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STUDENT POLICIES GOALS

The Board advocates the following goals to:

1. enhance equal educational opportunities for all students;
2. instill in all students the ability to be critical thinkers and to strive for lifelong learning;
3. promote consistent attendance;
4. ensure that the Constitutional rights of all students as citizens in a democracy have practical meaning and application;
5. develop in students a deep sense of personal responsibility for their actions;
6. attend vigorously to matters of student safety, health and welfare;
7. deal justly and constructively with all students in matters of discipline and
8. help all students feel that they are valued as individual persons in the school environment.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: Ohio Const. Art. II
ORC 3313.20; 3313.48

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All students of the District have equal educational opportunities.

Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, age, disability or military status in all decisions affecting admissions; membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs or activities; access to facilities; distribution of funds; academic evaluations or any other aspect of school-sponsored activities. Any limitations with regard to participation in a school-sponsored activity are based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 42 USC 2000d et seq.
Civil Rights Act, (Amended 1972), Title VII; 42 USC 2000e et seq.
Executive Order 11246, 1965, amended by Executive Order 11375
Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX, Pub. L. No. 92-318 (1972)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.
Americans with Disabilities Act; 42 USC 12101 et seq.
Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
ORC 9.60 through 9.62
Chapter 4112
5903.01(G)
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
ACA, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
GBA, Equal Opportunity Employment
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
IGBB, Programs for Gifted and Talented Students
IGBI, Limited English Proficiency
IGBJ, Title I Programs
JECAA, Admission of Homeless Students
JFA, Student Due Process Rights

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES

Children between the ages of six and 18 are of compulsory school age. Every person of compulsory school age must attend a school which conforms to the standards prescribed by the State Board of Education until one of the following occurs.

1. The person receives a diploma or a GED granted by the Board or other governing authority indicating such student has successfully completed all state and local requirements.
2. The person receives an Age and Schooling Certificate (work permit) and is enrolled in a GED program.
3. The person is excused from school under standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to State law.

The parent(s) of any person who is of compulsory school age must send such person to school unless he/she is exempt as listed above.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.61
3321.01 et. seq.
3331.02
OAC 3301-35-04
3301-41

CROSS REFS.: IGBG, Home-Bound Instruction
JEB, Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)
JEG, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
JFE, Pregnant Students

ENTRANCE AGE
(Mandatory Kindergarten)

Each child who is five years of age on or before August 1 is eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Each child who is six years of age on or before August 1 and who has successfully completed kindergarten is eligible to enroll in the first grade.

The District policy requiring successful completion of kindergarten may, upon parental request to the pupil personnel services committee, be waived provided the child demonstrates to the satisfaction of the committee the social, emotional and cognitive skills necessary for first grade, and that the child is at least six by the District admittance date. This committee shall be comprised as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3321.01
OAC 3301-35-04(F)

CROSS REFS.: IKEB, Acceleration
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages
JEBA, Early Entrance to Kindergarten

EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

State law establishes minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten and sets forth requirements for a standardized testing program to evaluate those students deemed ready by parents for early admission.

Children who will be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested are evaluated upon the request of the child's parent or legal guardian.

Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested are also evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the District or a preschool educator, a pediatrician or a psychologist who knows the child. The building principal may also request evaluation at his/her discretion.

Referrals for students to be evaluated and assessed should be made to the building principal. Students referred and having parental permission are tested using a variety of assessments. The assessments are reviewed by an acceleration evaluation committee to determine the most appropriate and available learning environment for the students.

The committee issues a written recommendation to the building principal and the students' parents. Parents have the right to appeal the committee's recommendation to the Superintendent/designee.

The committee develops a written acceleration plan for any student who is admitted early to kindergarten. The parents of the student are provided with a copy of the written plan.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3321.01
3324.01 et seq.
OAC 3301-51-15

CROSS REFS.: IGBB, Programs for Gifted and Talented Students
IKEB, Acceleration
JEB, Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)

SCHOOL ADMISSION

The District provides free education to District residents between the ages of five through 21 who do not possess a diploma. Students who do not legally qualify as residents may be required to pay tuition as established by law and Board policy.

A student is considered a resident of the District if he/she resides with a parent, a grandparent with either power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit or a person or government agency with legal custody whose place of residence is within the boundaries of the District. Proof of residency is required.

New entrants at all grade levels are required to present at the time of enrollment a birth certificate or other document as evidence of birth, a certified copy of any child custody order or decree, proof of having received or being in the process of receiving required immunizations and copies of those records pertaining to him/her which are maintained by the school most recently attended.

In addition, students released from the Department of Youth Services (DYS) just prior to requesting admission to the District, may not be admitted until the Superintendent has received all required documents provided by DHS. Forwarded documents are:

1. an updated copy of the student's transcript;
2. a report of the student's behavior in school while in DHS custody;
3. the student's current individualized education program (IEP), if developed, and
4. a summary of the institutional record of the student's behavior.

DYS has 14 days to send the documents to the Superintendent.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2152.18(D)(4)
3109.52; 3109.53; 3109.65; 3109.66
3313.48; 3313.64; 3313.67; 3313.671; 3313.672
3317.08
3321.01
OAC 3301-35-04(F)

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
JECB, Admission of Nonresident Students
JEE, Student Attendance Accounting (Missing and Absent Children)
JHCB, Inoculations of Students
JO, Student Records

ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Board believes that all school-aged students, including homeless students, have a basic right to equal educational opportunities. Accordingly, the District must enroll each homeless student in the District in the school determined to be in the student's best interest. A homeless student is defined as an individual who lacks fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence including:

1. a "doubling up" or sharing the housing with another family due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
2. living in a motel, hotel, trailer park or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. abandonment in hospitals;
5. awaiting foster care placement;
6. a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
7. living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings and
8. migratory students.

In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the District must make school placement determinations on the basis of the best interest of the student. To the extent feasible, homeless students are kept in the school of origin unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the student's parent or guardian.

To the extent feasible, the District complies with a request made by a parent(s) regarding school placement regardless of whether the student lives with the homeless parent(s) or is temporarily residing elsewhere.

The Board ensures that:

1. it reviews and revises Board policies and regulations to eliminate barriers to the enrollment, retention and success in school of homeless students;

2. the District does not segregate homeless students into separate schools or separate programs within a school based on the student's status as homeless;
3. it appoints a District liaison who ensures that homeless students enroll and succeed in school and
4. homeless students are provided with education, nutrition and transportation services that are at least comparable to the services provided to nonhomeless students.

The liaison ensures compliance with the subgrant and coordinates services for homeless students with local social service agencies and programs, including those funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

A student who ceases to be homeless may continue to receive services until the end of the period of time for which the service was originally intended to be provided, which may be the end of the school year or the end of a program cycle.

The District complies with the Ohio Department of Education's Plan and State and Federal laws for the education of homeless students.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
42 USC Sections 11431 et seq.
ORC 9.60 through 9.62
3313.64(F)(13)
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

ADMISSION OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

In order to be eligible for a free public education in the District's schools, a student must be the child of a resident of the District. If legal or permanent custody or legal guardianship of the student has been granted by a court to a resident of the District or a government agency within the District, the student is entitled to attend District schools and tuition is paid in compliance with State law.

In compliance with State law and Board policy, nonresident students are exempt from paying tuition when:

1. an adult resident of the District submits a sworn statement that he/she has begun legal custody proceedings for the student (maximum 60 days permitted);
2. the student is at least 18 but not yet 22 years of age and resides in the District, lives apart from his/her parent(s), supports himself/herself by his/her own labor and does not possess a high school diploma;
3. the student is under 18 years of age, resides in the District and is married, regardless of the residence of the parent(s);
4. the student has a medical condition which may require emergency attention and his/her parent is employed in the District;
(The parent(s) of such child must submit to the Board a statement from the child's physician certifying that the child's medical condition may require emergency medical attention.)
5. the student resides with a person other than his/her parent(s) and such student has a parent serving outside Ohio in the U.S. Armed Services;
(The student's parent(s) must file an affidavit with the Superintendent stating (1) that the parent is serving outside the state in the U.S. Armed Services, (2) that the parent intends to reside in the District upon returning to the state, and (3) the name and address of the person with whom the student is living while the parent is outside the state. This tuition exemption may be granted only for a period of up to 12 months.)

6. the student resides with a parent who is planning to either have a home built or has purchased a home in the District and is waiting for the closing date of the mortgage loan;
(The student's parent(s) must provide the Superintendent with a sworn statement revealing the location of the house and the parent(s)' intention to reside there. The parent(s) must also provide a statement from a homebuilder, real estate broker or bank officer confirming that the house construction is planned or is awaiting approval of the mortgage loan. The period for tuition-free attendance in these cases may extend up to 90 days.)
7. his/her parent is a full-time employee of the District;
(Any such policy shall take effect on the first day of the school year and the effective date of any amendment or repeal may not be prior to the first day of the subsequent school year. The policy shall be uniformly applied to all such children and shall provide for the admission of any such student upon request of the parent(s). No student may be admitted under this policy after the first day of classes of any school year.)
8. the student resides with his/her parent(s) under the care of a shelter for victims of domestic violence;
9. the student is not a resident of the District, does not require special education and resides with his/her grandparent(s), provided that the Board and the board of education of the district in which the student's parent(s) reside enter into a written agreement showing good cause for the student to be admitted to the District;
(The grandparent(s) are required to sign all consent forms required by the District, even if the student would remain in the legal custody of the parent(s).)
10. the student is under the age of 22 and his/her parent(s) moved from the District, but within the county, after the first full week of October, for the remainder of the school year;
11. the student is under the age of 22 and his/her parent(s) moved from the District following the commencement of classes during the student's senior year, for the remainder of the school year and for one additional semester;
12. the student is under the age of 22 and resides in a new school district because of the death of a parent;
(The student is entitled to finish the current school year in the District upon approval of the Board.)

13. the student is under the age of 22 and the superintendent of the district in which the student is entitled to attend (the student's district of origin) enters into a contract with the Superintendent of this District (the district into which the student wishes to enroll) consenting to the attendance of the student in this District.
(The Superintendent of this District specifies that the purpose of such attendance is to protect the student's physical or mental well-being or to deal with other extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.)
14. the student whose parent is a full-time employee of an educational service center may be admitted tuition free to the schools of the district where the parent's job is primarily located, pursuant to the admission policy of that district.

