complaint due to one of the preceding reasons, the District may still investigate and take action with respect to such alleged misconduct pursuant to another provision of an applicable code of conduct, Board policy, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

The Title IX Coordinator may dismiss a Formal Complaint, or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation () or hearing **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select this option if the Board permits hearings.]**:

- A. a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein;
- B. the Respondent is no longer enrolled in the District or employed by the Board; or
- C. specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.

If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a Formal Complaint or allegations therein, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.

Consolidation of Formal Complaints

The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of Sexual Harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of Sexual Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Where a grievance process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this policy to the singular "party," "Complainant," or "Respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may adopt provisions, rules, or practices other than those required by the Title IX regulations as part of its grievance process for handling Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment, provided they apply equally to both parties and do not violate the language in the regulations. The Board should discuss this option with its local legal counsel.]

Informal Resolution Process

Under no circumstances shall a Complainant be required as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, to waive any right to an investigation and adjudication of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. Similarly, no party shall be required to participate in an informal resolution process.

If a Formal Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator may offer to the parties an informal resolution process. If the parties mutually agree to participate in the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall designate a trained individual to facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication. The informal resolution process may be used at any time prior to the decision-maker(s) reaching a determination regarding responsibility.

If the Title IX Coordinator is going to propose an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide to the parties a written notice disclosing:

- A. the allegations;
- B. the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations; and
- C. any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the Formal Complaint.

Before commencing the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall obtain from the parties their voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.

During the pendency of the informal resolution process, the investigation and adjudication processes that would otherwise occur have stayed and all related deadlines are suspended.

The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations that a Board employee () or another adult member of the School District community or Third Party **[END OF OPTION]** sexually harassed a student. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Title IX regulations prohibit the use of an informal resolution process when the allegations involve a Board employee sexually harassing a student; Neola suggests that it also may not be appropriate to use informal resolution processes when a Third Party is alleged to have sexually harassed a student. Since this is not a requirement, it is offered as an option. If the optional language is not selected, the Board retains the discretion to use informal resolution processes as may be determined appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.]**

[] The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations involving a sexual assault involving a student Complainant and a student Respondent. **[DRAFTING NOTE: While this language is not required by the Title IX regulations, Neola suggests the Board select this option because of the severity of this type of Sexual Harassment.]**

Investigation of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment

In conducting the investigation of a Formal Complaint and throughout the grievance process, the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility is on the District, not the parties.

In making the determination of responsibility, the decision-maker(s) is(are) directed to use the () preponderance of the evidence standard () clear and convincing evidence standard. The decision-maker(s) is charged with considering the totality of all available evidence, from all relevant sources.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola suggests the Board adopts the "preponderance of the evidence standard." The preponderance of the evidence standard is an equitable standard of proof and the legal standard by which most civil lawsuits, including civil rights claims, are adjudicated in the United States. This standard requires the decision-maker(s) to determine that there is a greater than fifty percent (50%) likelihood (i.e., it is more probable/likely than not) that the Respondent engaged in the alleged Sexual Harassment. The "clear and convincing evidence standard," on the other hand, is a higher standard of evidence, in which the District would need to show to the decision-maker(s) that the truth of the allegations is highly probable (i.e., that the contention is substantially more likely to be true than untrue). Some argue that using the clear and convincing standard may skew the playing field toward the Respondent by enhancing protection for the Respondent at the expense of the Complainant. The same standard of evidence must be applied for Formal Complaints against students as is applied to Formal Complaints against employees, and the same standard of evidence must be used for all Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment.]

The District is not permitted to access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the party provides the District with voluntary, written consent to do so; if a student party is not an Eligible Student, the District must obtain the voluntary, written consent of a parent.

Similarly, the investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) may not require, allow, rely upon or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege in writing.

As part of the investigation, the parties have the right to:

- A. present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence; and
- B. have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The District may not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the Complainant or Respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding.

() The District establishes the following restrictions, which apply equally to both parties, regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings:

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should consult with its local legal counsel concerning any restrictions it may want to place on an advisor's participation in the proceedings, including rules of decorum. This topic is also addressed in Administrative Guideline 2266.]

() Board Policy 2461 – Recording of District Meetings Involving Students and/or Parents controls whether a person is allowed to audio record or video record any meeting or grievance proceeding.

Neither party shall be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

The District will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all () hearings, **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select this option if the Board permits hearings.]** investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. () The investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) must provide a minimum of ____ days' notice with respect to investigative interviews and other meetings () and ____ days' notice with respect to hearings **[END OF OPTION]**. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should consult with its local legal counsel concerning whether to set a minimum amount of advance notice – i.e., define "sufficient time"; Neola suggests a minimum of three (3) days' advanced notice for hearings and one (1) day's advanced notice for investigative interviews and other meetings.]**

Both parties shall have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the investigator Title IX Coordinator will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should select the following option if it provides for a hearing before the decision-maker]** The District will make all such evidence subject to the parties' inspection and review available at any hearing to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing, including for purposes of cross-examination.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and send the report to each party and the party's advisor, if any, for their review and written response. The investigator will send the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, at least ten (10) calendar days prior to **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select one of the following two options. The Board should select the second option if it is providing a hearing or permitting the decision-maker(s) to decide whether to conduct a hearing on a case-by-case basis.]**

the decision-maker(s) issuing a determination regarding responsibility.

a hearing or the decision-maker(s) issuing a determination regarding responsibility.

Determination of Responsibility

The Title IX Coordinator shall appoint a decision-maker(s) to issue a determination of responsibility. The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator(s) or the investigator(s).

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may, but need not, provide for a hearing before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination of responsibility. Neola suggests that the Board not provide for a hearing. If the Board decides not to provide for a hearing, the Board should select OPTION 1; if the Board elects to provide a hearing or to provide the decision-maker(s) with the discretion to conduct a hearing on a case-by-case basis, the Board should select OPTION 2. Additionally, if the Board operates a vocational program [see the Drafting Note contained in the first paragraph of the Introduction for a definition of "vocational program"], Neola suggests that the Board consult its local legal counsel concerning whether it must provide for a live hearing related to Formal Complaints involving parties associated with the vocational program. If the Board determines, in consultation with its legal counsel, that it must provide for a live hearing, it should select Option E of OPTION 2, at least with respect to Formal Complaints involving parties involved in the vocational program (i.e., it does not need to provide for a live hearing for its regular K-12 education programs and activities that it operates.)

[] OPTION 1

After the investigator sends the investigative report to the parties and the decision-maker(s), and before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

[END OF OPTION 1]

[] OPTION 2

After the investigator sends the investigative report to the parties and the decision-maker(s), and prior to the decision-maker(s) issuing a determination of responsibility, the decision-maker(s) may will conduct a hearing.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Select Option A or Option B. If the Board selects "may," it should select Option A; if it selects "will," it should select Option B.]

[] Option A

If the decision-maker(s) decides not to conduct a hearing, the decision-maker(s) will state in writing the reason for not conducting a hearing and provide that explanation to the parties. Additionally, before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

If the decision-maker(s) elects to conduct a hearing, the hearing will proceed as follows:

[END OF OPTION A]

[] Option B

The hearing will proceed as follows:

[END OF OPTION B]

[DRAFTING NOTE: Select Option C or Option D or Option E; Neola suggests Option C]

[] Option C

At the hearing, the decision-maker(s) will allow each party or each party's advisor to submit relevant questions to the decision-maker(s) who will ask the questions to the other party and any witnesses. Before a Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant. Only relevant cross-examination and other questions, including follow-up questions and questions challenging credibility, will be permitted. Such cross-examination and questioning at the live hearing shall be conducted orally and in real time.

[] If a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the District will provide, without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the District's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to submit questions on behalf of that party.

[END OF OPTION C]

[] Option D

Prior to commencing the hearing, the decision-maker(s) will decide whether to allow each party's advisor to ask questions directly of the other party and any witnesses, or instead to have the questions submitted to the decision-maker(s) who will ask the other party and any witnesses the questions.

If the decision-maker(s) permits each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses relevant questions and follow-up questions, including questions challenging credibility, such cross-examination at the hearing will be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally. If the decision-maker(s) permit each party's advisor to ask questions directly to the other party and any witnesses, the decision-maker(s) shall not restrict the extent to which advisors may participate in the hearing.

If, on the other hand, the decision-maker(s) decides to have each party's advisor (or the party, if the party does not have an advisor) submit relevant questions to the decision-maker(s), the decision-maker will ask the questions to the other party and any witnesses. Such cross-examination at the hearing will be conducted orally and in real time by the decision-maker(s) based upon questions submitted by a party's advisor or the party.

Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness. Before a Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

If the decision-maker(s) permits the parties' advisors to ask the questions directly, and a party does not have an advisor present at the live hearing, the District will provide, without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the District's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.

[] If the decision-maker(s) decides not to have the parties' advisors ask the questions directly, and a party does not have an advisor present at the hearing, the District will provide, without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the District's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to submit questions on behalf of that party.

[END OF OPTION D]

[] Option E

At the hearing, the decision-maker(s) shall permit each party's advisor to ask the other party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. Such cross-examination at the hearing must be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the party's advisor of choice and never by a party personally; notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this policy, the decision-maker shall not restrict the extent to which advisors may participate in the hearing.

Only relevant cross-examination and other questions may be asked of a party or witness. Before a Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or other question, the decision-maker(s) must first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

If a party does not have an advisor present at the hearing, the District will provide, without fee or charge to that party, an advisor of the District's choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, to conduct cross-examination on behalf of that party.

[END OF OPTION E]

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination at the hearing, the decision-maker(s) must not rely on any statement of that party or witness in reaching a determination regarding responsibility; provided, however, that the decision-maker(s) cannot draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.

Hearings may be conducted with all parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at the discretion of the () decision-maker(s) () Title IX Coordinator(s), any or all parties, witnesses, and other participants may appear at the hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other. At the request of either party, the decision-maker shall provide for the hearing to occur with the parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision-maker(s) and parties to simultaneously see and hear the party or witness answering questions. The District will create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of any hearing and make it available to the parties for inspection and review.