The Board does not waive the payment of tuition, except:

1. when agreements have been established with other boards of education to serve their students in vocational or special education classes on a cooperative basis, as permitted by law;
2. when foreign exchange students, sponsored under an approved exchange program, reside in the District temporarily or
3. for adult residents or classified staff employees of the District who meet the criteria established by the Board.

In all cases, specific Board permission to waive tuition must be obtained for each individual case.

The District may temporarily deny admittance to any student who otherwise may be admitted to the District, if the student has been expelled from the schools of another district and if the period of expulsion has not expired. The student and parent(s) will have an opportunity for a hearing before the Superintendent/designee to determine the admittance or nonadmittance of the student.

Tuition Students

Applications from nonresidents to attend the schools on a tuition basis may be considered if space is available. The amount of tuition is set annually by the state, based on a per-student cost determined in compliance with State law. Nonresident students must provide all records required of resident students in compliance with State law.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2152.18(D)(4)
3109.52; 3109.53; 3109.65; 3109.66
3311.211
3313.64; 3313.644; 3313.645; 3313.65; 3313.672; 3313.90
3317.08
3319.01
3323.04
3327.04; 3327.06
OAC 3301-35-04
3301-42-01

CROSS REFS.: JECAA, Admission of Homeless Students
JECBA, Admission of Exchange Students
JECBB, Admission of Interdistrict Transfer Students
JO, Student Records

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement
Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

ADMISSION OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS
(Tuition Income)

It is the policy of the Board to assess tuition charges for each student attending school in this District on a tuition basis in a manner that is fair and equitable and in line with statute.

Tuition may be assessed only for those students whose attendance has been approved by the Board.

It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to assess the tuition for approved students at a rate established by the Ohio Department of Education.

Tuition rates are computed annually by the Ohio Department of Education. Notice of tuition rates shall be given prior to the start of the school year in which they will be charged or as soon after the receipt of the tuition rates by the Department of Education as is practicable.

The Treasurer shall provide a notice of tuition rate to parents or guardians stipulating the monthly tuition rate. No other billing shall be issued by the Treasurer. The monthly tuition is due to the Treasurer from the parents or guardians by the first day of the month for which payment is made. If payment is not received by the first day of the month, the attendance of a nonresident student shall be unauthorized and services will be terminated.

Monthly tuition shall be based on nine months of equal installments for the school year. Days of attendance in August shall be included in the September tuition and days of attendance in June shall be included in the May tuition. Attendance for any other fractional part of a month shall be regarded as attendance for a full month.

The Grandview Heights City Schools will not accept tuition students in cases where their enrollment would require hiring additional staff. For the purpose of accepting tuition students, upper limits or "caps" are established as indicated below for class size, section size, programs and grade level size.

Class and section size capacities are set at: 17 for Kindergarten, 19 for Grades 1-3, 19 for Grade 4, 20 for Grades 5-6 and 21 for Grades 7-12. Grade level capacity for all grades, K-12, is set at 100 students. The high school principal, with input from the faculty can accept additional students, considering Grandview students being educated at other sites. Within our program for special needs students, the District can accept tuition students up to the capacity of 8 for students with mild disabilities, 6 for students with moderate/severe disabilities, 30 for K-5 speech; 10 for K-12 English as a second language.

The parents/guardians of the tuition students are responsible for providing transportation. Families of tuition students are also responsible for paying the same fees as other families of students in the District.

The administration will develop an application and interview process to assist in determining whether student and District needs are a good match. Contact with and references from the previous school(s) should be included in this process. Application for enrollment of a tuition student will be accepted throughout the calendar year. If there is no space available within the grade level, class, or program needed for a student, the applicant will be placed on a wait status, and the interview process will be activated when space is available. Tuition students who apply in July or August will be placed on a waiting list, and their applications will be reviewed after the school year begins. When there are two or more children from the same family who apply to enter Grandview Heights City Schools as tuition students, each child will be considered individually according to the criteria established within this policy. If the District is able to accept one student and siblings(s) cannot be accepted, the family must decide whether they still wish to enroll the accepted student. The building administrator will review tuition students annually for continued enrollment in the District. Students who drop out and wish to re-apply later will be considered as new applicants.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

ADMISSION OF EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The Board believes that one of the most effective vehicles for improving international understanding is communications among the individuals of various nations. Accordingly, the Board endorses the involvement of high school students and their families in recognized foreign exchange student programs. The Superintendent and administrative staff are responsible for developing regulations to direct the involvement of the high school with such programs.

Exchange students are not responsible for tuition if sponsored under an approved exchange program while temporarily residing in the District with a host family. Exchange students must meet the same requirements and expectations required of resident students, including immunization requirements.

Exchange students are encouraged to participate in all student activities, provided they meet the academic requirements.

The Board reserves the right to limit the number of exchange students in any given year.

Foreign exchange students not enrolled in a state-approved educational or exchange program must be legally adopted by a resident of the District in order to be eligible for athletics.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.535; 3313.615; 3313.64

CROSS REFS.: IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics
IGDK, Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility
IKFB, Graduation Ceremonies
JECB, Admission of Nonresident Students
JHCB, Inoculations of Students

ADMISSION OF EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The following regulations shall be observed in administering the foreign exchange student program:

1. Exchange students must be associated with an organized foreign exchange program that is approved by the Board. Such programs must maintain either an office or a representative in Ohio.
2. The sponsoring parents and/or representatives of the approved sponsoring organization must contact the designated coordinator of the foreign exchange student program in the high school guidance office.
3. The Board reserves the right to restrict the number of foreign exchange students in any given academic year.
4. The school reserves the right to deny enrollment to foreign exchange students if approval by the high school guidance office has not been given by July 1 preceding the year of desired enrollment.
5. In order to provide a quality education and to minimize potential disruption, the high school will not accept foreign exchange students after the school year has begun. However, students who were accepted before the July 1 deadline will not be denied enrollment due to late arrival.
6. Exchange students must be full-time students carrying a full academic classload. Enrollment eligibility shall be determined on an annual basis. Exchange students shall receive pass/fail grades only for purposes of class GPA ranking. The coordinator shall keep a record of the students' actual grades for permanent records.
7. Exchange students will not be accepted on a part-time basis. Part-time is defined as less than a full school day or school year.
8. Priority for enrollment will be granted to students enrolling in a level other than grade 12.

9. Exchange students completing grade 12 will receive an honorary diploma or certificate of attendance.

To receive a regular diploma, the exchange student must successfully complete a program of study developed by the principal/designee and fulfill all other requirements for graduation, including passing all sections of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). However, exchange students are not eligible for an honors diploma.

Exchange students that wish to qualify for graduation under alternative testing conditions are required to pass the OGT in social studies in order to graduate.

Exchange students who complete the program of study will be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies with expenses borne by the student or sponsoring parents.

10. Exchange students are expected to share their cultural heritage to the fullest extent possible including topics such as government, economics, historical understanding and language.
11. Exchange students are subject to the same policies, rules, fees, fines and regulations of the Board that apply to all high school students.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

ADMISSION OF INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER STUDENTS

The Board does not participate in an open enrollment program for students from other districts and does not accept such students.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.98

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS
FROM NONCHARTERED OR HOME SCHOOLING

Students seeking admission into the District's schools who have been enrolled in nonchartered schools or home schooling programs may be required to take competency examinations. The purpose of these examinations is to determine the proper grade placement for these students.

In making a placement decision, the Superintendent may consider:

1. the student's most recent annual academic assessment report;
2. whether to require the student to take any or all of the nationally normed, standardized achievement tests that are regularly scheduled for District students of similar age and
3. other evaluation information that may include interviews with the student and the parent.

Students currently enrolled in home schooling programs may, at the discretion of the building principal, enroll in curricular offerings. The principal will consider class size, educational appropriateness and cost to the District. Students that wish to utilize this option will be required to complete the registration process. Regular course fees and proportional general fees will be assessed. As it pertains to this policy, no student, unless considered a full-time student, will be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-34-06

CROSS REFS.: IGBG, Home-Bound Instruction
IGCF, Home Schooling
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Board directs the administration to develop an intradistrict open enrollment plan when additional facilities or grade assignments change. The organization of facilities then would provide students with intradistrict open enrollment opportunities.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.64; 3313.65; 3313.97
OAC 3301-48-01

CROSS REFS.: IE, Organization of Facilities for Instruction
IGBJ, Title I Programs

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL
(Loss of Driving Privileges)

The Superintendent develops procedures for student withdrawal from school including:

1. counseling services;
2. information on obtaining a certificate of high school equivalence;
3. right to return to school until the 22nd birthday;
4. procedures for return of District-owned materials and
5. an exit conference with the Superintendent.

When the Superintendent receives information that a student of compulsory school age has withdrawn from school, the Superintendent must, within two weeks after the withdrawal, notify the registrar of motor vehicles and the county juvenile judge. Notification is not necessary if a student has withdrawn because of a change of residence; the student is enrolled in and attending, in accordance with District policy, an approved program to obtain a diploma or its equivalent, or if the student holds a full-time age and schooling certificate (work permit) and is regularly employed.

Notification to the registrar of motor vehicles and the county juvenile judge must comply with State and Federal law.

After receiving such information from the Superintendent, the registrar of motor vehicles is required to suspend the temporary instruction permit or driver's license of the student who is the subject of the notice. If a temporary permit or license has not been issued to that student, the registrar is prohibited from issuing a temporary permit or a license. Any denial of driving privileges would remain in effect until the student reaches 18 or until the denial of driving privileges is terminated for another reason allowable under State law.

In compliance with State law, a student whose driving privileges have been denied can file a petition seeking his/her reinstatement with the juvenile court in whose jurisdiction he/she resides.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC 1232g
ORC 3319.321
3321.13
4507.061

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Regular attendance by all students is very important. In many cases, irregular attendance is the major reason for poor schoolwork; therefore, all students are urged to make appointments, do personal errands, etc., outside of school hours.

Reasons for which students may be excused include, but are not limited to:

1. personal illness of the student;
2. illness in the student's family;
3. needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians (applies to students over 14 years of age only);
4. death in the family;
5. quarantine for contagious disease;
6. religious reasons or
7. as determined by the Superintendent.

Each student who is absent must immediately, upon return to school, make arrangements with his/her teacher(s) to make up work missed. Students who are absent from school for reasons not permitted by State law may, or may not, be permitted to make up work. Each case is considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s). Students are requested to bring a note to school after each absence explaining the reason for the absence or tardiness.

The Board does not believe that students should be excused from school for nonemergency trips out of the District. Students who are taken out of school for trips or vacations are not given permission to do so by the school. The responsibility for such absence resides with the parent(s), and they must not expect any work missed by their child to be retaught by the teacher. If the school is notified in advance of such a trip, reasonable efforts are made to prepare a general list of assignments for the student to do while he/she is absent.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a hearing and notification procedure for the purpose of denying a student's driving privileges if that student of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse for more than 10 consecutive days or a total of at least 15 days during a semester or term.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.609
3321.01; 3321.03; 3321.04; 3321.13; 3321.14; 3321.19; 3321.38
4507.061
OAC 3301-51-13

CROSS REFS.: IGAC, Teaching About Religion
JEDB, Student Dismissal Precautions
JHC, Student Health Services and Requirements

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Students Habitually Absent – Loss of Driving Privileges

When the Superintendent receives information that a student of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse for more than 10 consecutive days or a total of at least 15 days in any term or semester, the following procedure applies.

1. The Superintendent notifies, in writing, the student and his/her parent(s) and states that information regarding the student's absences has been provided to the Superintendent, and, as a result of that information, the student's driving privileges are denied. This notification also states that the student and his/her parent(s) may appear before the Superintendent/designee to challenge the information provided to the Superintendent.
2. The notice from the Superintendent to the student includes the scheduled time, place and date of the hearing, which is scheduled between three and five days after the notification is given. Upon the request of the student or parent(s), an extension may be granted by the Superintendent. The Superintendent must then notify the student and the parent(s) of the new hearing time, place and date.
3. At the hearing before the Superintendent/designee, the student has an opportunity to present evidence that he/she has not been habitually absent without legitimate excuse. State law defines "legitimate excuses" for absence from school to include, but not be limited to:
 - A. enrollment in another school or school district in Ohio or another state;
 - B. possession of an age and schooling certificate (work permit);
 - C. a bodily or mental condition that prohibits attendance or
 - D. participation in a home instruction program.
4. If a habitually absent student does not appear at a hearing before the Superintendent or designee, or if the student does not convince the Superintendent or designee that the absences were legitimate, the Superintendent must notify the registrar of motor vehicles and the juvenile judge. Such notification must be given to the registrar and the juvenile judge within two weeks of the receipt of the information regarding habitual absences or, if the hearing for the student is held, within two weeks after the hearing.

Notification to the registrar of motor vehicles and the county judge must comply with State and Federal law.

The registrar of motor vehicles is required to suspend the temporary instruction permit or driver's license of the student who is the subject of the notice. If a temporary permit or license has not been issued for that student, the registrar is prohibited from issuing a temporary permit or a license.

Denial of privileges remains in effect until the student reaches age 18 or until the denial is terminated for another reason allowed by State law. In accordance with State law, a student whose driving privileges have been denied can file a petition seeking their reinstatement.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

TRUANCY

The Board endeavors to reduce truancy through cooperation with parents, diligence in investigating the causes of absence and use of strict guidelines in regard to tardiness and unexcused absence.

When the Board determines that a student has been truant and that the parent, guardian or other person having care of a child has failed to ensure the child's attendance at school, State law authorizes the Board to require the parent to attend a specified educational program.

This program has been established according to the rules adopted by the State Board of Education for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the child's attendance at school.

On the request of the Superintendent, or when it comes to the attention of the school attendance officer or other appropriate officer of the District, the designated officer must investigate any case of supposed truancy within the District and must warn the child, if found truant, and the child's parent in writing of the legal consequences of being a "habitual" or a "chronic" truant.

A "habitual truant" is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without a legitimate excuse for five or more consecutive school days, seven or more school days in one month or 12 or more school days in a school year.

A "chronic truant" is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for seven or more consecutive school days, 10 or more school days in one month or 15 or more school days in a school year.

The parent is required to have the child attend school immediately after notification. If the parent fails to get the child to attend school, the attendance officer or other appropriate officer, if directed by the Superintendent or the Board, must send notice requiring the child's parent to attend a parental education program.

For the correction of the "habitually truant" unruly child, the courts may now order the Board to require the child to attend an alternative school if one has been established.

The courts may order the "habitually truant" child not to be absent without legitimate excuse from school for five or more consecutive days, seven or more school days in one school month or 12 or more school days in a school year.

Regarding “habitual truants,” the Board must take as an intervention strategy any appropriate action contained in the Board policy, or the Board may file a complaint in juvenile court jointly against the child and the parent. The complaint must state that the child is an “unruly child” by virtue of being a “habitual truant” and that the child’s parent violated the School Attendance Law.

Regarding “chronic truants,” if the parent fails to get the child to attend school and the child is considered a “chronic truant,” the Board must file a complaint in the juvenile court jointly against the child and the parent. The complaint must state that the child is a “delinquent child” by virtue of being a “chronic truant,” and that the parent has violated the School Attendance Law.

The Board directs the administration to develop intervention strategies that may include the following:

1. providing a truancy intervention program for a habitual truant;
2. providing counseling for a habitual truant;
3. requesting or requiring a parent having control of a habitual truant to attend parental involvement programs;
4. requesting or requiring a parent of a habitual truant to attend truancy prevention mediation programs;
5. notification to the registrar of motor vehicles or
6. taking appropriate legal action.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.663
3321.03 through 3321.04; 3321.07 through 3321.09; 3321.19; 3321.191;
3321.22; 3321.38
OAC 3301-51-13

CROSS REF.: JED, Student Absences and Excuses

STUDENT DISMISSAL PRECAUTIONS

Permission for a student to leave school when school is in session requires approval by the principal or a person specifically designated by him/her to exercise that authority. In evaluating requests for this permission, he/she gives primary consideration to the best interests of the student and/or public welfare. Requests are not approved without a parent's permission. When a request originates from a person other than the parent(s), the school official in authority contacts the parent(s) to obtain permission.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.20

CROSS REFS.: JED, Student Absences and Excuses
JEE, Student Attendance Accounting (Missing and Absent Children)

STUDENT ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING
(Missing and Absent Children)

The Board believes in the importance of trying to decrease the number of missing children; therefore, efforts are made to identify missing children and to notify the proper adults or agencies.

At the time of initial entry into school, a student shall present to the person in charge of admission an official copy of a birth certificate and copies of those records pertaining to him/her which were maintained by the school which he/she most recently attended. In lieu of a birth certificate, birth documentation may include:

1. a passport or attested transcript thereof filed with a registrar of passports at a point of entry of the United States showing the date and place of birth of the child;
2. an attested transcript of the certificate of birth;
3. an attested transcript of the certificate of baptism or other religious record showing the date and place of birth of the child;
4. an attested transcript of a hospital record showing the date and place of birth of the child or
5. a birth affidavit.

If the student does not present copies of the required documents, the principal shall call the school from which the student transferred and request the information. If that district has no record on file of the student or if that district does not send the records within 14 days, the principal shall notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the student resides of the possibility that the student might be a missing child.

The primary responsibility for supervision of a student resides with his/her parent(s). The staff provides as much assistance as is reasonable to parents with this responsibility.

Parents must notify the school on the day a student is absent unless previous notification has been given in accordance with school procedure for excused absences. The principal or his/her designee is required to notify a student's parent(s) when the student is absent from school. The parent(s) or other responsible person shall be notified by telephone or written notice, which is mailed on the same day that the student is absent. Parents or other responsible persons shall provide the school with their current home and/or work telephone numbers, home addresses and any emergency telephone numbers.

The Board shall designate the Superintendent to develop informational programs for students, parents and community members relative to the subject of missing children.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 109.65
2901.30
3313.205; 3313.672; 3313.96
3319.321; 3319.322
3321.12

CROSS REFS.: JEC, School Admission
JECAA, Admission of Homeless Students
JEDB, Student Dismissal Precautions
JHF, Student Safety

EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student of compulsory school age residing in the District may be legally excused from public school attendance by:

1. holding a full-time age and schooling certificate (work permit) and being regularly employed;
2. receiving approved home instruction;
3. attending a private or parochial school or
4. having received a diploma or GED from an approved high school.

The District may temporarily deny admittance to any student who is otherwise entitled to be admitted to the District if the student has been suspended or expelled from the schools of another district in the state of Ohio or an out-of-state district and if the period of suspension or expulsion has not expired. The student and parent(s) will have an opportunity for a hearing before the Superintendent/designee to determine the admittance or nonadmittance of the student.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.66
3321.02; 3321.03; 3321.04; 3321.07
OAC 3301-51-13

CROSS REFS.: IGCF, Home Schooling
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages
JECE, Student Withdrawal from School (Loss of Driving Privileges)
JEGA, Permanent Exclusion
JHCC, Communicable Diseases
JK, Employment of Students

PERMANENT EXCLUSION

The Board may seek the permanent exclusion of a student 16 years of age or older who is either convicted in criminal court or adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court of any of the following offenses that occur on school grounds or at a school function:

1. illegal conveyance or possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance, carrying a concealed weapon, aggravated trafficking, trafficking in drugs, trafficking involving the possession of a bulk amount of a controlled substance or the sale of a controlled substance and/or
2. aggravated murder, murder, voluntary or involuntary manslaughter, felonious or aggravated assault, rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration, if the victim is a District employee.

In addition, complicity in any of the above acts may be the basis for permanent exclusion.

Any building administrator witnessing, or having knowledge of, one of these acts must report the incident to the Superintendent within 24 hours, whether or not the student is over 16 years of age.

If the Superintendent receives notification that a student has been found guilty of or is adjudicated delinquent for any of the listed offenses, a determination must be made whether the student's continued attendance endangers the health and safety of other students or employees or whether the student's attendance poses a danger of disruption to the graded course of study. If the Superintendent determines that either danger exists, he/she may recommend that the Board adopt a resolution requesting the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to permanently exclude the student from attendance in any Ohio school. Written notice of the Superintendent's recommendation for permanent exclusion is provided to the student and his/her parent(s).

The Board acts upon the Superintendent's recommendation within 14 days. Among the items the Board considers is information on:

1. academic and extracurricular activity record of the student;
2. disciplinary record of the student;
3. social history of the student;
4. response to prior discipline and sanctions;
5. seriousness of the offense and any aggravating circumstances;

6. any mitigating circumstances;
7. evidence regarding the possible danger to other students and employees if the student remains in the District;
8. evidence regarding the probable disruption of the graded course of study and
9. availability of less serious sanctions that would permit the student to stay in the District without conflict with either (7) or (8).