[END OF OPTION 2]

Determination regarding responsibility: The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker(s) must apply the () preponderance of the evidence standard () clear and convincing evidence standard. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Be sure to select the evidence standard selected previously (i.e., above).]**

The written determination will include the following content:

- A. identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment pursuant to this policy;
- B. a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, [and] methods used to gather other evidence, () and hearings held; **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should only select this option if it permits hearings.]**
- C. findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. conclusions regarding the application of the applicable code of conduct to the facts;
- E. a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the decision-maker(s) is recommending that the District impose on the Respondent(s), and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity should be provided by the District to the Complainant(s); and
- F. the procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) to appeal.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a student Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. Informal Discipline

1. writing assignments;
2. changing of seating or location;
3. pre-school, lunchtime, after-school detention;
4. in-school discipline;
5. Saturday school;

B. Formal Discipline

1. suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges;
2. removal from co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activity(ies), including athletics;
3. emergency removal;
4. suspension for up to ten (10) school days;
5. expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days or the number of school days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater;
6. expulsion for up to one (1) year;
7. permanent exclusion; and
8. any other sanction authorized by the Student Code of Conduct.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the student Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedy(ies) in compliance with Policy 5600 – Student Discipline, Policy 5605 – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities, Policy 5610 – Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students, Policy 5601.01 – Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students, Policy 5610.02 – In-School Discipline, Policy 5610.03 – Emergency Removal of Students, Policy 5610.04 – Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges, Policy 5610.05 – Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights. Discipline of a student Respondent must comply with the applicable provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, and their respective implementing regulations.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on an employee Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. oral or written warning;
- B. written reprimands;
- C. performance improvement plan;
- D. required counseling;
- E. required training or education;
- F. demotion;
- G. suspension with pay;
- H. suspension without pay;
- I. termination, and any other sanction authorized by any applicable Employee/Administrator Handbook and/or collective bargaining agreement.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the employee Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedy(ies) in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should review applicable policy(ies)/administrative guidelines/employee handbooks to determine whether changes are needed to stated timelines related to imposition of discipline as result of possible delays caused by the Board's obligation to follow this grievance process and procedures; likewise, the Board may need to discuss with union representatives how implementation of this grievance process and procedures may impact any disciplinary provisions contained in applicable collective bargaining (e.g., timelines, permitted attendees at investigative interviews, etc.).]**

Discipline of an employee will be implemented in accordance with Federal and State law, Board policy, and applicable provisions of any relevant collective bargaining agreement.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a non-student/non-employee member of the School District community or Third Party who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. oral or written warning;
- B. suspension or termination/cancellation of the Board's contract with the third-party vendor or contractor;
- C. mandatory monitoring of the third-party while on school property and/or while working/interacting with students;
- D. restriction/prohibition on the third-party's ability to be on school property; and
- E. any combination of the same.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the third-party Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including imposition of sanctions. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so appropriate action can be taken.

The decision-maker(s) will provide the written determination to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.

In ultimately, imposing a disciplinary sanction/consequence, the Superintendent will consider the severity of the incident, previous disciplinary violations (if any), and any mitigating circumstances.

The District's resolution of a Formal Complaint ordinarily will not be impacted by the fact that criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

At any point in the grievance process and procedures, the Superintendent may involve local law enforcement and/or file criminal charges related to allegations of Sexual Harassment that involve a sexual assault.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

Appeal

Both parties have the right to file an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, or from the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- A. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter (e.g., material deviation from established procedures);
- B. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- C. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) that affected the outcome of the matter.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may insert additional grounds on which an appeal may be filed.]

- D. The recommended remedies (including disciplinary sanctions/consequences) are unreasonable in light of the findings of fact (i.e., the nature and severity of the Sexual Harassment).

E. () _____

The Complainant(s) may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed.

Any party wishing to appeal the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility, or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, must submit a written appeal to the Title IX Coordinator within ____ (____) days after receipt of the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein. **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Board indicated above an intent to ordinarily complete the grievance process, including any appeal, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint, Neola suggests that the deadline for submitting a written appeal be set at "within () three (3) () five (5) days" of the appealing party's receipt of the decision-makers(s)' determination of responsibility.]**

Nothing herein shall prevent the Superintendent from ~~implementing appropriate remedies, however, excluding imposing any remedy, including~~ disciplinary sanction, while the appeal is pending.

As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not be the same person(s) as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator(s). The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) and shall receive the same training as required of other decision-makers.

Both parties shall have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select OPTION 1, OPTION 2, OPTION 3, or OPTION 4.]**

[OPTION 1] The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall determine when each party's written statement is due. **[END OF OPTION 1]**

[OPTION 2] The parties' written statements in support of, or challenging, the determination of responsibility must be submitted within ____ days after the Title IX Coordinator provides notice to the non-appealing party of the appeal. **[END OF OPTION 2]**

[OPTION 3] The appealing party's written statement must be submitted within ____ days after the Title IX Coordinator receives notice of the appeal. The other party's written statement must be submitted within ____ days after the Title IX Coordinator provides that party a copy of the appealing party's written statement. () The appealing party will have ____ days to submit a rebuttal to the other party's written statement. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola does not suggest that the Board select this extra option.] [END OF OPTION 3]**

[OPTION 4] Specifically, the appealing party must submit with the notice of appeal a written statement challenging the determination of responsibility. The nonappealing party shall have up to ____ days after receipt of the appealing party's written statement to submit his/her written statement in support of the determination of responsibility. **[END OF OPTION 4]**

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Board indicated above an intent to ordinarily complete the grievance process, including any appeal, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint, Neola suggests that the deadline for both parties to submit a written statement pursuant to OPTION 2 be set at "within five (5) days" of the Title IX Coordinator providing notice to the non-appealing party of the appeal. If the Board selects OPTION 3, Neola suggests that the party's respective written statements be submitted within three (3) days of the triggering event (i.e., submission of the notice of appeal for the appealing party, and receipt of the appealing party's written statement for the nonappealing party), and if the Board selects the extra option in OPTION 3, Neola suggests the appealing party only have two (2) days after receipt of the non-appealing party's written statement to submit the rebuttal. Alternatively, in order to expedite the appeal, the Board could select OPTION 4 and require the appealing party to submit his/her written statement challenging the determination of responsibility at the same time s/he submits his/her notice of appeal. The nonappealing party would then be permitted to submit a written statement in support of the determination of responsibility within the same number of days that the appealing party had to submit the notice of appeal/statement challenging the determination of responsibility (e.g., three or five days, depending on the appeal deadline selected above).]

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The original decision-makers(s)' determination of responsibility will stand if the appeal request is not filed in a timely manner or the appealing party fails to show clear error and/or a compelling rationale for overturning or modifying the original determination. The written decision will be provided to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide it simultaneously to both parties. The written decision will be issued within ____ days of when the parties' written statements were submitted. **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Board indicated above an intent to ordinarily complete the grievance process, including any appeal, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint, Neola suggests that the deadline for the decision-maker(s) of the appeal to issue the**

final decision be set at "within five (5) days" of the date the parties submitted their written statements, or the date a last written statement is submitted pursuant to Option 3 or Option 4.]

The determination of responsibility associated with a Formal Complaint, including any recommendations for remedies/disciplinary sanctions, becomes final when the time for filing an appeal has passed or, if an appeal is filed, at the point when the decision-maker(s) for the appeal's decision is delivered to the Complainant and the Respondent. () No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

Retaliation

Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a report of Sexual Harassment, filing a Formal Complaint, or participating in an investigation () and/or hearing **[DRAFT NOTE: Select this option if the Board permits hearings.]** is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy shall not constitute retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Confidentiality

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the Complainant's and Respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigative record and determination of responsibility).

Application of the First Amendment

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution () and the principles of academic freedom as set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement. In no case will a Respondent be found to have committed Sexual Harassment based on expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment () and/or the principles of academic freedom specified in the Board's collective bargaining agreement with its teachers.

Training

The District's Title IX Coordinator, along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, must receive training on:

- A. the definition of Sexual Harassment (as that term is used in this policy);
- B. the scope of the District's education program or activity;
- C. how to conduct an investigation and implement the grievance process () that includes hearings, **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select this option if the Board permits hearings.]** appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and
- D. how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interests, and bias.

All Board employees will be trained concerning their legal obligation to report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This training will include practical information about how to identify and report Sexual Harassment. **[DRAFTING NOTE: While the Title IX regulations do not specifically require this training, it is critical that the Board train all of the employees concerning this legal obligation since the Board will be considered to have “actual knowledge” of Sexual Harassment if any Board employee has notice of such conduct.]**

Recordkeeping

As part of its response to alleged violations of this policy, the District shall create, and maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. In each instance, the District shall document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District’s education program or activity. If the District does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the District in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

The District shall maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years the following records:

- A. each Sexual Harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility () and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript that is made of any hearing **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select this option if the Board permits live hearings.]**, any disciplinary sanctions recommended and/or imposed on the Respondent(s), and any remedies provided to the Complainant(s) designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District’s education program or activity
- B. any appeal and the result therefrom
- C. any informal resolution and the result therefrom, and
- D. all materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decisionmakers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.

The District will make its training materials publicly available on its website. () If a person is unable to access the District’s website, the Title IX Coordinator will make the training materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this policy, including, but not limited to, Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor, to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following option expressly sets forth authority that the Board has regardless of whether it is included in this policy, but is offered for those boards of education that may want to affirmatively communicate to/address these issues for readers of this policy.]

Discretion in Application

The Board retains discretion to interpret and apply this policy in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable, even if the Board’s interpretation or application differs from the interpretation of any specific Complainant and/or Respondent.

Despite the Board’s reasonable efforts to anticipate all eventualities in drafting this policy, it is possible unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances may not be specifically or reasonably addressed by the express policy language, in which case the Board retains discretion to respond to the unanticipated or extraordinary circumstance in a way that is not clearly unreasonable.

The provisions of this policy are not contractual in nature, whether in their own right, or as part of any other express or implied contract. Accordingly, the Board retains discretion to revise this policy at any time, and for any reason. The Board may apply policy revisions to an active case provided that doing so is not clearly unreasonable.

- Legal
- R.C. 3313.207/208/209, 5104
 - 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX)
 - 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)
 - 42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq., Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.
 - 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.
 - 42 U.S.C. 1983
 - 34 C.F.R. Part 106
 - OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)
 - 20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v)
 - 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)
 - 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)
 - 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised INVESTMENTS
Code	po6144
Status	
Adopted	December 18, 2017
Last Revised	November 11, 2020

6144 - **INVESTMENTS**

This policy, in conjunction with the Ohio Revised Code, as amended, will govern the investment activities of the District. It will be reviewed to assure the flexibility necessary to effectively manage the portfolio.

The purpose of the investment account is to allow for the maximum return on the District's excess cash balances consistent with complete safety of the portfolio's principal value and the liquidity desired.

All investment activities will be undertaken by the Treasurer or those persons assigned thereby to engage in investment activities.

The District will be permitted to invest any security specifically authorized by the Ohio Revised Code.

Under the guidelines of this policy, no security will be purchased that has a remaining term to final maturity of more than five (5) years. Swapping (the simultaneous sale of one security and purchase of another) will be permitted.

All portfolio transactions will be performed on a competitive basis when practical.

A copy of this policy must be forwarded to each broker or dealer doing business with the District. Their signature will be required indicating that they have received, read, understood, and will abide by its contents when recommending or selling investment to the District. A file will be maintained with this investment policy of all approved securities dealers and banks with which the District will transact activities.

WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FROM THE TEMPLATE BELOW IN OUR CURRENT POLICY.

The Board of Education authorizes the Treasurer to make investments of available monies from the funds of the District in securities authorized by State law. These shall include:

- A. bonds, notes, or other obligations of or guaranteed by the United States, or those for which the faith of the United States is pledged for payment of principal and interest thereon but does not include stripped principal or interest obligations of such obligations;
- B. bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities directly issued by a Federal government agency or instrumentality;
- C. interim deposits in Board-approved depositories;
- D. bonds and other obligations of the State, or the political subdivisions of this state, provided that, with respect to bonds or other obligations of political subdivisions, all of the following apply the:

1. bonds or other obligations are payable from the political subdivision's general revenues and backed by the full faith and credit of the political subdivision.
2. bonds or other obligations are rated, at the time of purchase, in the three (3) highest classifications established by at least one (1) nationally recognized standard rating service and purchased through a registered securities broker or dealer.
3. aggregate value of the bonds or other obligations does not exceed twenty percent (20%) of interim monies available for investment at the time of purchase, and
4. Treasurer is not the sole purchaser of the bonds or other obligations at original issuance, and
5. the bonds or other obligations mature within ten (10) years from the date of settlement.