The Board may allow for the hearing of witnesses and the presentation of additional evidence.

If the Board adopts the resolution to permanently exclude the student, the Board:

1. forwards the written resolution, together with the adjudication or conviction and a copy of the student's entire school record, to the State Superintendent;
2. promptly designates a representative to present the District's case for permanent exclusion to the State Superintendent and
3. forwards a copy of the resolution to the student and his/her parent(s).

If the State Superintendent rejects the resolution, the student shall be re-admitted to the District's schools.

No employee shall knowingly admit, or cause by inaction to be admitted, any student who has been permanently excluded.

Re-Admission

If the Superintendent determines that a permanently excluded student no longer represents a danger to the health and safety of other students or staff, the Superintendent may recommend that the student be re-admitted.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board considers a resolution requesting the State Superintendent to revoke the permanent exclusion. If the Board adopts the resolution, it is forwarded to the State Superintendent, together with the reasons for the resolution and any relevant information.

Probationary Admission Following Permanent Exclusion

Under State law, a student permanently excluded from school may request probationary admission for a period not to exceed 90 days in any public school district.

If a student requests consideration of probationary admission into this District, the Superintendent may enter into discussions with the student and his/her parent(s) to develop a probationary admission plan designed to meet the educational needs of the child and the disciplinary requirements of the District.

If a satisfactory plan is developed, the Superintendent recommends that the Board allow the student to attend classes according to the terms of the plan. The Board acts on the recommendation within 14 days.

If a student violates the terms of the re-admission plan, the Superintendent may immediately remove the student, pending action by the Board. The Board's action must take place within five days from receipt of the Superintendent's recommendation to revoke the re-admission.

A student in compliance with his/her probationary re-admission plan may request either an extension of the plan for an additional 90 days or for the Superintendent to recommend that the permanent exclusion be revoked.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JGD, Student Suspension
JGE, Student Expulsion

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students, like all citizens, have civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The First Amendment, which ensures the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition and the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees due process and equal protection, apply in school environments.

The rights of an individual are preserved only by the protection and preservation of the rights of others. A student is responsible for the way rights are exercised and must accept the consequences of actions and recognize the boundaries of rights. Each exercise of an individual's rights must demonstrate respect for the rights of others.

These statements set forth the rights of students and the responsibilities which are inseparable from these rights, which include the right to:

1. equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination and the responsibility not to discriminate against others;
2. attend free public schools; the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school;
3. due process of law with respect to suspension and expulsion;
4. free inquiry and expression and the responsibility to observe rules regarding these rights and
5. privacy, which includes privacy with respect to the student's school records.

As part of the educational process, students should be made aware of their legal rights and of the legal authority of the Board to make rules and delegate authority to its staff to make rules necessary for the orderly operation of the schools.

A copy of the school discipline code is posted in each of the schools and given to each student. This code describes in detail the offenses such as truancy, tardiness, property damage, etc., for which disciplinary action may be taken. Copies of the code are available to any parent in the principal's office.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I
U.S. Const. Amend. XIV, Section 1
ORC 3313.20; 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: ABC, Student Involvement in Decision Making (Also JFB)
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFG, Interrogations and Searches
Student Handbooks

STUDENT DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

The Board and school officials have the legal authority to deal with disruptive students and student misconduct. Due process, in the context of administrative proceedings carried out by school authorities, does not mean that the procedures used by the courts in juvenile proceedings must be followed. The Ohio and Federal Rules of Evidence do not apply.

Students have clearly established means by which administrative due process is available for the protection of his/her rights.

Due process procedures are:

1. applied equally to all and
2. enforced in a manner which involves:
 - A. adequate and timely notice and opportunity to prepare a defense;
 - B. an opportunity to be heard at a reasonable time and in a meaningful manner and
 - C. the right to a timely and impartial hearing on the merits of the case.

In cases of student suspension or expulsion, the specific due process procedures set by the Board's policy are followed.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC Chapter 2506
3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCA, Student Dress Code
JFCF, Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior
JFCG, Tobacco Use by Students
JFCH, Alcohol Use by Students
JFCI, Student Drug Abuse
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JFCK, Use of Electronic Communications Equipment by Students
JFCL, Unsafe Schools (Persistently Dangerous Schools)
JGD, Student Suspension
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Students share responsibility for developing a climate in the school which is conducive to learning. Through participation in the decision-making process, students can be an important resource for the improvement of the school, the educational system and the community. Periodically, students may be asked to review school policies, rules and regulations. The role of students in decision making is in accordance with their age and competencies. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

The Board of Education recognizes that providing ongoing opportunities for students to present their work to the community is a necessary component of student learning. Student presentations to the community not only enhance student learning, they promote recognition of the District's teachers, increase parental involvement and foster positive community relations.

The Board allocates 15 minutes on a regular basis for students to present their work to the community. A subsequent monthly Board meeting may be utilized in lieu of the first meeting when scheduling conflicts occur, with the approval of the Board President.

Presentations may include artistic, musical, dramatic and/or academic accomplishments. Group presentations, an individual presentation, or a series of individual presentations may be utilized.

The Superintendent is directed to develop guidelines for the successful implementation of this policy.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: BCE, Board Committees
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board
JF, Student Rights and Responsibilities
JFA, Student Due Process Rights
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
Student Handbooks

STUDENT CONDUCT
(Zero Tolerance)

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that exhibits respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students of the District must conform with school regulations and accept directions from authorized school personnel. The Board has “zero tolerance” of violent, disruptive, intimidating or any other inappropriate behavior by its students.

A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events is subject to approved student discipline regulations. Students are also subject to discipline, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the District or adversely affects the education process. The Superintendent/designee develops regulations which establish strategies ranging from prevention to intervention to address student misbehavior.

Students and parents receive, at the beginning of each school year or upon entering during the year, written information on the rules and regulations to which they are subject while in school or participating in any school-related activity or event. The information includes the types of conduct which are subject to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. The Board directs the administration to make all students aware of the Student Code of Conduct and the fact that any violations of the Student Code of Conduct are punishable. The rules also apply to any form of student misconduct directed at a District official or employee or the property of a District official or employee, regardless of where the misconduct occurs.

If a student violates this policy or the Student Code of Conduct, school personnel, students or parents should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state of Ohio and local ordinances.

A student may be expelled for up to one year if he/she commits an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property or at a school activity, event or program.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat or other threat which induces panic or causes a disruption of the normal operation of a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

The Student Code of Conduct is made available to students and parents and is posted in a central location within each building.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 8921
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Children's Internet Protection Act; (P.L. 106-554, HR 4577, 2000,
114 Stat 2763)
ORC 3313.20; 3313.534; 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: ABC, Student Involvement in Decision Making (Also JFB)
AC, Nondiscrimination
EBC, Emergency/Safety Plans
ECAB, Vandalism
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
JFCA, Student Dress Code
JFCF, Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JFCK, Use of Electronic Communication Equipment by Students
JG, Student Discipline
JGA, Corporal Punishment
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

STUDENT DRESS CODE

School dress should enhance a positive image of the students and the District and not threaten the health, welfare and safety of the members of the student body. Any form of dress or grooming which attracts undue attention, prompting a disruption of the learning environment or violating the previous statement, is unacceptable.

Requirements include the following.

1. Dress and grooming standards require cleanliness in the interest of health, sanitary conditions and safety requirements.
2. When a student is participating in school activities, his/her dress and grooming must not disrupt his/her performance or that of other students or constitute a health threat to himself/herself or other students.
3. Dress and grooming are such as not to disrupt the teaching/learning process.
4. Items as outlined in Board approved student handbooks.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I
ORC 3313.20; 3313.665

CROSS REFS.: JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
Student Handbooks

BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations among members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, psychological abuse and cyberbullying. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle or where an employee is engaged in school business. This policy applies while away from school grounds if the bullying behavior affects the school environment and/or welfare of the students.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students and community members as prescribed in Ohio law and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s). Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as but not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, handicap, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, marital status and limited English skills. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying also means electronically transmitted acts (i.e., Internet, e-mail (instant messaging), cellular telephone (text messaging), personal digital assistance (PDA), or a wireless hand-held device that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior causes mental and/or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes he/she has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to any school staff member or administrator. Reports shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review, investigation and action. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or designee shall prepare a written report upon completion of the investigation. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying were verified, and when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an act of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. These actions may be up to and including expulsion for students, discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation in reference to a substantiated or unsubstantiated report shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Making intentionally false reports about aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, he/she should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law.

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation and/or bullying.

If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal or designee shall notify in writing the parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

Complaints

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review, investigation and action.

Students, parents/guardians and school personnel may make informal complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator or other school personnel. Such informal complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the building principal for review, investigation and appropriate action.

Students who make informal complaints, as provided above, may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation to the extent that such action (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying.

When a student making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited, as is appropriate, in view of the anonymity of the complainant. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report will be anonymous.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligation to investigate, to take appropriate action and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Reporting Requirement

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District web site. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, or on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel will cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

Immunity

A District employee, student or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and Ohio law if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation and/or bullying.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated in the teacher, student and parent/guardian handbooks. State and federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building.

Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying. The Superintendent/designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the school District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. All training regarding the Board's policy and administrative guidelines with respect to aggressive behavior and bullying in general will be age and content appropriate.

To the extent that state and federal funds are appropriate for these purposes, the District shall provide training, workshops and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 117.53
2307.44
2903.31
3301.22
3313.666; 3313.667
3314.03
3319.073

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
IIBH, District Web Site Publishing
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCK, Use of Electronic Communications Equipment by Students
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse
Student Handbooks

TOBACCO USE BY STUDENTS

Health professionals have determined that the use of tobacco products can be detrimental to one's health. The Board wishes to encourage good health practices among the students of this District, as well as compliance with Federal and State law. Therefore, the Board prohibits the smoking, use or possession of tobacco in any form including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, clove cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff and any other forms of tobacco by any student in any area or vehicle under the control of the District or at any activity supervised by any school within the District.

Students and parents are given copies of the standards of conduct and statement of disciplinary sanctions, and notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory. Disciplinary measures taken against students for violations of this policy comply with the requirements of State law and related District policies.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Goals 2000: Educate America Act; 20 USC 6081 through 6084
ORC 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.751
3794.01; 3794.02; 3794.03(F); 3794.04; 3794.06
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: JFA, Student Due Process Rights
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JGD, Student Suspension
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS/STUDENT DRUG ABUSE

The Board recognizes its share of the responsibility for the health, welfare and safety of the students who attend the District's schools. The Board is concerned about the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and recognizes that illegal or inappropriate use of alcohol, narcotic drugs, depressants or other controlled substances is wrong and harmful and constitutes a hazard to the positive development of all students.

The Board does not permit any student to possess, transmit, conceal, offer for sale, consume, show evidence of having consumed or used any alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, unprescribed drugs, look-alike drugs or any mind-altering substance while on school grounds or facilities; at school-sponsored events; in other situations under the authority of the District or in school-owned or school-approved vehicles. Included in this prohibition are any substances represented as a controlled substance, nonalcoholic beers, steroids, tobacco and tobacco products and drug paraphernalia.

The Board wishes to emphasize the following requirements:

1. A student is required to obey existing laws on school grounds and while involved in school activities. School authorities have the same responsibility as any other citizen to report violations of the law. The final disposition of any problem, however, is determined by the building principal with due consideration of the welfare of the student and of any other relevant factors involved.
2. Discipline is imposed independent of court action. Students are subject to immediate suspension or expulsion proceedings for possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.
3. Parents and students are given a copy of the standards of conduct and the statement of disciplinary sanctions and are notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.
4. If conditions warrant, the administration refers the student for prosecution and offers full cooperation in a criminal investigation.
5. A reduction in penalty may be considered if the student receives professional assistance. Professional assistance may include but not be limited to an alcohol/drug education program; assessment with follow-through based on the assessment findings, counseling, outpatient treatment or inpatient treatment.

The Superintendent establishes and the Board considers for approval detailed procedures for dealing with students who may have a drug or alcohol problem. These procedures are in compliance with all applicable laws and observed by all staff members. It is the desire of the Board for students with problems to feel secure enough to ask for help from their teachers or counselors without fear of reprisal. Confidentiality shall be maintained within the limits of the law. The long-range welfare of the student is paramount.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: Drug-Free Campus and Schools Act; 20 USC 3224(a)
ORC 2925.01; 2925.11; 2925.14; 2925.37
3313.66; 3313.661
3719.011; 3719.41

CROSS REFS.: IGAG, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JHCD, Administering Medicines to Students
Student Code of Conduct
Student Handbooks

WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board is committed to providing the students of the District with an educational environment which is free of the dangers of firearms and knives.

The definition of a firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Section 921), which includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. A knife is defined as a cutting instrument having a sharp blade.

Unless a student is permanently excluded, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one year for bringing a firearm or knife to a school within the District or onto any other property owned or controlled by the Board, or for possessing a firearm or knife at a school or on any other property owned or controlled by the Board, which firearm or knife was initially brought onto school property by another person, except that the Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

A student may be expelled for up to one year for firearm-related or knife-related incidents occurring off school property while at a school-sponsored interscholastic competition, extracurricular event or other school-sponsored activity.

A student suspended, expelled, removed or permanently excluded from school for misconduct involving a firearm or knife also loses his/her driving privileges. The District must notify the county juvenile judge and registrar of motor vehicles within two weeks of the suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion.

The Board prohibits students from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school vehicle if both of the following apply.

1. The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.
2. The person indicates that the person possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

As defined by State law and for purposes of this policy, an “object that is indistinguishable from a firearm” means an object made, constructed or altered so that, to a reasonable person without specialized training in firearms, the object appears to be a firearm.

Students found in violation of numbers 1 and 2 above may be reported to the local law enforcement authority and may be prosecuted under State criminal statutes, as well as disciplined in accordance with the provisions of the District’s Student Code of Conduct and State law.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat or other threat which induces panic or causes a disruption of the normal operation of a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: 18 USC 921
20 USC 2701 et seq., Title IX 9001-9005
Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 8921
ORC 2923.122
3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662
3321.13

CROSS REFS.: JEGA, Permanent Exclusion
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCL, Unsafe Schools (Persistently Dangerous Schools)
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Code of Conduct

USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BY STUDENTS

Students may be allowed to possess cellular telephones and other electronic communications devices while on school property or while attending school-sponsored activities on or off school property, as long as these devices are turned off and not disruptive during school hours.

Violators of this policy are reported to the principal, who confiscates the device and holds it in his/her office until the end of the school day. Additional discipline may be enforced, when appropriate.

The District assumes no liability if these devices are broken, lost or stolen.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.753

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCF, Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior
JG, Student Discipline
Student Handbooks

UNSAFE SCHOOLS
(Persistently Dangerous Schools)

The Board complies with State and Federal law in adopting a policy on persistently dangerous schools.

A student attending a “persistently dangerous” school in this District or who becomes a victim of a “violent criminal offense,” “as determined by State law,” anywhere on District “grounds” or during school-sponsored activities is allowed to attend another school in the District that is not persistently dangerous that offers instruction at the student’s grade level. However, there is no transfer option if there is no other school in this District that offers instruction at the student’s grade level.

A “persistently dangerous” school is defined by State law as a school that has two or more violent criminal offenses in or on school grounds, per 100 students, in each of two consecutive school years. In schools with 300 or fewer students enrolled, six or more violent criminal offenses must occur. Likewise, if a school has 1350 or more students enrolled, 27 or more violent criminal offenses must occur in each of two consecutive school years.

“Violent criminal offense” refers to any violent criminal offense set forth and defined in State law as violent in nature.

“As determined by State law” means that the student has been identified as the victim and the perpetrator has pled guilty to, been adjudicated or convicted of a violent criminal offense in an Ohio court.

“Grounds” includes school bus transportation to and from school-sponsored activities.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: JECBD, Intradistrict Open Enrollment
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
Student Handbooks

PREGNANT STUDENTS

The Board affirms the right of a pregnant student to continue her participation in the educational program.

As soon as the pregnancy is medically confirmed, the Board recommends that the student consult with a member of the student personnel staff or the principal to plan her educational program.

With the staff member involved, the student may elect any of the following educational plans or suggest alternatives.

1. She may remain in her present school program, with modifications as necessary until the birth of her baby is imminent or until her physician states that continued participation would be detrimental to her health or that of the baby.
2. When information has been obtained from the student's physician indicating that the student is unable to attend school, home-bound instruction is available at school expense until her physician states that she is physically able to return to school.
3. With Board approval, she may temporarily withdraw from school and enroll in an approved program in which she can continue her education.

Efforts are made to ensure that the educational program of the student is disrupted as little as possible and that she receives health and counseling services as well as instruction. Students under the age of 18 are still subject to compulsory education requirements. Students 18 or older are encouraged to return to school after delivery and complete requirements for graduation.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX; 20 USC 1681 et seq.
ORC 3321.01; 3321.04

CROSS REFS.: JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages

INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

The District has responsibility for the control and management of students during the school day and hours of approved extracurricular activities. While discharging its responsibility, the administration is to make an effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogations by law enforcement officials. The administration has developed regulations to be followed in the case of searches and interrogations.

The right to inspect students' school lockers or articles carried upon their persons and to interrogate an individual student is inherent in the authority granted school boards. All searches are conducted sparingly and only when such search is reasonably likely to produce tangible results to preserve discipline and good order and the safety and security of persons and their property.

Student lockers are the property of the District, and since random searches have a positive impact on reducing drugs and other criminal activity, it is the policy of the Board to permit the building administrator to search any locker and its contents as the administrator believes necessary. Such notice will be posted at or near the entrance to the school grounds and at the main entrance to each school building.

The Board directs the Superintendent to authorize the use of dogs trained in detecting the presence of drugs. The dogs may be used to patrol the school facilities and grounds, including the lockers and parking areas. Use of dogs may be unannounced and random. If a trained canine alerts to a particular vehicle, locker or other container, it shall create reasonable suspicion to search that vehicle, locker or container in accordance with this policy.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. IV
ORC 3313.20

CROSS REFS.: JF, Student Rights and Responsibilities
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse

INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

Searches of School Property Assigned to a Student

The following rules apply to the search of school property assigned to a student (locker, desk, etc.) and the seizure of items in his/her possession.

1. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Random searches of lockers may be conducted.
2. A search of a desk or other storage space may be conducted when there exists reasonable cause for school authorities to believe that the area being searched contains evidence of a crime or violation of school rules.
3. Search of an area assigned to a student should be for a specifically identified item and should be conducted in his/her presence and with his/her knowledge.
4. Items, the possession of which constitutes a crime or violation of school rules, or any other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others may be seized by school authorities at any time.

Searches of a Student's Person or Personal Property by School Personnel

Principals and their designees are permitted to search the person and personal property (purse, backpack, gym bag, etc.) of a student where there is reason to believe that evidence will be obtained indicating the student's violation of either the law or school rules. The following rules apply in such cases.

1. There should be reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in obtaining evidence which indicates the student's violation of the law or school rules.
2. Searches of a student's person are conducted by a member of the same sex as the student.
3. Searches are conducted in the presence of another administrator or staff member.
4. Parents of a minor student who is the subject of a search are notified of the search and are given the reason(s) for the search as soon as feasible after completion of the search.
5. When evidence is uncovered indicating that a student may have violated the law, law enforcement officials shall be notified.

6. Strip searches should be discouraged. A substantially high degree of certainty (more than a reasonable belief) is required prior to conducting such a search. In cases in which school officials believe a strip search is necessary, law enforcement officials should be called to conduct the search.

Searches of Student Property by Law Enforcement Officials

A law enforcement agency is required to produce a warrant prior to conducting any search of a student's personal property kept on school premises. When the law enforcement officials have reason to believe that any item which might pose an immediate threat to the safety or security of others is kept in a student locker, desk or other storage space, searches may be conducted without a previously issued warrant.

Interrogations by Law Enforcement Officials

The schools have legal custody of students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities. It is the responsibility of the school administration to try to protect each student under its control; therefore, the following steps shall be taken.