E. no-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in A. and B. above or repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided such investments are made only through eligible institutions authorized by R.C. 135.03;

F. the Ohio Subdivision Fund (STAR Ohio).

Under no circumstances may the Treasurer invest in a derivative as defined by the Revised Code, reverse repurchase agreements, or other funds prohibited by law. The Treasurer shall also not make investments which s/he does not reasonably believe can be held until the maturity date or leverage any investment.

No investment shall be made under division (D), as described above, unless the Treasurer has completed additional training that has been approved by the Treasurer of State and is either conducted by or provided under the supervision of the Treasurer of State.

The Treasurer is also authorized to enter into written repurchase agreements with any eligible institution in accordance with R.C. 135.03 provided that under the terms of the agreement the eligible institution agrees unconditionally to repurchase any of the securities listed in divisions (A) through (E), above. Such agreements may be either overnight or within a time not to exceed thirty (30) days and must comply with the requirements of R.C. 135.14(E).

Upon a two-thirds (2/3's) vote of its members, the Board may authorize the Treasurer to invest up to a maximum of forty percent (40%) of the District's interim funds in either of the following:

- A. Commercial paper notes issued by a for-profit corporation, business trust or association, real estate investment trust, common-law trust, unincorporated business, or general or limited partnership which has assets exceeding \$500,000,000. Such notes must:
1. be rated at the time of purchase in the highest classification established by at least two (2) nationally recognized standard rating servicers;
 2. have an aggregate value that does not exceed ten percent (10%) of the outstanding commercial paper of the issuing entity;
 3. mature not later than 270 days after purchase; and
 4. be limited to the aggregate of five percent (5%) of interim monies available for investment at the time of purchase, when issued by a single issuer.

No investment shall be made under this provision unless the Treasurer has completed additional training that has been approved by the Treasurer of State and is either conducted by or provided under the supervision of the Treasurer of State.

- B. Bankers acceptances of banks that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and that matures no later than 180 days after purchase.

Except as provided in Section D above or as otherwise provided by law, investments made by the Treasurer must mature within five (5) years from the date of settlement, unless they are matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District.

The Treasurer shall prepare annually and submit to the Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Auditor of State, on or before August 31st, a report listing each investment made pursuant to (A) and (B) above, during the preceding fiscal year,

income earned from such investments, fees and commissions paid in connection with the investments, and any other information required by the Board, Superintendent, and the Auditor of State.

[] The purpose of the investments is to maximize the returns on the District's excess cash balances consistent with safety of those monies and with the desired liquidity of the investments.

[] In making investments authorized by R.C. 135.14, the Treasurer may retain the services of an investment advisor, provided the advisor is licensed by the Division of Securities under R.C. 1707.141, or is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and possesses experience in public funds investment management, specifically in the area of State and local government investment portfolios, or the advisor is an eligible institution in accordance with R.C. 135.03.

Whenever the Treasurer classifies public money as interim funds, the Treasurer must notify the Board within thirty (30) days. If the Board does not agree with the Treasurer's classification or investment(s), the Board may order the Treasurer to sell or liquidate any investment(s) or deposits. The Board's order will specifically describe the investment(s) or deposit(s) and fix the date upon which they are to be sold or liquidated for cash at the current market price. Neither the Treasurer nor the members of the Board will be held accountable for any loss occasioned by sales or liquidations of investment(s) or deposit(s) at prices lower than their cost. Any loss or expense incurred in making such sales or liquidation is payable as other expenses of the Treasurer's office.

Unless the District's annual portfolio of investments is \$100,000 or less, the Treasurer must place on file with the Auditor of State a written investment policy that has been approved by the Board of Education and signed by all entities conducting investment business with the Board. Earnings on an investment may become a part of the fund from which the investment was made, unless otherwise specified by law.

The Treasurer, acting in accord with the law, may withdraw funds from approved public depositories or sell negotiable instruments prior to maturity.

Provided the Board has no outstanding obligation(s) with respect to a loan received under the authority of R.C. 3313.483, the Treasurer of State and the Board issuing obligations under R.C. Chapter 133 that mature within one (1) year from the original date of issuance may enter into an agreement providing for:

- A. the purchase of those obligations by the Treasurer of State on terms and subject to conditions set forth in the agreement;
- B. the payment by the Board to the Treasurer of State of a reasonable fee as consideration for the agreement of the Treasurer of State to purchase those obligations.

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Legal R.C. 133.23, 135.01-.21, 135.22, 135.45, 135.142, 3317.06, 3315.01, 3315.40, 5705.10

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE FOR TAX-EXEMPT AND TAX-ADVANTAGED OBLIGATIONS
Code	po6146
Status	
Adopted	December 18, 2017

6146 - POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE FOR TAX-EXEMPT AND TAX-ADVANTAGED OBLIGATIONS

The Worthington City School District, Franklin County, Ohio (the "District") uses bonds as one means of financing capital projects in support of its mission. This Post-Issuance Compliance Policy (the "Policy") outlines the policies and procedures to promote compliance with federal income tax and securities laws, as well as the requirements set forth in the bond documents for each bond issue. The policy is to strictly follow the U.S. Constitution and laws and the Ohio Constitution and laws. For purposes of this policy, the term "bonds" means any obligation of the District incurred for the purpose of borrowing money, including, without limitation, bonds, notes and certificates of participation in capital leases.

1. **Monitoring of Post-Issuance Compliance**

Monitoring of post-issuance compliance for bonds will be the responsibility of the Treasurer. The Treasurer may designate employees to carry out the Treasurer's duties under this Policy on the Treasurer's behalf in the same manner and with the same effect as any similar designation for any other purpose permitted by law.

2. **Compliance with Covenants in Bond Documents**

The Treasurer shall ensure compliance with all financial and operational covenants made by the District in the bond documents, including but not limited to financial reporting, insurance requirements, the recording of mortgages, restrictions on incurring additional indebtedness, restrictions on the disposition of property, and restrictions on granting liens or encumbering property.

3. **Federal Tax Law Compliance**

1. **Proper Use of Proceeds**

The Treasurer shall ensure that bond proceeds are allocated to expenditures in a manner that is consistent with the purpose for which each bond issue is undertaken, as set forth in any tax compliance certificate or agreement related to each bond issue.

2. **Investment of Bond Proceeds**

The Treasurer shall ensure that bond proceeds are invested in investments that are permissible under the terms of the Ohio Revised Code, the bond documents, and any applicable federal tax laws.

3. **Arbitrage Rebate Calculations**

The Treasurer shall ensure the timely completion of arbitrage rebate calculations and filings.

4. **Administration of Direct Pay Bonds**

The Treasurer shall ensure the proper administration of each issue of bonds qualifying for the payment by the Federal government of a credit equal to a percentage of interest on such bonds, including the timely

completion and filing of any forms required by the Internal Revenue Service to maintain or establish the applicable status of the bonds for purposes of federal income taxation.

5. **Use of Bond-Financed Facilities**

The Treasurer shall consult with Bond Counsel for the District before entering into any agreement or other arrangement for the sale, lease, or use of bond-financed property, including, but not limited to, service, vendor, and management contracts, research agreements, licenses to use bond-financed property, or naming rights agreements. The Treasurer or the designee of the Treasurer shall review such agreements for compliance with federal tax laws and complete a Private Business Use Contract Review Worksheet (attached as Exhibit A) to document that such review has been completed.

6. **Post-Issuance Transactions**

The Treasurer shall consult with Bond Counsel for the District before making any modifications or amendments to the bond documents for a bond issue, including, but not limited to, entering or modifying investment agreements; making any change in security for the bonds; engaging in post-issuance credit enhancement transactions (e.g., bond insurance, letter of credit) or hedging transactions (e.g., interest rate swap, cap); terminating or appointing successor trustees; releasing any liens; or reissuing the bonds.

7. **Remedial Action**

In the event that it is determined that any use of bond proceeds or bond-financed facilities is inconsistent with the character of the status for federal income tax purposes of the bonds, the Treasurer shall consult with the District's Bond Counsel for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of any remedial action necessary or proper for the District to take with respect to such bonds or bond-financed facilities according to Treasury Regulations Section 1.141-12 or other remedial actions authorized by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue under 1.141-12(h).

4. **Federal Securities Law Compliance**

1. **The Treasurer shall ensure compliance with all applicable federal securities laws and regulations, including the continuing disclosure requirements of Rule 15c2-12 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.**

2. **To the extent required by any continuing disclosure agreement, the Treasurer shall:**

1. **On an annual basis, submit an annual financial report, including audited financial statements and any other information required by the continuing disclosure agreement, to the entities required by the bond documents.**
2. **Make a timely report of any significant events (as defined by the continuing disclosure agreement) related to the District's outstanding bond issues to the entities required by the bond documents.**

5. **Recordkeeping**

1. **Responsibility for Records Maintenance**

1. **The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining records related to bonds of the District.**
2. **The Treasurer shall maintain a central list of records related to each issue of bonds of the District. The list shall identify:**

1. **The name and date of the document related to the issue,**
2. **The person or office responsible for the document, and**
3. **The physical or electronic location of the document.**

2. **Bond Records to be Maintained**

1. **The following records shall be maintained for each outstanding bond issue for the term of the outstanding bond issue plus three years:**

1. **Basic records relating to the bond transaction, including the trust indenture, loan, lease, or other financing agreement, the relevant IRS Form 8038 (including Forms 8038-G, 8038-B, or 8038-TC, as applicable) with proof of filing, and bond counsel opinion shall be maintained by the Treasurer's Office;**
2. **Documentation evidencing the expenditure of bond proceeds, such as construction or contractor invoices and receipts for equipment and furnishings, as well as records of any special allocation made for tax purposes shall be maintained by the Treasurer's Office;**
3. **Documentation evidencing the lease or use of bond- financed property by public and private sources, including, but not limited to, service, vendor, and management contracts, research agreements, licenses to use bond- financed property, or naming rights agreements shall be maintained by the District office executing such agreement for use of bond-financed property; and**
4. **Documentation pertaining to investment of bond proceeds, including the yield calculations for each class of investments, actual investment income received from the investment of proceeds, and rebate calculations shall be maintained by the Treasurer's Office.**

2. **The Treasurer shall maintain the District's audited financial statements for not less than seven years.**

6. **Bond Counsel Review**

The Treasurer may engage Bond Counsel to assist in implementing this policy, including, but not limited to, assistance in the following areas:

1. **Rebate calculations and compliance;**
2. **Records retention;**
3. **Periodic review of the central list of records related to bonds for compliance with federal tax laws regarding private business use;**
4. **Other federal tax law compliance, including any annual reporting requirements that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Service; and**
5. **Federal securities law compliance.**

7. **Training Requirements**

Within six months of becoming the Treasurer, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Treasurer and the Treasurer's designees, if any, shall undergo training regarding basic federal tax concepts relating to bonds and records required to be maintained under this policy.