1. The questioning of students by law enforcement agencies is limited to situations where parental consent has been obtained or the school official has made an independent determination that reasonable grounds exist for conducting an interrogation during school hours.
2. Whenever possible, law enforcement officials should contact and/or question students out of school. When it is absolutely necessary for an officer to make a school contact with a student, the school authorities will bring the student to a private room and the contact is made out of the sight of others as much as possible.
3. The school principal must be notified before a student may be questioned in school or taken from a classroom.
4. The administration shall notify the parent(s) of the student to be interviewed by the law enforcement officials, if the law enforcement officials have not, before the student is questioned so that the parent(s) may be present if they so desire.
5. To avoid possible criticism, a school official requests to be present when an interrogation takes place within the school.
6. When law enforcement officials remove a student from school, the administration will make an attempt to notify the parent(s).

7. Law enforcement officials should always be notified by the school principal whenever a student is involved in any type of criminal activity. When the principal learns of this involvement, he/she should notify the juvenile officer or detective bureau of the law enforcement agency. The school should not attempt to handle matters which are properly in the realm of a law enforcement agency.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Effective discipline, which requires respect for the rights of others, is necessary if all students are to attain a quality education. The Board delegates to school officials the authority to enforce District policies, regulations and school rules governing student conduct.

A complete statement governing or describing all the relationships and processes involved in student discipline would be very extensive. The most important part of such a statement would be the relationship of the teacher and the principal in matters of discipline. Teachers must feel free to consult and work closely with the building principal in dealing with any problem with which the teacher might need guidance. This working relationship is one key to desirable discipline and a quality instructional environment.

The Board also believes that the teacher-student relationship in the classroom, halls and on school property is important and should be one of mutual respect at all times. The teacher is recognized as the person in authority at all times in the classroom, halls, buildings, school grounds and at school-related events.

Each case of unsatisfactory behavior by a student is handled individually. The classroom teacher may take the steps which he/she believes are justified in each case. If the student does not respond to these measures, the teacher then refers the student to the principal.

In terms of the relationship of the teacher and principal in discipline matters, the Board expects that whenever a discipline problem appears to extend beyond the classroom, the teacher discusses the problem with the principal. The teacher(s) and the principal work together in attempting to control or correct the problem.

A student's failure to comply with the requirements for conduct outlined in the student handbooks may result in the student's being disciplined. He/She may lose all rights to participate in school-related social events or extracurricular activities for a period of time determined by the principal. Depending on the seriousness of the offense committed by the student, suspension or expulsion may also result. Discipline is always administered in a reasonable manner.

If several methods of discipline have been used in an effort to solve a problem and it appears necessary, in the judgment of the principal and Superintendent, to discipline or withdraw privileges from a large group, this action may be taken. Any punishment technique involving an entire class or large group is used only as a last resort.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20; 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662
3319.41
OAC 3301-32-09
3301-37-10

CROSS REFS.: ECAB, Vandalism
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JGA, Corporal Punishment
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is prohibited and shall not be used as a form of discipline in the District. The Board expects the administration, faculty and staff to use other forms of discipline, counseling and referral, including communication and meetings with the parents, to promote appropriate, positive behavior.

A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events are dealt with according to approved student discipline regulations.

Teachers, principals, administrators and classified staff are authorized by law to use, within the scope of their employment, "such amount of force and restraint as is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property."

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20
3319.41

CROSS REFS.: ECAB, Vandalism
JG, Student Discipline
Student Code of Conduct
Student Handbooks

STUDENT SUSPENSION

The Superintendent, principals, assistant principals and other administrators may suspend a student from school for disciplinary reasons outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. No period of suspension is for more than 10 school days. Suspensions may extend beyond the current school year if, at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than 10 days remain in the school year. The Superintendent may apply any or all of the period of suspension to the following year.

The Superintendent may require a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of a suspension. The Board may adopt guidelines to permit the Superintendent to impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the suspension into the following school year.

The guidelines listed below are followed for all out-of-school suspensions.

1. The student is informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
2. The student is provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and explain his/her actions.
3. An attempt is made to notify the parent(s) by telephone if a suspension is issued.
4. Within 24 hours, a letter is sent to the parent(s) stating the specific reasons for the suspension and including notice of the right to appeal such action.
5. Notice of this suspension is sent to the:
 - A. Superintendent;
 - B. Treasurer and
 - C. student's school record.
6. Permanent Exclusion - If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, the notice contains that information.

Appeal Procedure

Should a student or a student's parent(s) choose to appeal the suspension, he/she must do so within 10 calendar days of the notice of suspension. The appeal shall be in writing and made to the Superintendent, the designee of the Board. All witnesses are sworn and a verbatim record is kept of the hearing. The student may be excluded from school during the appeal process.

Appeal to the Court

Under State law, appeal of the Board's or its designee's decision may be made to the Court of Common Pleas.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: IGCI, Community Service
JEGA, Permanent Exclusion
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCF, Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JG, Student Discipline
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF STUDENT

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the Superintendent, principal, assistant principal or personnel employed to direct, supervise or coach a student activity program may remove the student from the premises.

If either suspension or expulsion is contemplated, a due process hearing is held within three school days after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reason for removal and any intended disciplinary action is given to the student as soon as practicable prior to the hearing. The student has the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal and Superintendent/designee and has the right to challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain his/her actions. The person who ordered or requested the removal is present at the hearing. Within one school day of the decision to suspend, written notification is given to the parent(s) of the student and Treasurer of the Board. This notice includes the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student or parent(s) to appeal to the Superintendent/designee.

If the Superintendent or principal reinstates a student prior to the hearing for emergency removal, the teacher may request, and is given, written reasons for the reinstatement. The teacher cannot refuse to reinstate the student.

In an emergency removal, a student can be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is disposed of either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student is removed from a curricular or extracurricular activity for less than 24 hours and is not subject to further suspension or expulsion, due process requirements do not apply.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: ECAB, Vandalism
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JG, Student Discipline
JGD, Student Suspension
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

STUDENT EXPULSION

At times, the behavior of a student can be considered so serious as to justify total removal from the educational program for a prolonged period of time. Actions meriting expulsion are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Only the Superintendent may expel a student. Expulsion is the removal of a student for more than 10 days, but not more than one year. An expulsion can extend beyond the end of the school year if there are fewer school days than expulsion days remaining. The Superintendent may apply any remaining part or all of the period of the expulsion to the following school year.

The Superintendent may require a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of an expulsion. The Board may adopt guidelines to permit the Superintendent to impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion into the following school year.

The Superintendent shall give the student and parent(s) written notice of the intended expulsion, including reasons for the intended expulsion. The student and parent(s) or representative have the opportunity to appear on request before the Superintendent/designee to challenge the action or to otherwise explain the student's actions. This notice shall state the time and place to appear, which must not be fewer than three days nor more than five days after the notice is given.

Within 24 hours of the expulsion, the Superintendent shall notify the parent(s) of the student and the Treasurer of the Board.

The notice shall include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student or parent(s) to appeal to the Board or its designee, the right to be represented at the appeal and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

The Superintendent will initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion even if the student withdraws from school before the Superintendent has held the hearings or made the decision to expel the student.

Permanent Exclusion

If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, the notice shall contain that information.

Appeal to the Board

A student or a student's parent(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board or its designee. The expulsion appeal must be within 14 calendar days after the notice of intent to expel was provided to the student, parent, guardian or custodian. The appeal request shall be in writing to the Treasurer and at the request of the student or of the student's parent(s) or attorney, the meeting may be held in executive session. The student may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and is granted a hearing before the Board or its designee. All witnesses are sworn and a verbatim record is kept of the hearing. The decision of the Board shall be acted upon at a public meeting. The student may be excluded from school during the appeal process.

Appeal to the Court

Under State law, the decision of the Board may be further appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

Any student who is expelled from school for more than 20 days or into the following semester or school year is referred to an agency, which works towards improving the student's attitudes and behavior. The Superintendent provides the student and his/her parent(s) with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the public and private agencies providing such services.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC Chapter 2506
3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662

CROSS REFS.: ECAB, Vandalism
IGCI, Community Service
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JEGA, Permanent Exclusion
JFCF, Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JG, Student Discipline
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board recognizes that effective and appropriate discipline for students with disabilities may, at times, differ from effective and appropriate discipline for students without disabilities. The Board does not, however, believe in a double standard for misbehavior and holds the welfare and safety of all persons in the District in highest regard. Disciplinary action of students with disabilities proceeds in a manner that protects the welfare and order of the community as well as recognizes the special needs of the student.

The Board delegates to school officials the authority to enforce District policies, regulations and rules governing the conduct of all students. The District will comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations governing the discipline of students with disabilities. All students, including those with disabilities, will be referred to law enforcement officials when required by law and may be referred to law enforcement officials when their conduct constitutes a crime.

The special needs of the student with a disability are taken into account when setting behavioral expectations. Each case of unsatisfactory behavior by a student with a disability is handled individually in accordance with the student's behavior management plan and interventions articulated in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). A student's failure to comply with conduct requirements in student handbooks may result in the student being disciplined.

If the student does not respond to the measures taken by District staff or to the measures articulated in the student's IEP, the staff member refers the student to the principal or other designated individual. The student may lose rights to participate in school-related social events or extracurricular activities for a period of time determined by the principal, unless such programs are included as part of the student's free appropriate public educational program. Depending on the seriousness of the offense committed by the student, suspension or expulsion may also result, but any change in placement will follow mandated procedures in applicable law.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act; 20
USC 1400 through 487; 34 CFR Part 300
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 USC 729; 34
CFR Part 104
Americans With Disabilities Act; 42 USC 12101 through 12213; 28
C.F.R. Part 35
State Department of Education, Special Education Policies and
Procedures, Free Appropriate Public Education - 101
ORC 3313.20; 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662
3319.41;
3323.01 et seq.
OAC 3301-32-09
3301-37-10
3301-51; 3301-51-01

CROSS REFS.: ECAB, Vandalism
IGBA, Programs for Students With Disabilities
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JFCI, Student Drug Abuse
JFCJ, Weapons in Schools
JGA, Corporal Punishment
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Federal and State laws require that a “free appropriate public education” be provided for students with disabilities, including students with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school. The following procedures are implemented when a student with a disability is removed from his/her current placement because of a student conduct violation.

Removal for 10 School Days or Less

The District provides to students with disabilities who have been suspended for 10 school days or less in one school year the same services that it provides to students without disabilities who are similarly removed.

Removal for More Than 10 School Days

The District provides to students with disabilities who have been suspended for more than 10 school days in one school year educational services that enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress towards meeting the goals set out in the student’s IEP. Such services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting and may not be the exact same services provided to the child in other settings.