8. **Annual Policy Review**

On an annual basis, or sooner if deemed necessary by the Treasurer, the Treasurer shall review this policy and assess the District's compliance with this policy. The Treasurer shall recommend changes to this Policy as appropriate to ensure compliance with any covenants in the bond documents or the requirements of federal tax and securities laws and any other applicable law.

CROSS REFS.: 133.03 Public Securities, 133.04 Net Indebtedness, 133.05, 133.06, 133.07, 133.18

DEBT GUIDELINES

This Debt Policy is intended to assist District officials by providing guidance on the following questions:

1. **When is the proper time to use available cash for projects and borrow for projects?**

2. **Under what circumstances are voted general obligation bonds, un-voted general obligation bonds, special revenue notes and lease purchase certificates appropriate?**
3. **What are the District's goals with respect to interest rates, payment terms and other conditions of a financing?**
4. **What administrative policies should be in place with respect to debt management?**

Definitions – For purposes of this policy, the term "debt" is defined as any type of borrowing for capital facilities and equipment. The word "security" refers to bonds, notes, lease purchase certificates, and other loan or debt obligations.

CAPITAL FUNDING GUIDELINES

Cash Funding – the District encourages funding capital projects with cash from the general fund's capital outlay line item or its permanent improvement fund on a "pay as you go" basis, to the extent possible and prudent. Cash funding for this purpose includes the sale of short-term securities that are paid in full within five years or within the maximum life of the capital item, whichever is less. Cash funding is recommended under the following circumstances:

1. **When unreserved cash balances are available for capital in the District's general fund equal to or greater than 40% of the general fund's annual expenditures. At no time will cash funding be recommended for projects in a year in which the general fund balance is projected to fall to 25% of expenditures or lower.**
2. **To finance the purchase of assets with average lives of five years or shorter, such as equipment and maintenance related items.**
3. **When market conditions are unstable or unattractive making it difficult to achieve acceptable borrowing terms and interest rates. To make this determination, District officials will review historical indices, market conditions and general market conditions when making financing decisions.**

General Obligation Bonds – after determining that borrowings will be used to fund all or a portion of a long-term capital project or projects, general obligation bonds (GOs) are the preferred funding option. GO bonds are expected to be the District's lowest interest rate, lowest cost borrowing alternative. There are two (2) Distinct types of School District GO bonds in Ohio and each is defined below along with guidelines for pursuing either type of funding:

1. **Voted general obligation bonds - Voted GO bonds are authorized by voter referenda.**

Ballot approval gives the District the authority to collect on an annual basis whatever amount of millage dollars are required to make that year's bonds payments. The "unlimited tax" nature of this pledge creates a very strong and reliable security for investors and therefore is expected to achieve the highest bond rating and lowest interest cost financing possible. Voted bonds will be used for long-term projects when general fund capital line item dollars or permanent improvement levy dollars are insufficient to make the necessary debt payments. General obligation bonds will not exceed state debt limitations for school districts unless the District is authorized by the State to exceed those limits.

2. **Un-voted general obligation bonds – Un-voted GO bonds are authorized by District resolution and paid from all eligible funds not otherwise obligated.**

State law severely restricts the amount of un-voted securities that a school district may issue to 1/10th of 1% of tax valuation. However, there are a few exceptions to this restriction such as for energy notes, bus notes, Classroom Facilities Program matching securities and Chapter 133.06(H) pilot payment supported securities. Un-voted securities are further restricted by Ohio's 9/10th of 1% limit for certain types of securities that can exceed the 1/10th of 1% limit and the "ten mill" limitation. Before pursuing un-voted debt, District officials must confirm available debt capacity under the limits and judge the District's ability to make debt payments from its general fund or other funds. Officials will pursue un- voted securities for projects that are limited in scope and better paid from available resources than voted revenues. Un-voted general obligation securities are expected to carry similar bond ratings and achieve similar to slightly higher interest rates as voted bonds depending upon final maturity and other fiscal factors. Therefore, un-voted GOs are preferred over other possible borrowing alternatives, such as permanent improvement notes and lease purchase certificates, when appropriate.

Permanent Improvement Notes – permanent improvement notes (PI notes) are special obligations authorized by Ohio law. PI notes can be issued in offering amounts equal to one-half of collections projected over the life of the levy, ten years in the case of a continuing levy, or in a greater amount upon state approval. This type of borrowing is exempt from the debt limitations. PI notes are recommended when PI revenues are available and not otherwise committed to pay- as-you-go capital expenditures and when GO debt capacity is unavailable.

Due to its restricted final maturity, a PI note is best used to finance smaller scale projects such as land acquisition or to finance projects with useful lives of ten years or less. PI notes are expected to receive similar ratings and interest

rates to the District's GO securities due to the pledged revenue source for repayment and short final maturity.

Lease Purchase Certificates of Participation – lease purchase certificates of participation (COPs) are considered an appropriate funding alternative when GO bonds and PI Notes are unavailable or unsuitable. COPs are created through a series of complex legal agreements designed to set up a lease, lease-back arrangement. Once the lease is established, a trustee creates certificates of participation in the lease payments which are sold by the underwriter to investors. The price of the certificates funds the project. This type of financing requires participation by a third party lessor recruited or created by the District, preferably an independent Education Foundation or other non-profit entity. Due to the complex legal structure of a COPs issue and its higher transaction fees and interest rate expense, this funding alternative is not preferred and should be used only for critical projects and when other funding options are unavailable. COPs do not constitute a legally enforceable obligation of debt; therefore the District's commitment and ability to make payments on the certificates is determined in part by the District's desire to appropriate lease payments annually. The potential for "non-appropriation" increases risk to the buyers of the securities and thus increases the interest rate of the borrowing over the previously discussed alternatives, sometimes significantly. In the event of non-appropriation, the District will surrender the financed project to the Trustee on behalf of the certificate holders. For these reasons, the District will pursue COPs financings only when absolutely necessary and will attempt to structure them with the shortest final maturities possible.

Type of Sale – District officials will sell the District's securities through competitive or negotiated public offerings of securities or through private sale to investors, including local banks. The District will follow the lowest cost, most efficient process possible.

Short-Term Financing – for purposes of this policy, short-term financing refers to bond anticipation notes (BANs), defined as short-term obligations that typically mature within one year of issuance at which time they must be paid in full or refinanced with additional BANs or long-term obligations. BANs are often used for interim financing during the construction cycle of a project. Prior to or upon completion of the project, BANs are typically refunded with fixed-rate, long-term bonds. BANs are also sometimes used for permanent financing, most suitably for projects with average lives of ten or less years. Short-term financings such as BANs historically create lower cost borrowing due to comparatively lower interest rates and lower financing costs. However, BANs expose the District to interest rate risk, which is the risk that interest rates move higher in advance of the BANs maturity date when refunding BANs or bonds will be sold. BANs also expose a District to credit risk and market access risk, which may threaten or challenge the District's ability to efficiently refund its BANs in the future. The District considers BANs to be appropriate under the following conditions:

1. As a source of permanent financing for projects with useful lives of less than five years, but only when there are alternative funding options in the event marketplace conditions or other events prohibit the sale of refunding BANs
2. As a temporary funding source prior to and in anticipation of the sale of a long-term obligation, with a preference not to exceed three years
3. When the amount of financing is less than \$1 million and therefore the cost of issuing bonds is cost prohibitive.
4. At no time will the District's exposure to BANs, measured by the amount of BANs outstanding compared to total debt obligations outstanding, exceed 20% of total authorized and outstanding debt obligations for a period greater than six months.

Long-Term Variable Rate Financing - variable rate bonds are defined as bonds that carry interest rates that change from time to time based upon market indices and conditions. Variable rate long-term bonds are prohibited by state law for school districts.

Long-Term Fixed Rate Financing – long-term fixed rate financing (long-term bonds) is defined as fixed rate bonds with fixed payments and final maturities in excess of one year. The Board will consider the following prior to issuance.

1. For capital projects with useful lives of five years or greater and when issued in amounts of \$1 million or greater.
2. For energy conservation capital projects supported by a savings report from a qualified energy project consultant and approved by the state documenting that the project's annual energy savings in dollars will offset annual bond payments.
3. For terms up to forty years. However, every effort will be made to keep the final maturity of bonds less than forty years when and if market conditions and other factors provide the opportunity for a shorter term.
4. When the General Obligation 20 Bond Index, published by the Bond Buyer, (or an industry recognized index of a similar nature) is eighty-five percent or less of the index's twenty-year average. Long-term bonds are

considered less appropriate when the index is one hundred and twenty percent or more of the index's twenty-year average. The District will make every effort to structure the terms of its bonds to take advantage of the conditions in the market at that time.

5. When the District's underlying bond rating is Single A or higher and such rating is not unduly threatened by the issuance of new debt. Officials will work with the District's financial advisor to review standard rating measures to make this judgment, primarily reviewing a collection of debt ratios, payment history, voter history, wealth and operating conditions.
6. Long-term bonds are preferred when the District is participating in state assisted building programs. Further, long-term bonds are considered especially attractive when the District is able to take advantage of state and federal programs designed to lower the District's effective cost of borrowing, including credit enhancement programs and interest rate subsidy bond programs.

Refunding Securities – refunding securities are recommended when the District is able to achieve a material reduction in annual payments or a revision to its existing bond terms to achieve a valid governmental purpose. Stand-alone refunding securities are expected to achieve present value savings of 3% or greater. Exceptions to this include securities with maturities shorter than ten years and when securities are refinanced to re-structure annual payments to achieve a particular financial management goal.

CROSS REFS.: ORC 133.01, 133.02 Public Securities, 133.021, 133.03 Public Securities

DEBT GUIDELINES

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Minimum General Fund Balance – the District recognizes the need to maintain sufficient year-end carry-over balances in its general fund to minimize undesirable programmatic reductions, including staffing reductions. Therefore it is essential to clearly define a fund balance level that triggers a decision to make budgetary adjustments and possibly seek voter approval of new taxes well in advance of a cash shortfall. Further, the District recognizes the value of such a policy with respect to its debt management practices and underlying bond rating. As such, the District defines its minimum unreserved general fund balance as 1/12 of annual expenditures in the third year of the forecast and will initiate budgetary actions or proposed levy to voters in a timely manner to address projected balances below this level.

Managing Bond Subsidy Programs – in the event that the federal subsidy program of 2009/10 return and the District participates in them, the District will engage a bank paying agent/filing agent to apply for semi-annual and annual bond subsidy payments due to the District from any subsidy bond program on its behalf, if any, and to receive and disperse those funds at the District's direction. District officials intend to use any such payments for debt service on the qualifying bonds, but retain the right to direct the payments to any other fund deemed appropriate. Subsidy payments directed to the bond retirement fund will be factored into the District's annual certification of bond issue tax millage. For bond rating purposes, first year debt payments will be structured to create an excess bond retirement fund balance equal to or greater than the first full year's subsidy payment. (See bond retirement fund below.) District officials recognize the fact that subsidy payments may be withheld by the federal government to make payment on any disputed and unrelated lien or past due obligation owed by the District to the federal government and that any such withholding could have a material adverse effect on its ability to make bond payments. As such, the District will make every effort to remain current on any obligations owed the federal government and will not issue such bonds without first verifying that it has no such lien or past due obligations at the time.

Bond Retirement Fund – the District will strive to maintain an unreserved bond retirement fund year-end balance equal to its maximum semi-annual debt payment on bonds outstanding.

Credit Enhancement – the District will participate in any available state credit enhancement program to the extent it qualifies for such program and the program's "programmatic bond rating" reduces the District's interest rates and thus cost. The District understands that if for any reason the District is unable to make a debt payment in full for securities issued under certain credit enhancement programs, such as the State of Ohio's Foundation Credit Enhancement Program, that a paying agent/program trustee may direct the state to intercept the District's monthly operational state aid payments to the extent necessary to cover the shortfall. The District may also explore the value of purchasing bond issuance or other credit enhancement facilities and will do so when advised by its financial advisors that such enhancements will lower its overall interest costs.

Federal Tax Law – all financings will comply with the restrictions set forth in federal tax law. In addition, the size and timing of notes or bonds may be affected by options provided in the tax code, such as rebate exemptions. District officials will retain professional assistance to comply with all filing and post issuance compliance procedures regarding construction spending guidelines; rebate calculations and payments; private use rules; reimbursement of prior expenditures and subsidy payments, among others.

Continuing Disclosure – the District will comply with its continuing disclosure obligations by filing required information annually with the appropriate national repository. This requirement will be satisfied through the filing of the audit and certain additional information as required in its compliance certificates, including material event notifications.

Economic Development – District officials may consider opportunities to encourage economic development through the sale of debt on a case by case basis to the extent such development achieves a needed educational purpose. Such projects may include public private partnerships (P3) as well as inter-governmental collaborations.

Professional Services – professionals retained by the District in connection with the District's debt program shall provide full disclosure to the District of any formal or informal relationships or agreements outside of the District that may be in conflict with the best interests of the District. The District shall retain professionals in connection with its debt issues based upon demonstrated qualifications, including past successful performance. Officials will review professional relationships periodically as appropriate.

Debt Policy Review – the debt policy will be reviewed from time to time in keeping with District practices to all policies and as necessary to comply with state and federal law.

CROSS REFS.: ORC 133.01, 133.02 Public Securities, 133.021, 133.03 Public Securities

WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FROM THE TEMPLATE BELOW IN OUR CURRENT POLICY.

FOR RELEASE "UPON REQUEST"

The Board of Education may, from time to time, finance its capital improvements and operations through the issuance of debt obligations that are eligible for tax benefits under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and regulations promulgated thereunder ("Treasury Regulations"). Such obligations may include tax-exempt obligations and/or obligations eligible for tax credits (direct subsidies to the School District or tax credits to bond owners). All such tax-exempt obligations or tax-advantaged obligations are referred to herein as "Obligations," whether in the form of general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, bond anticipation notes, tax anticipation notes, lease-purchase obligations, installment-purchase obligations or otherwise.

This policy and related AG 6146 document practices and describes various procedures and systems designed to identify on a timely basis facts relevant to demonstrating compliance with the requirements that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of Obligations in order that the interest on such Obligations continue to be eligible to be excluded from gross income for Federal income tax purposes or that the Obligations continue to receive tax-advantaged treatment. The Federal tax law requirements applicable to each issue of Obligations will be detailed in the nonarbitrage or tax compliance certificate prepared by bond counsel (the "Tax Certificate") and signed by officials of the District and the post-closing compliance checklist provided by bond counsel with respect to such issue. This policy and related AG 6146 establish a permanent, ongoing structure of practices and procedures that will facilitate compliance with the Code, Treasury Regulations and SEC Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule").

The Board recognizes that compliance with applicable provisions of the Code and Treasury Regulations is an on-going process, necessary during the entire term of the Obligations, and is an integral component of the District's debt management. Accordingly, the analysis of those facts and implementation of this Policy and Administrative Guidelines will require on-going monitoring and consultation with an attorney experienced in legal work relating to the issuance of tax-exempt obligations or tax-advantaged obligations ("Bond Counsel") and the District's accountants.

This policy and the related AG 6146 do not address any post-issuance compliance requirements under State law. Nor is this policy and related AG 6146 a substitute, or a replacement, for any Tax Certificate or a post issuance compliance checklist relating to specific Obligations. The District is responsible for compliance with any such Tax Certificate or post-issuance compliance checklist.

This policy may be modified, expanded, abridged, or otherwise amended only by the Board upon consultation with the District's attorney and Bond Counsel, but without any notice to or consent from any trustee, bondholder or any other person.

A. Investment and Expenditure of Proceeds

The District's system of internal controls and accounting will be capable of tracking the investment and expenditure of proceeds of Obligations and other amounts subject to special requirements, and the allocation of such proceeds and other amounts to District facilities. Appropriate coding will be developed to identify District facilities (or portions thereof) financed or refinanced by Obligations. Such Administrative Guidelines will ensure that such proceeds are expended only for the purposes authorized by the resolution and, as applicable, referendum, pursuant to which such Obligations were issued and in compliance with the Tax Certificate relating to the Obligations or other instructions of Bond Counsel.

B. Financed Facilities

The District will track the use of facilities (or portions thereof) financed or refinanced by Obligations in the private trades or businesses for private business use. Arrangements for the sale, disposition, lease, sublease, management or other use of more than ___% (although not included in U.S. Department of Treasurer regulations, 1% threshold is suggested as a trigger for greater security) **[NOTE: Private business use limit applies to each bond issue rather than each financed facility.]** of facilities financed or refinanced by Obligations with a term of (i) less than 200 days will be subject to prior review and approval by the Treasurer, and (ii) equal to or greater than 200 days will be subject to prior review and approval by the Treasurer and Bond Counsel. The Treasurer will track the aggregate annual private business use (if any) of facilities financed or refinanced by Obligations.

C. Periodic Review

The District will periodically review compliance with the requirements of the Code and Treasury Regulations necessary to preserve the tax advantages of such Obligations. Such reviews will include final allocations of proceeds not later than 18 months after completion of facilities financed or refinanced with proceeds of Obligations and annual reviews to ensure private business use of such facilities does not exceed allowable levels. Such annual review will be conducted in connection with the preparation of the District's audited financial statements.

D. Potential Non-Compliance

If the Treasurer, upon any annual review or otherwise, discovers non-compliance with any requirements of the Code or Treasury Regulations necessary to preserve the tax advantages of such Obligations, the Treasurer will, after consultation with the District's attorney and Bond Counsel, take necessary actions to remedy any such non-compliance, including among others the use of the "remedial actions" described in Treasury Regulations 1.141-12 and the IRS Voluntary Closing Agreement Program.

E. Retention of Professionals; Rebate Analyst

The District will engage such professionals or consultants as are necessary, in the judgment of the Superintendent, to ensure that the requirements of the Code and Treasury Regulations necessary to preserve the tax advantages of such Obligations are timely met, including, without limitation, the requirement to compute and pay rebatable arbitrage to the United States government or to confirm an exception thereto. The ~~Treasurer~~ Superintendent will ensure that all information reports or other returns or filings with the United States Department of Treasury or Internal Revenue Service timely will be filed on behalf of the District.

F. Purchase of Investments

All investments of the proceeds of Obligations will be purchased at fair market value, as defined in the Code and Treasury Regulations, and will comply with the requirements of the Code and Treasury Regulations relating to yield restriction as advised by Bond Counsel.

G. Credit Enhancement Transactions

The Treasurer will consult with Bond Counsel prior to engaging in any post-issuance credit enhancement transactions (i.e., bond insurance or letters of credit) or hedging transactions (i.e., interest rate swaps, caps, etc.) relating to any Obligation.

H. Subsidy Payments

The Treasurer will implement proper administrative guidelines to ensure that any Federal subsidy payable in respect of any direct-pay tax credit bonds is requested by the timely filing of any required return or other documentation and that, upon receipt, such amounts are transmitted to the appropriate account of the District.

I. Post-Issuance Modifications

The Treasurer will consult with Bond Counsel prior to any modification of the interest rate, maturity date, or other material terms of any Obligation.

J. Records Retention

The District will retain records sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Code and Treasury Regulations necessary to preserve the tax advantages of such Obligations for the period required by law, presently understood to be the life of the Obligations or any succeeding refunding Obligation plus three (3) years.

K. Continuing Disclosure

The Treasurer will implement proper Administrative Guidelines to ensure that the District complies with any undertakings to

provide continuing disclosure in accordance with the Rule, including annual filing of operating and financial information and notices of listed "material events." The Treasurer may enter into a contract with a third party to assist the District in complying with its continuing disclosure obligations.

L. Training and Education

The Board authorizes the Superintendent, Treasurer, and any other person assigned responsibilities under this Policy and the Administrative Guidelines to attend educational seminars and conferences providing training and education on post-issuance compliance issues at least once a year and will pay the authorized expenses of such person.

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Legal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended
Treasury Regulations
SEC Rule 15c2-12

Book Policy Manual

Section Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021

Title Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised BUDGET PREPARATION

Code po6220

Status

6220 - ~~TAX~~ BUDGET PREPARATION **WE DO NOT HAVE THIS POLICY**

The District's operation and educational plan is reflected in its budgets. Each year, the Board of Education will cause to have prepared and then review the General Fund as well as the other funds which comprise the tax budget.

The Treasurer/CFO may include in the budget a Budget Reserve Fund. The amount of the reserve shall be

() stipulated by Board resolution.

OR

() of at least _____ percent (_____ %) of the General Fund.

The Board directs the _____ to present the tax budget to the Board prior to January 15th of each year. When presented to the Board for review and/or adoption, the tax budget shall indicate the information required by the State Auditor's Office.

With an affirmative vote of the majority of the County Budget Commission, including the County Auditor, the requirement that the Board of Education adopt a tax-budget may be waived. Therefore, the Board directs the _____ to prepare the tax budget in compliance with the requirements of the _____ County Auditor, the Ohio Revised Code, and the State Auditor's Office.

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Legal R.C. 5705.13, 5705.28(A)(1), 5705.281, 5705.29, 5705.30

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Section Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021

Title Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC FUNDS: CASH COLLECTION POINTS

Code po6600

Status

Adopted December 18, 2017

6600 - DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC FUNDS: CASH COLLECTION POINTS

Monies received at cash collection points throughout the District must be deposited in accordance with this policy. Cash collection points are any areas within a school where money flows into the District. Currently identified cash collection points are admission fees to athletic events, lunchroom sales, classroom fees, student activities/fundraisers, and miscellaneous money coming through the Treasurer's Office such as grants, interest, donations, sale of fixed assets, and taxes.

Persons who receive monies at cash collection points shall identify any discrepancies in cash receipts or ticket sales. Each seller shall provide a written explanation of each discrepancy to their immediate supervisor, who shall report all findings to the Treasurer. All discrepancies, even those rectified, shall be reported to the Treasurer. Such reported information shall be used in performance evaluation and adjudicated in accordance with District procedures or as provided by law.