When a student with a disability is suspended for more than 10 school days in one school year, the District holds a manifestation determination review. When appropriate, the District also performs a functional behavioral assessment and designs behavioral intervention and modification services to address the conduct violation.

Manifestation Determination Review

Within 10 school days of any decision to change the placement of a student with a disability, who has been suspended for more than 10 school days in one school year, the District holds a manifestation determination review. At the meeting, the school administrator responsible for disciplinary actions, the student’s parent(s) and relevant members of the student’s IEP team review all relevant information in the student’s file, including teacher observations and any pertinent information provided by the parents.

The manifestation determination review team determines whether the conduct was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student’s disability, or whether the conduct was a direct result of the school’s failure to implement the student’s IEP. If the team determines that the conduct was the direct result of the school’s failure to implement the student’s IEP, the school takes immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies and the student is returned to the agreed-upon placement in the student’s IEP.

Student Conduct Was Not a Manifestation of the Disability

When the conduct in question is determined not to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the District applies relevant disciplinary procedures in the same manner and for the same duration as applied to students without disabilities. The District continues to provide educational services that enable the student to participate in the general educational curriculum and to make progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

The IEP team determines the appropriate services for the student and the setting in which such services will be provided. The District conducts a functional behavioral assessment and implements behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior violation at its own discretion.

Student Conduct Was a Manifestation of the Disability

When the conduct in question is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the District conducts a functional behavioral assessment and implements a behavior intervention plan for the student. If a behavior implementation plan has already been developed, the school reviews the plan and modifies it, as necessary, to address the behavior.

The student is returned to the placement, if he/she was removed, unless the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school mutually agree on a change of placement as part of the modifications of the behavior intervention plan or unless special circumstances exist.

Special Circumstances for Removal

The District removes a student with a disability to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days without regard to whether the behavior violation is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability if the student partakes in any of the following three violations of the Student Code of Conduct at school, on school premises or at a school function:

1. carrying or possessing a dangerous weapon;
2. knowingly possessing or using illegal drugs, or selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance or
3. inflicting serious bodily injury upon another person.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

The Board recognizes the responsibility of the schools to help protect the health of students. Health services are an integral part of comprehensive school improvement, assisting all students to increase learning, achievement and performance. Health services coordinate and support existing programs to assist each student in achievement of an optimal state of physical, mental and social well-being. Student health services ensure continuity and create linkages between school, home and community service providers. The District's comprehensive school improvement plan, needs and resources determine the linkages. The principal is responsible for the administration of the health program in his/her school.

Of necessity, school health services must be limited to the prevention and detection of health problems, referral of problems through parents to the family physicians or community health agencies and emergency care.

Each school shall have on file for each student an emergency medical authorization form providing information from the parent(s) on how they wish the school to proceed in the event of a health emergency involving the student and authorization for the school in case emergency action must be taken.

Annually, the District will notify parents of physical exams or screenings conducted on students except for vision, hearing or scoliosis.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; 29 USC 1181 et seq.
42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1997)
20 U.S.C. 1232 g Sec. 1400 6301 et seq. (1997)
29 U.S.C. Sec 794(a)(1988)
ORC 3313.50; 3313.67 through 3313.73
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
JED, Student Absences and Excuses
JHCB, Inoculations of Students
JHCD, Administering Medicines to Students
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF STUDENTS

The District requires health records of students under the following circumstances.

1. Kindergarten and first grade students entering school for the first time must have a completed health record before being admitted to school.
2. Health records are requested for all students transferring into the District. If the previous school does not forward a record or if it is incomplete, it is the parents' responsibility to comply with health requirements for students.
3. Students must have physical examinations prior to their participation in interscholastic athletic programs.

Parents have the right to refuse to allow their child to participate in nonemergency invasive physical examinations or screenings. Invasive physical exam is defined as any "medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision or scoliosis exam."

The District notifies parents, on an annual basis, of the administration of health and physical screenings and examinations and, thereby, gives parents the opportunity to exclude their children.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
ORC 3313.50; 3313.671; 3313.673; 3313.68; 3313.73

CROSS REF.: JHC, Student Health Services and Requirements
JHCB, Inoculations of Students

INOCULATIONS OF STUDENTS

Immunizations in compliance with State law and the Ohio Department of Health are required for each student unless the parent(s) file an objection.

Students eligible for kindergarten and students new to the District must present written evidence of similar immunizations, or written evidence to indicate that they are in the process of receiving immunizations, to be completed no later than the day of entrance. Students failing to complete immunizations within 14 days after entering are not permitted to return to school.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.67; 3313.671; 3313.71; 3313.711
3701.13

CROSS REFS.: JEC, School Admission
JEG, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
JHCA, Physical Examinations of Students

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

All students with signs or symptoms of diseases suspected as being communicable to others are given immediate attention and sent home if such action is indicated.

Any student suspected or reported to have a communicable disease is examined by a school nurse or public health nurse and is found to have a communicable disease may be excluded from school. Upon the recommendation of the school physician, the student may be excluded from school. Re-admission is dependent upon a decision by a physician, school nurse or public health official. In case of doubt, the school nurse is consulted.

Parents are informed when a communicable disease occurs in their child's classroom or on the bus so that early signs or symptoms can be observed and appropriate preventive measures can be instituted.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.67; 3313.68; 3313.71
3319.321
3707.04; 3707.06; 3707.08; 3707.20; 3707.21; 3707.26

CROSS REF.: JEG, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Many students are able to attend school regularly only through effective use of medication in the treatment of disabilities or illnesses that do not hinder the health or welfare of others. If possible, all medication should be given by the parent(s) at home. If this is not possible, it is done in compliance with the following.

1. The school nurse or an appropriate person appointed by the Board supervises the secure and proper storage and dispensation of medications. The drug must be received in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or others licensed to prescribe medication.
2. Written permission must be received from the parent(s) of the student, requesting that the school nurse or an appropriate person comply with the physician's order.
3. The school nurse or other designated individual must receive and retain a statement which complies with State law and is signed by the physician who prescribed the drug or other person licensed to prescribe medication.
4. The parent(s) must agree to submit a revised statement, signed by the physician or other licensed individual who prescribed the drug, to the nurse or other designated individual if any of the information originally provided by the physician or licensed individual changes.
5. No employee who is authorized by the Board to administer a prescribed drug and who has a copy of the most recent statement is liable in civil damages for administering or failing to administer the drug, unless he/she acts in a manner which would constitute "gross negligence or wanton or reckless misconduct."
6. No person employed by the Board is required to administer a drug to a student except pursuant to requirements established under this policy. The Board shall not require an employee to administer a drug to a student if the employee objects, on the basis of religious convictions, to administering the drug.

Inhalers for Asthma

Students have the right to possess and use a metered-dose inhaler or a dry-powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms. The right applies at school or at any activity, event or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant.

In order for a student to possess the inhaler, he/she must have written approval from the student's physician and parent or other caretaker. The principal and/or the school nurse must have received copies of these required written approvals.

Epinephrine Autoinjectors

Students are permitted to carry and use an epinephrine autoinjector (epi-pen) to treat anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions). The right to carry and use an epi-pen extends to any activity, event or program sponsored by the student's school or activity, event or program in which the school participates.

Student possession of an epi-pen is permitted only if the student has written approval from the prescriber of the medication and, if a minor, from his/her parent. Written approval must be on file with the principal and, if one is assigned, the school nurse. In addition, the principal or school nurse must receive a backup dose of the medication from the parent or student.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2305.23; 2305.231
3313.64; 3313.712; 3313.713; 3313.716; 3313.718
3314.03; 3314.141
OAC 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: EBBA, First Aid
JFCH, Alcohol Use by Students
JFCI, Student Drug Abuse

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Students needing medication are encouraged to receive the medication at home, if possible.

1. The person or persons designated to administer medication receives a written request, signed by the parent(s) having care or charge of the student, that the drug be administered to the student.
2. Each person designated to administer medication receives a statement, signed by the physician or other person licensed to prescribe medication, which includes all of the following information:
 - A. the name and address of the student;
 - B. the school and class in which the student is enrolled;
 - C. the name of the drug and the dosage to be administered;
 - D. the times or intervals at which each dosage of the drug is to be administered;
 - E. the date on which the administration of the drug is to begin;
 - F. the date on which the administration of the drug is to cease;
 - G. any severe adverse reactions which should be reported to the physician and one or more telephone numbers at which the person who prescribed the medication can be reached in case of an emergency and
 - H. special instructions for administration of the drug, including sterile conditions and storage.
3. The parent(s) agree to submit a revised statement signed by the physician who prescribed the drug to the person designated to administer medication if any of the information provided by the person licensed to prescribe medication as described above changes.
4. The person authorized to administer the drug receives a copy of the statement described above.
5. The drug is received by the person authorized to administer the drug to the student for whom the drug is prescribed in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or other licensed professional.

The person designated by the Board establishes a location in each school building for the storage of drugs to be administered. All such drugs shall be stored in that location in a locked storage place. Drugs which require refrigeration may be kept in a refrigerator in a place not commonly used by students.

No person who has been authorized by the Board to administer a drug and has a copy of the most recent statement which was given to him/her prior to administering the drug is liable for administering or failing to administer the drug, unless such person acts in a manner which constitutes "gross negligence or wanton or reckless misconduct."

A person employed by the Board is not required to administer a prescribed drug to a student unless a Board regulation establishes a requirement; furthermore, the Board shall not require an employee to administer a drug to a student if the employee objects, on the basis of religious convictions, to administering the drug.

Board policy and regulations regarding dispensation of medication must be formally adopted by the Board and may be changed, modified or revised only by action of the Board.

Use of Asthma Inhalers

In order for a student to possess and use an inhaler, he/she must have written approval from the student's physician and parent or other caretaker. The principal and/or the school nurse must have received copies of these required written approvals.

The physician's written approval must specify the minimum following information:

1. the student's name and address;
2. the name of the medication contained in the inhaler;
3. the date the administration of the medication is to begin;
4. the date, if known, that the administration of the medication is to cease;
5. written instructions which outline the procedures school personnel should follow in the event that the asthma medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's asthma attack;
6. any severe adverse reactions that may occur to the student using the inhaler that should be reported to the physician;
7. any severe reactions that may occur to another student for whom the inhaler is not prescribed, should he/she receive a dose of the medication;

8. at least one emergency telephone number for contacting the physician;
9. at least one emergency telephone number for contacting the parent, guardian or other person having care or charge of the student in an emergency and
10. any other special instructions from the physician.