Acceptance of check or credit card overpayment to provide cash back is prohibited.

Persons who receive monies at cash collection points in the District are required to deposit all monies received with the Treasurer on the next business day after the day of receipt if the total amount of monies exceeds \$1,000. If the monies received do not exceed \$1,000, the person shall deposit such monies with the Treasurer (X) not more than ~~three~~ (3) business days following the day of receipt. [NOTE: This number cannot exceed three (3).] Persons who receive money at cash collection points are responsible for its safekeeping until the money is deposited with the Treasurer. Ordinarily, the money should be secured in a locked desk, file cabinet, safe or other secure room on school property, and it should not be taken home. If an employee believes it is safer to take the money home, s/he must obtain permission to do so from his/her supervisor, building principal, or other appropriate administrator. The Treasurer is directed to develop, distribute, and implement procedures addressing the provision of receipts (where applicable) to the payee(s), and proper segregation of duties for the receipting, depositing, recording, and reporting of cash. These procedures should be particularized to each cash collection point and should include flowcharts as appropriate. The procedures should further address the need for completion of timely bank reconciliations so that "unreconciled differences" can be identified and resolved.

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Legal R.C. 9.38

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING
Code	po7440.01
Status	
Adopted	December 18, 2017

7440.01 - VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING

In order to promote student and staff safety, protect Board of Education property, and deter unauthorized access and destructive acts (e.g., theft and vandalism), ~~[END OF OPTION] (-) In order to protect Board property, promote security and protect the health, welfare and safety of students, staff and visitors, [END OF OPTION]~~ the Board of Education authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment on school property, and in school buildings and school buses. Information obtained through video surveillance/electronic monitoring may be used to identify intruders and persons breaking the law, Board policy, or the Student Code of Conduct (i.e., it may be used as evidence in disciplinary actions and criminal proceedings).

OR

The Board of Education authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment at various school sites throughout the District and on school buses. The video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment shall be used to protect Board property and assets from theft and vandalism, through deterrence and video documentation. The system is not designed nor intended to protect individuals from being victims of violent or property crimes, nor to detect other potentially illegal and undesirable activities that may occur, although information may be used as evidence in such cases.

The monitoring of actions and behavior of individuals who come onto school property is a significant factor in maintaining order and discipline and protecting students, staff, visitors, and school and student property. Video surveillance/electronic monitoring systems serve to complement other means being employed in the District to promote and foster a safe and secure teaching and learning environment for students and staff. The Board recognizes that the use of a video surveillance/electronic monitoring system does not replace the need for the ongoing vigilance of the school staff assigned by the building principal to monitor and supervise the school building. Rather, the video surveillance/electronic monitoring system serves as an appropriate and useful tool with which to augment or support the in-person supervision provided by staff. The building principal is responsible for verifying that due diligence is observed in maintaining general campus security.

The Superintendent is responsible for determining where to install and operate fixed-location video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment in the District. The determination of where and when to use video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment will be made in a nondiscriminatory manner. Video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment may be placed in common areas in school buildings (e.g., school hallways, entryways, the front office where students, employees, and visitors are permitted to freely come and go, gymnasiums, cafeterias, libraries), the school parking lots and other outside areas, and in school buses. Except in extraordinary circumstances and with the written authorization of the Superintendent or Board President, video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment shall not be used in areas where persons have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, private offices (unless there is express consent given by the office occupant), or conference/meeting rooms), or in individual classrooms during instructional times. Security staff and administrators are authorized to carry and use portable video cameras when responding to incidents. The Board authorizes security personnel to use body-worn video cameras while on duty, but prohibits them from being operated while the individual is routinely patrolling restrooms and locker rooms unless the staff member is responding to a specific incident.

Any person who takes action to block, move, or alter the location and/or viewing angle of a video camera shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Legible and visible signs shall be placed at the main entrance to buildings and in the areas where video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment is in use to notify people that their actions/behavior are being monitored/recorded. Additionally, the Superintendent is directed to annually notify parents and students via school newsletters and the Student Handbook, and staff via the Staff Handbook, of the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring systems in their schools.

Any information obtained from video surveillance/electronic monitoring systems may only be used to support the orderly operation of the School District's schools and facilities, and for law enforcement purposes, and not for any other purposes. As such, recordings obtained through the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary proceedings, administrative proceedings or criminal proceedings, subject to Board policy and regulations. Further, such recordings may become a part of a student's education record or staff member's personnel file.

[SELECT OPTION #1 OR OPTION #2]

OPTION #1

Under no circumstances will video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment be used to make an audio recording of conversation occurring on school grounds or property.

OPTION #2

Ordinarily video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment will not be used to make an audio recording of conversation occurring on school grounds or property.

[END OF OPTIONS]

The Board will not use video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment to obtain information for the purpose of routine staff appraisal/evaluation or monitoring. However, prerecorded lessons or observations of on-line or virtual learning sessions may be included as part of an employee's evaluation in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement or Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Board.

Further, if an employee is assigned to work remotely (i.e., telework), the administration is authorized to conduct observations that consist of the supervisor reviewing video-recordings of the employee working and/or watching the employee perform his/her job responsibilities through means of a live-stream that includes both video and audio, provided the employee is afforded advanced notice of the observation, and the recording of his/her work and/or observation is conducted in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement or Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Board if the employee is a member of a bargaining unit.

Additionally, nothing herein shall prevent the administration from using information gathered through electronic means (i.e., viewing a video-recording or live-stream of an employee working) for employment purposes, including but not limited to completing components of an evaluation, so long as the information is gathered in a manner consistent with law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement or Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Board.

Recordings of students will be treated as confidential. Consequently, because the Board is bound by Ohio's Student Records Statute and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), copies of video recordings containing personal identifiable information about students shall not be released except to school officials with legitimate educational interests. Parents or guardians of minor students, and students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, who are charged with disciplinary violations may view relevant portions of any video recording related to the charge, upon written request to the building principal, provided that viewing the recording does not violate State and/or Federal law (i.e., the privacy rights of any other students whose images appear on the recording). Likewise, school personnel may view relevant portions of any video relating to any disciplinary charge against them, upon written request to the building principal, provided that viewing the recording does not violate State and/or Federal law (i.e., the privacy rights of any students whose images appear on the recordings). Otherwise, such confidential recordings shall only be released through subpoena or court order.

The Board shall maintain video surveillance/electronic monitoring recordings for a limited period. Any request to view a recording under this policy must be made within ~~fourteen~~ (14) **[seven (7) to thirty (30)]** days of the event/incident. Unless a formal complaint is being investigated, recordings shall be destroyed after ~~thirty~~ (30) **[seven (7) to thirty (30)]** days. If, however, action is taken by the Board/administration, as a result of a formal complaint or incident, recordings shall be kept for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the action taken. Recordings may also be kept beyond the normal retention period if they are going to be utilized for training purposes.

This policy does not address or cover instances where school officials record a specific event (e.g., a play, music performance, athletic contest, graduation, or Board meeting), or an isolated instance where a classroom is videotaped for educational or research purposes. Authorized videotaping for educational, instructional and/or research purposes is permitted and is not addressed by this policy.

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative guidelines to address the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment in school buildings, school buses and on property owned and/or operated by the Board.

Video surveillance is to be implemented in accordance with this policy and the related guidelines. The Board will not accept or tolerate the improper use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment and will take appropriate action in any cases of wrongful use of this policy.

() Annually, () Quarterly, () Monthly, () _____ **[insert interval]**, the Superintendent shall conduct a review to verify that this policy and its implementing guidelines are being adhered to, and report to the Board on the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment in the District.

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FERPA 20 U.S.C. 1232g
34 C.F.R. 99.1-99.67
Title I of the Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986
18 U.S.C. 2510-2521

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Section Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021

Title Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS

Code po8450.01

Status

WE CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE THIS POLICY.

8450.01 - PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS

During times of elevated communicable disease community spread (pandemic or epidemic), the Superintendent will issue periodic guidance through Board of Education plans/resolution(s) in alignment with public health officials and/or in accordance with government edicts and including any Pandemic Plan developed by the District's Pandemic Response Team. ~~under Policy 8420.01.~~

School settings can be a source of community spread. Wearing face masks/coverings is especially important during these times and can help mitigate the risk of exposure from person to person.

As such, during times of elevated communicable disease community spread, the Superintendent may activate this policy by notifying the school community, requiring all school staff, volunteers, and visitors (including vendors) to wear appropriate face masks/coverings on school grounds unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the Districts educational or operational processes.

[] Face masks/shields will be provided by the District to employees. Alternatively, employees may elect to wear their own face coverings if they meet the requirements of this policy as well as any requirements issued by State or local health departments.

In addition, the Board may require that

() students in ___ grade and higher shall wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Efforts will be made to reduce any social stigma for a student who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a mask.

OR

() students shall wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Efforts will be made to reduce any social stigma for a student who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a mask.

If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception is applicable, students shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, and in accordance with policies of the Board

() and/or may be reassigned by the Superintendent to an online/virtual learning environment if the Superintendent determines that reassignment is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or others. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Districts should consult with legal counsel before reassigning a student with a disability to a virtual learning format. This might constitute a change in placement in violation of state and federal law.]**

[] During times of elevated communicable disease community spread as determined by the Board in consultation with health professionals, all students are required to wear masks while being transported on District school buses or other modes of school transportation or while waiting for a school bus outdoors and unable to maintain a distance of six (6) feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The majority opinion among medical experts from the Ohio Department of Health and elsewhere appears to be that children kindergarten through 5th grade can wear masks as long as consideration is given for the age and developmental level of the child and the physical situation the child is in at that moment.]

Use of Mask/Face Covering

~~Cloth~~ Face coverings/masks should:

- A. fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- B. fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;
- C. not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- D. be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Facial masks/coverings generally should not include surgical masks or respirators unless medically indicated (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers) or masks designed to be worn for costume purposes.

All employee facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress/staff grooming policies (Policy 3216/4216). All student facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code [] and Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming.

Any person may be required to temporarily remove a face mask or covering when instructed to do so for identification or security purposes. Failure to comply with such a request violates this policy and may lead to disciplinary or other action.

Exceptions to the use of masks/face coverings include when:

- A. facial masks/coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- B. facial masks/coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- C. facial masks/coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
- D. facial masks/coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;
- E. facial masks/coverings are not required when the ~~individual~~staff works alone in an assigned work area;
- F. there is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer not to wear a facial mask/covering in the workplace;
- G. settings where ~~cloth~~ masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs);
- H. ~~individuals~~for individuals who have difficulty wearing a ~~cloth~~ face covering; ~~or~~
- I. to assist with communication for hearing impaired students the individual is communicating with students who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;
- J. the individual is actively participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a distance of six (6) feet or more or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health order;
- K. the individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
- L. students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six (6) feet and removal of the facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
- M. students are able to maintain a distance of six (6) feet or more and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational setting;
- N. an established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering.

The Board may be required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. Therefore, if any exceptions are made to the requirement for facial coverings, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor with appropriate documentation provided. A decision on the request will be provided in writing.

Use of Face Shields

Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin may be permitted as an alternative to ~~cloth~~ face masks/coverings with permission of the Superintendent as the Board recognizes that face shields may be useful in some situations, including:

- A. when interacting with students, such as those with disabilities, where communication could be impacted;
- B. when interacting with English-language learners or when teaching a foreign language;
- C. settings where ~~cloth~~ masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs); or
- D. for individuals who have difficulty wearing a ~~cloth~~ face covering.

If employees receive approval from the District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face mask/covering/shield due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, and/or if wearing a mask/covering/shield would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the staff member. Such discussion shall follow Board policies and guidelines under the ADA.

School nurses or staff who care for individuals with symptoms consistent with those of a communicable disease must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), provided by the school, in accordance with OSHA standards.

When facial masks/coverings are required by the Board, and no exception has been applied, staff members who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with policies of the Board.

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R.C. 3313.20, 3313.60, 3313.661, 3313.665

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised FOOD SERVICES
Code	po8500
Status	
Adopted	December 18, 2017
Last Revised	December 6, 2019

8500 - **FOOD SERVICES**

The Board of Education shall provide cafeteria facilities in all school facilities where space and facilities permit, and will provide food service for the purchase and consumption of meals for all students. The Board shall also provide a breakfast program in accordance with procedures established by the Department of Education. The Board shall annually encumber the funds needed to operate the program.

The food-service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages, including but not limited to the current USDA's school meal pattern requirements and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or **trans**gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities. Students and all other members of the School District community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. See Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

The Board shall approve and implement nutrition standards governing the types of food and beverages that may be sold on the premises of its schools and shall specify the time and place each type of food or beverage may be sold. In adopting such standards, the Board shall:

- A. consider the nutritional value of each food or beverage;
- B. consult with a dietitian licensed under R.C. Chapter 4759, a dietetic technician registered by the commission on dietetic registration, or a school nutrition specialist certified or credentialed by the school nutrition association;
- C. consult and incorporate to the maximum extent possible the dietary guidelines for Americans jointly developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and
- D. consult and incorporate the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines.

No food or beverage may be sold on any school premises except in accordance with the standards approved by the Board.

In addition, as required by law, a food safety program that is based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food-borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service program staff and other authorized persons.

The Board shall provide a Federal food service program for students during summer intervention programs that are mandated under Federal law. If the Board determines that it is unable to provide a Federal food service program during the summer, for financial reasons, the Board will communicate that decision to its residents in a manner it determines to be appropriate.

During all times while the food service program is operating and students are being served food, at least one (1) employee shall be present in the area in which the food is being consumed who has received instruction in methods to prevent choking and demonstrated an ability to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

Substitutions

If determined appropriate by a student's Section 504 team, substitutions to the standard meal requirements shall be made, at no additional charge, for students for whom a health care provider who has prescriptive authority in the State of Ohio has provided medical certification that the student has a disability that restricts his/her diet, in accordance with the criteria set forth in 7 C.F.R. Part 15b. To qualify for such substitutions the medical certification must identify:

- A. the student's disability and the major life activity affected by the disability;
- B. an explanation of why the disability affects the student's diet; and
- C. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted (e.g., caloric modifications or use of liquid nutritive formula).

If determined appropriate by a team of qualified individuals including, but not limited to, the Principal, school nurse, parent, Director of Food Services, and/or () _____ substitutions to the standard meal requirements may be made, at no additional charge, for a student who is not a "disabled person," but has a signed statement from a qualified medical authority that the student cannot consume certain food items due to medical or other special dietary needs. To qualify for such consideration and substitutions the medical statement must identify:

- A. the medical or dietary need that restricts the student's diet; and
- B. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food(s) or choice of foods that may be substituted.

~~For non-disabled students who need a nutritionally equivalent milk substitute, only a signed request by a parent or guardian is required.~~

Meals sold by the school may be purchased by students and staff members and community residents in accordance with administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent. ~~Meals may be made available, free of charge, to senior citizens who are serving as volunteers to the District.~~

The operation and supervision of the food-service program shall be the responsibility of the Food Service Supervisor. In accordance with Federal law, the Food Service Supervisor shall take such actions as are necessary to obtain a minimum of two (2) food safety inspections per school year, which are conducted by the State or local governmental agency responsible for food safety inspections. The report of the most recent inspection will be posted in a publicly visible location, and a copy of the report will be available upon request. **[Please note: Schools participating in more than one**

(1) child nutrition program are only required to obtain two (2) food safety inspections per school year if the nutrition programs offered use the same facilities for the preparation and service of meals. Also, the requirement for two (2) inspections does not apply to schools that only offer the Special Milk Program.]

A periodic review of the food-service accounts shall be made by the Food Service Supervisor. Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program or the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase cafeteria equipment. Surplus funds from a-la-carte foods may accrue to the food-service program.

~~Bad debt incurred through the inability to collect meal payment from students is not an allowable cost chargeable to any Federal program. Any related collection cost, including legal cost, arising from such bad debt after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable.~~

~~[] Bad debt is uncollectable/delinquent debt that has been determined to be uncollectable by the end of the school year in which the debt was incurred. If the uncollectable/delinquent debt cannot be recovered by the School Meals Program in the year when the debt was incurred, then this is classified as bad debt. Once classified as bad debt, non-Federal funding sources must reimburse the NSFS for the total amount of the bad debt. The funds may come from the District general fund, State or local funding, school or community organizations such as the PTA, or any other non-Federal source. Once the uncollectable/delinquent debt charges are converted to bad debt, records relating to those charges must be maintained in accordance with the record retention requirements in 7 C.F.R. 210.9(b) (17) and 7 C.F.R. 210.15(b).~~

~~The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an administrative guideline regarding meal charge procedures. This guideline will provide consistent directions for students who are eligible for reduced price or paid meals but do not have funds in their account or in hand to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service and shall also address feeding students with unpaid meal balances without stigmatizing them.~~

~~This guideline shall be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school or School District during the school year.~~

With regard to the operation of the school food service program, the Superintendent shall require:

- A. the maintenance of sanitary, neat premises free from fire and health hazards;
- B. the preparation of food that complies with Federal food safety regulations;
- C. ~~the planning and execution of menus in compliance with USDA requirements;~~
- D. the purchase of food and supplies in accordance with State and Federal law, USDA regulations, and Board policy; (see Policy 1130, Policy 3113, Policy 3214, Policy 4113, Policy 4214, and Policy 6460)
- E. ~~complying with food holds and recalls in accordance with USDA regulations;~~
- F. the administration, accounting, and disposition of food-service funds pursuant to Federal and State law and USDA regulations;
- G. the safekeeping and storage of food and food equipment pursuant to State and Federal law and USDA regulations;
- H. the regular maintenance and replacement of equipment;
- I. ~~all District employees whose salaries are paid for with USDA funds or non-Federal funds used to meet a match or cost share requirement must comply with the District's time and effort record keeping policy (see Policy 6116).~~

In accordance with the nutritional standards adopted by the Board, the placement of vending machines in any classroom where students are provided instruction, unless the classroom is also used to serve meals to students, is prohibited.

No foods or beverages, other than those associated with the District's food-service program, are to be sold during food service hours. The District shall serve only nutritious food in accordance with the nutritional standards adopted by the Board in compliance with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines. Foods and beverages in competition with the District's food-service program must comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines, and may only be sold in accordance with Board Policy 8550.

The Superintendent will require that the food service program serve foods in the schools of the District that are wholesome and nutritious and reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the food service program in accordance with the adopted nutrition standards and shall provide a report regarding the District's compliance with the standards at one of its regular meetings annually.

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Legal

- R.C. 3313.81, 3313.811-815
- A.C. 3301-91
- 42 U.S.C. 1758
- Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.
- Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.
- 7 CFR Parts 15b, 210, 215, 220, 225, 226, 227, 235, 240, 245, 3015
- OMB Circular No. A-87USDA Smart Snacks in School Food Guidelines (effective July 1, 2014)
- SP 32-2015 Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Approved Policies Vol. 39, No. 2 January 2021
Title	Copy of Vol. 39, No. 2 - January 2021 Revised WELLNESS
Code	po8510
Status	
Adopted	December 18, 2017

8510 - WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the Worthington School District as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:

[Select one or more of the following:]

- Nutrition education shall be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
- Nutrition education shall be included in the sequential, comprehensive Health curriculum in accordance with the curriculum standards and benchmarks established by the State.
- Nutrition education shall be integrated into other subject areas of the curriculum, when appropriate, to complement, but not replace, the standards and benchmarks for health education.
- Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
- The standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be behavior focused.
- Nutrition education shall include enjoyable, developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and others.
- Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.

- 8. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
- 9. Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide, will be displayed in the cafeteria.
- 10. The school cafeteria shall serve as a learning lab by allowing students to apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills taught in the classroom when making choices at mealtime.
- 11. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the school by engaging and involving families and the community.
- 12. Nutrition education shall reinforce lifelong balance by emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate.
- 13. Nutrition education benchmarks and standards include a focus on media literacy as it relates to food marketing strategies.
- 14. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks promote the benefits of a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, and low-fat and fat-free dairy products.
- 15. Staff responsible for providing instruction in nutrition education shall regularly participate in professional development activities designed to better enable them to teach the benchmarks and standards.
- 16. Instruction related to the standards and benchmarks for nutrition education shall be provided by highly qualified teachers.
- 17. The District shall provide information to parents that is designed to encourage them to reinforce at home the standards and benchmarks being taught in the classroom.
- 18. [other:] _____
- 19. [other:] _____
- 20. [other:] _____
- 21. [other:] _____

B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:

[It is recommended that one (1) or more of the following be selected from both categories:]

1. Physical Education

- a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the physical education academic content standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- b. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- c. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks adopted by the State.
- d. Planned instruction in physical education shall promote participation in physical activity outside the regular school day.
- e. All students in grades K-12, including those with disabilities, special health care needs and in alternative educational settings (to the extent consistent with the students' IEPs), shall receive daily physical education for the entire school year, for at least 150 minutes per week for K-5 students and at least 225 minutes per week for students in grades 6 - 12.

[The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) defines a quality physical education program in the terms and minutes specified above.]

- f. All students in grades ____ - ____, including those with disabilities, special health care needs and in alternative educational settings (to the extent consistent with the students' IEPs), shall receive instruction in physical education for _____ (____) minutes **daily** _____ **days per week** for the entire school year.
- g. All students, including those with disabilities, special health care needs and in alternative educational settings (to the extent consistent with the students' IEPs), shall receive instruction in physical education for _____ (____) minutes **per day** _____ **days per week** for at least _____ semesters in grades ____ -12.
- h. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- i. Physical education classes shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- j. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
- k. The K-12 program shall include instruction in physical education as well as opportunities to participate in competitive and non-competitive team sports to encourage lifelong physical activity.
- l. Planned instruction in physical education shall require students to be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least fifty percent (50%) of scheduled class time.
- m. Teachers properly certificated/licensed in the subject area of physical education shall provide all instruction in physical education.
- n. Professional development opportunities should focus on the physical education content area.
- o. All physical education classes shall have a student/teacher ratio comparable to the student/teacher ratio in other curricular areas.
- [NASPE includes this option in the definition of a quality physical education program.]**
- p. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- q. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- r. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, bullying or harassment of any kind.
- s. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.
- t. Planned instruction in physical education shall take into account gender and cultural differences.
- u. On an annual basis, physical education teachers shall review and affirm receipt of the Ohio Department of Health's concussion information sheet.
- v. Physical Education teachers shall remove from class participation any student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury. The Principal and/or teacher shall notify parents or guardians about the possible concussion or head injury.
- w. Any student who has been removed from physical education class participation because s/he has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to physical education class until the student's condition is assessed by a physician, and the physician gives the student written clearance that it is safe to return to class.
- x. **[other:]** _____
- y. **[other:]** _____

z. () [other:] _____

2. Physical Activity

- a. () Physical activity () shall () should not be employed as a form of discipline or punishment.
- b. () Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day.
- c. (X) Schools shall encourage families to provide physical activity outside the regular school day, such as outdoor play at home, participation in sports sponsored by community agencies or organizations, and in lifelong physical activities like bowling, swimming, or tennis.
- d. () All students in grades K- 5/6 shall be provided with a daily recess period at least _____ (____) minutes in duration. Recess shall not be used as a reward or punishment.

[NASPE’s recommendation is that all elementary school students should be provided with at least one daily period of recess for a minimum of twenty (20) minutes.]

- e. () The school shall provide information to families to encourage and assist them in their efforts to incorporate physical activity into their children's daily lives.
- f. (X) The school shall encourage families and community organizations to help develop and institute programs that support physical activity of all sorts.
- g. () The school shall provide students in grades ____ - ____ with the opportunity to use physical activity in which they participate outside the regular school day (other than organized interscholastic athletics) to satisfy physical activity requirements.
- h. () In addition to planned physical education, the school shall provide age-appropriate physical activities (e.g., recess during the school day, intramurals and clubs before and after school, and interscholastic sports) that meet the needs of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special health care needs.

[This is a NASPE recommendation in their position statement on Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs (2008).]

- i. () All students in grades ____ - ____ shall have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and intramural programs that emphasize physical activity.
- j. () All students in grades ____ - 12 shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.
- k. () Schools shall offer a wide range of physical activities outside the regular school day that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special health care needs.
- l. () All before/after-school programs shall provide developmentally appropriate physical activity for the students who participate.

m. () Schools shall discourage extended periods of student inactivity, without some physical activity.

n. () [other:] _____

o. () [other:] _____

p. () [other:] _____

C. With regard to other school-based activities ~~the District shall~~:

Free drinking water shall be available to students during designated meal times and may be available throughout the school day.

[Select one or more of the following:]

1. The schools shall provide at least ~~twenty~~ (20) minutes daily for students to eat.
2. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
3. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
4. Students at _____ **[insert name(s) of building(s)]** are not permitted to have drinks in the classroom.
5. Students at _____ **[insert name(s) of building(s)]** are permitted to have bottled water only in the classroom.
6. Activities, such as tutoring or club meetings, shall not be scheduled during mealtimes, unless students may eat during those meetings.
7. Schools may shall limit the number of celebrations involving serving food during the school day ~~to no more than _____ (____) party(ies) per class per month.~~
8. Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to, and be encouraged to use, the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.
9. An organized wellness program shall be available to all staff.
10. The schools shall may use environmentally friendly practices ~~, such as the use of locally grown foods and non-disposable tableware and dishes.~~
11. The schools shall may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
12. The schools shall may demonstrate support for the health of all students by hosting health clinics and screenings and encouraging parents to enroll their eligible children in Medicaid or in other children's health insurance programs for which they may qualify.
13. Schools in our system utilize electronic identification and payment systems, therefore, eliminating any stigma or identification of students eligible to receive free and/or reduced meals.
14. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.
15. **[other:]** _____
16. **[other:]** _____

D. With regard to nutrition promotion, ~~any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus, during the school day, will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additionally,~~ the District shall:

1. encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day;
2. create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering the following healthy foods that comply with the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards:
 - a. a variety of fresh produce to include those prepared without added fats, sugars, refined sugars, and sodium;
 - b. a variety of vegetables daily to include specific subgroups as defined by dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy;
 - c. whole grain products - half of all grains need to be whole grain-rich upon initial implementation and all grains must be whole grain-rich within two (2) years of implementation;

- d. fluid milk that is fat-free (unflavored and flavored) and low-fat (unflavored);
 - e. meals designed to meet specific calorie ranges for age/grade groups;
3. eliminate trans-fat from school meals;
 4. require students to select a fruit or vegetable as part of a complete reimbursable meal;
 5. designate wellness champions at each school that will promote resources through the District's website for wellness for students, families and the community;
 6. provide opportunities for students to develop the knowledge and skills for consuming healthful foods.

The District nutrition department will promote and encourage Farm to School efforts in order to provide the healthy foods identified above.

All foods and beverages sold to students as fund-raisers outside of the school meals program during the regular and extended school day for consumption on the school campus shall meet the USDA Competitive Food regulations, the Alliance for A Healthier Generation's Competitive Foods and Beverages Guidelines, and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Rewarding children in the classroom should not involve candy and other foods that can undermine children's diets and health and reinforce unhealthy eating habits. A wide variety of alternative rewards can be used to provide positive reinforcement for children's behavior and academic performance.

Promotions/Partnerships:

- A. Through partnership with the _____ **[insert local running organization]** each school has the opportunity to earn \$_____ **[identify dollar amount or other gift]** to start and implement a mileage or running club.
- B. Through USTA partnerships, each K-12 school has the opportunity to receive more than \$_____ **[insert dollar amount]** worth of equipment to teach and implement tennis appropriate to grade level in the curriculum.
- C. Through community partnerships, the elementary schools will receive training and equipment to implement the _____ **[insert name of a golf program; e.g., First Tee Golf]** into the curriculum.
- D. Through grants from the _____ **[insert source of grants]** and local businesses, each elementary school has the opportunity to implement the _____ **[insert name of local bike safety program]**.
- E. _____
- F. _____

~~Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well being, and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:~~

- A. ~~In accordance with Policy 8500, entitled Food Service, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages, including but not limited to the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program.~~
- B. ~~As set forth in Policy 8531, entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, the guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).~~

~~The sale of foods of minimal nutritional value in the food service area during the lunch period is prohibited.~~

- C. ~~The sale of foods and beverages to students that do not meet the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards to be consumed on the school campus during the school day is prohibited.~~
- D. ~~All food items and beverages available for sale to students for consumption on the school campus (any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that is accessible to students during the school day) between midnight and thirty (30) minutes after the close of the regular school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, including, but not limited to, competitive foods that are available to students a la carte or as entrees in the dining area (except entree items that were offered on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) menu on the day of and the day after they are offered on the NSLP or SBP menu), as well as food items and beverages from vending machines, from school stores, or as fund raisers, including those operated by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs.~~
- E. ~~All foods offered on the school campus during the school day shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as classroom snacks, from vending machines.~~

~~**[DRAFTING NOTE: THE FINAL RULES STATE THAT A POLICY MUST HAVE STANDARDS FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGES "PROVIDED" AT SCHOOL, SUCH AS PROVIDED FOR A CLASS PARTY OR AS A REWARD TO STUDENTS. THESE STANDARDS DO NOT HAVE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON FOOD SOLD AT SCHOOL. A DISTRICT CAN ADOPT THE SAME STANDARD AS FOR SOLD FOOD OR ESTABLISH ITS OWN STANDARDS AS LONG AS IT HAS SOMETHING IN PLACE FOR FOOD PROVIDED IN SCHOOL OTHER THAN THROUGH SALE. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO FOOD BROUGHT IN FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSUMPTION, I.E., A SACK LUNCH.]**~~

- F. ~~All food and beverages that are provided, other than through sale, on the school campus during the school day (which may include for classroom parties and at holiday celebrations) shall comply with the~~

~~() current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.~~

~~OR~~

~~() food and beverage standards approved by the () Superintendent () _____.~~

~~OR~~

~~() the following standards:~~

[It is recommended that one (1) or more of the following be selected:]

- G. () The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritious value.
- H. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well regardless of unpaid meal balances and without stigma.
- I. () All foods available on campus at any time shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including competitive foods that are available to students a la carte in the dining area, as well as foods that are served as classroom snacks, from vending machines, for fundraisers, for classroom parties, at holiday celebrations, at concession stands, or at any school-related event.
- J. () The school food service program () may () shall involve
 - () students,
 - () parents,
 - () staff,
 - () school officials

in the selection of competitive food items to be sold in the schools.

- K. () Nutrition information for competitive foods available during the school day shall be readily available near the point of purchase.
- L. () All foods available to students in District programs, other than the food service program, shall be served with consideration for promoting student health and well-being.
- M. () The school shall prepare and distribute to staff, parents, and after-school program personnel a list of snack items that comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- N. () The food service program shall be administered by a qualified nutrition professional.
- O. () The food service program shall be administered by a director who is properly qualified, certificated, licensed, or credentialed, according to current professional standards.
- P. () All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- Q. () Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program.
- R. () [other:] _____
- S. () [other:] _____

The Board designates () the Superintendent () the Building Principals as the individual(s) charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the District's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

~~The Superintendent shall appoint a District wide Wellness Committee that () meets at least four (4) times per year and includes parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, educational staff (including health and physical education teachers), mental health and social services staff, school health professionals, members of the public, and school administrators to oversee development, implementation, evaluation and periodic update of this policy. The Wellness Committee shall be an ad hoc committee with members recruited and appointed annually. School level health advisory teams may assist in the planning and implementation of these Wellness initiatives.~~

~~The Wellness Committee shall be responsible for:~~

- A. ~~assessment of the current school environment;~~
- B. ~~review of the District's Wellness policy;~~
- C. ~~presentation of the Wellness policy to the Board for approval;~~
- D. ~~measurement of the implementation of the policy; and~~
- E. ~~recommendation for the revision of the policy, is necessary.~~

~~Before the end of each school year, the Wellness Committee shall recommend to the Superintendent any revisions to the policy it deems necessary and/or appropriate. In its review, the Wellness Committee shall consider evidence based strategies in determining its recommendations.~~

~~The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the Wellness Committee's progress and on its evaluation of the policy's implementation and areas for improvement, including status of compliance by individual schools and progress made in attaining the policy's goals.~~

The Superintendent is also responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall

distribute information at the beginning of the school year to families of school children;

include information in the student handbook;

_____ **[insert other methods of informing the public]**

~~and~~ post the policy on the District's website, including the Wellness Committee's assessment of the policy's implementation.

The District shall assess the Wellness Policy at least once every three (3) years on the extent to which schools in the District are in compliance with the District policy, the extent to which the District policy compares to model wellness policies, and the progress made in attaining the goals of the District Wellness Policy. The assessment shall be made available to the public.

- A. in the parent and staff handbooks.
- B. in the school District Annual Report to the public.
- C. on the School District's web site.
- D. in the School District's calendar.
- E. _____.

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Legal 42 U.S.C. 1751, Sec. 204
 42 U.S.C. 1771
 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220