In no circumstances will the District, any member of the Board or any Board employee be liable for injury, death or loss of person or property when a District employee prohibits a student from using an inhaler because the employee believes, in good faith, that the required written approvals have not been received by the principal. Additionally, liability cannot accrue because the employee permits the use of an inhaler when the employee believes, in good faith, that the written approval(s) have been received by the appropriate authority.

Use of Epinephrine Autoinjectors

Student possession of an epi-pen is permitted only if the student has written approval from the prescriber of the medication and, if a minor, from his/her parent. Written approval must be on file with the principal and, if one is assigned, the school nurse. In addition, the principal or school nurse must receive a backup dose of the medication from the parent or student.

The prescriber's written approval must specify at least the following information:

1. student's name and address;
2. names and dose of the medication contained in the autoinjector;
3. the date the administration of the medication is to begin and, if known, the date the administration of the medication is to cease;
4. acknowledgement that the prescriber has determined that the student is capable of possessing and using the epi-pen appropriately and has provided the student with training in the proper use of the epi-pen;
5. circumstances in which the epi-pen should be used;
6. written instructions that outline procedures school personnel should follow if the student is unable to administer the medication or the medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's anaphylaxis (allergic response);

7. any severe reaction that:
 - A. the student may experience that should be reported to the prescriber or
 - B. that may occur to another student for whom the medication is not prescribed, if that student receives a dose of the medication;
8. at least one emergency telephone number each for contacting the prescriber and the parent and
9. any other special instructions from the prescriber.

Whenever a student is administered epinephrine at school or at an activity, event or program sponsored by the school or in which the school is a participant, a school employee must immediately request assistance from an emergency medical service provider. Request for medical assistance applies whether the student self-administers the medication or a school employee administers it to the student.

The Board and District employees are not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death or loss to person or property allegedly arising if:

1. a school employee prohibits a student from using an epi-pen because he/she has a good faith belief that the conditions for carrying and using the medication have not been satisfied;
2. a school employee permits a student to carry and use an epi-pen because of the good faith belief that the conditions have been satisfied or
3. in instances in which a student is rightfully permitted to carry an epi-pen, the medication is used by a student for whom it was not prescribed.

All immunities granted to schools under the sovereign immunity law or any other law apply.

(Approval date: December 22, 2009)

STUDENT SAFETY

The objectives of safety instruction in the District include:

1. learning how to practice safety and prevent accidents;
2. learning how to safely use and properly care for tools and equipment so as to reduce the potential for accidents;
3. developing habits of good housekeeping, proper storage and handling of materials, and sanitation;
4. becoming familiar with personal protection devices and the proper clothing to be worn for safety purposes and
5. learning how to cooperate with others in the promotion and operation of a safety program in the schools and in school vehicles.

Instruction in courses in industrial technology, science, family consumer science, art, physical education, health and safety includes and emphasizes safety and accident prevention.

Safety instruction precedes the use of materials and equipment by students in the courses listed above, and instructors teach and enforce all safety rules established for the particular courses. These include the wearing of personal protective devices in appropriate situations.

Staff members instruct students not to accept gifts or automobile rides from strangers. Students are also instructed to tell staff members, parents, law enforcement officials or school safety patrols of any suspicious strangers in or around school property.

The Board provides instruction in personal safety and assault prevention in grades kindergarten through 6. Upon the written request of a parent, a student shall be excused from such instruction.

In an attempt to further ensure student safety, staff members:

1. shall not send students on errands that would require the student to leave school property and/or drive a vehicle;
2. shall not attempt to counsel, assess, diagnose or treat a student's personal problem relating to sexual behavior, substance abuse, mental or physical health and/or family relationships but, instead, should refer the student to the appropriate individual or agency for assistance;

3. shall not disclose information concerning a student, other than directory information, to any person not authorized to receive such information. This includes, but is not limited to, information concerning assessments, ability scores, grades, behavior, mental or physical health and/or family background and
4. shall, pursuant to law and Board policy, immediately report any suspected signs of child abuse or neglect.

Buildings are inspected annually to detect and remedy health and safety hazards. Staff members shall immediately report to the building administrator any accident or safety hazard he/she detects. The Superintendent is authorized and directed to develop appropriate means for the implementation of this policy.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.60; 3313.643; 3313.96
3705.05
3737.73
OAC 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources
EB, Safety Program
JEE, Student Attendance Accounting (Missing and Absent Children)
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse
JHH, Notification About Sex Offenders

STUDENT AUTOMOBILE USE

The transportation policies of the Board are aimed at providing a safe, efficient and economical method of getting students to and from school and school-sponsored activities. The Board provides transportation services to students that meet or exceed State law.

The Board recognizes that students might desire to drive their own vehicles to school. Therefore, the Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop and maintain administrative guidelines to ensure the safety of student drivers, passengers and all other persons on District property.

In compliance with State law, student drivers under the age of 17 years old are not permitted to transport more than one person who is not a family member unless the driver is accompanied by his/her parent, guardian or custodian.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3327.01; 3327.09;
4507.05; 4507.07

CROSS REF.: EEAE, Student Transportation in Private Vehicles

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

All employees of the District who know or suspect that a child under 18 years of age or a disabled child under 21 years of age has suffered or is suffering any type of abuse or neglect are required to immediately report such information to the public children services agency or the local law enforcement agency.

To ensure prompt reports, procedures for reporting are made known to the school staff. A person who participates in making such reports is immune from any civil or criminal liability, provided the report is made in good faith.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop a program of in-service training in child abuse prevention for all elementary school nurses, teachers, counselors, psychologists and administrators. This program is developed in consultation with public or private agencies or persons involved in child abuse prevention or intervention programs.

Each person employed by the Board to work as an elementary school nurse, teacher, counselor, psychologist or administrator shall complete at least four hours of in-service training in child abuse prevention, violence and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development within two years of commencing employment with the District, and every five years thereafter.

Conversely, public children's services agencies must notify the Superintendent of any allegations of child abuse and neglect reported to them involving the District, as well as the disposition of the investigation.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2151.011; 2151.421
3313.662
3319.073

NOTIFICATION ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS

Megan's Law requires certain sexual predators and sex offenders to register with the sheriff in the county of their residence. In some circumstances the sheriff notifies the Superintendent that a sexual predator or habitual sex offender has moved into the area.

If the Superintendent receives information from the sheriff concerning a sexual predator or habitual sex offender subject to community notification, the Superintendent disseminates the information regarding the sexual predator or habitual sex offender to employees whose duties include supervision of or responsibility for students. Employees who receive the information are instructed to promptly notify the Superintendent if the sexual predator or habitual sex offender is observed in the vicinity of the school. The Superintendent notifies the local law enforcement agency if, in the judgment of the Superintendent, the presence of the sexual predator or habitual sex offender appears to be without a legitimate purpose or otherwise creates concern for the safety of the students. The law enforcement agency evaluates the situation and takes whatever action it deems appropriate. The law enforcement agency informs the Superintendent of any action taken and may provide advice regarding any additional action which the Superintendent should consider taking.

If the Superintendent receives information from the sheriff concerning a sexual predator or habitual sex offender subject to community notification, the Superintendent may inform parents, guardians and adult students that he/she has received notice that a sexual predator or habitual sex offender is residing within the District and that certain information concerning the offender is public record and is open to inspection at the office of the sheriff with whom the offender has registered.

With juvenile sex offenders, the Superintendent's notification duties are the same as with adult offenders. The Superintendent provides a copy of the county sheriff's sexual offender notice to his/her staff so that they are aware of the juvenile offender's information and photograph. The Superintendent must then notify parents that the school has received notice that a juvenile sex offender is attending school (or if an adult offender, working or attending school) in the District, and direct parents who want more information to the county sheriff's office.

If the Superintendent receives information from the sheriff concerning a sexual predator or habitual sex offender subject to community notification, he/she shall not release any other information and shall direct any inquiries to the office of the sheriff with whom the offender has registered.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: 42 USC 14071
ORC Chapter 2950, Section 149.43
2151.02; 2151.355; 2152.83; 2152.84
OAC Chapter 109:5-2

CROSS REF.: GBQ, Criminal Record Check

EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS

Students' school responsibilities are to take precedence over nonschool-related jobs. If students need to work while attending school, they are cautioned against assuming work commitments which interfere with their studies and achievement in school. Opportunities for employment are provided through work-experience programs and as noted below.

Work Permits

In compliance with law, the Superintendent is responsible for processing requests for and issuing work permits as necessary. Employment must meet all legal requirements pertaining to jobs suitable for minors.

In-School Employment

Part-time and summer jobs may be open to students commensurate with their abilities and the needs of the school for student help. The Board also authorizes the District to provide cooperative work-experience programs.

The Board approves appointments and establishes pay rates. These rates comply with requirements of the minimum wage law.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: 48 USC 1324a et seq.
ORC 3313.56; 3313.93
3321.08 through 3321.11
3331.01 through 3331.14
Chapter 4109
4111.02

CROSS REF.: JEG, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance

STUDENT GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS

There are differences in the economic status of families represented by the students in the District, and the Board wishes to avoid any embarrassment to students or hardship on families which lack financial resources. The Board does not wish to burden the community with numerous, repeated solicitations by the students.

The following guidelines are in effect.

1. Teachers should discourage gifts from students. Notes of appreciation are appropriate.
2. Charity or general solicitations from students are permitted only after written approval has been given by the Superintendent. The Superintendent annually approves all solicitations which are permitted in the schools.
3. There is no solicitation of money from local industries, businesses, District residents, parents or by any school organization without the approval of the Superintendent. All solicitations and fund-raising activities by student groups must be in compliance with the District's policy on student fund-raising activities.
4. When the graduating class wishes to present a gift to the school, it is encouraged to donate the balance of the class fund to a school service project, the school scholarship fund or to present a gift that has long-lasting benefit to all students in the District.
5. Permission is never given for the school to sponsor nonschool fund-raisers or to provide for student involvement in such activities.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.20

CROSS REFS.: GBI, Staff Gifts and Solicitations
IGDF, Student Fund-Raising Activities
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools
KJ, Advertising in the Schools

STAFF-STUDENT RELATIONS

The relationship between the District's staff and students must be one of cooperation, understanding and mutual respect. Staff members have a responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning and to motivate each student to perform to his/her capacity.

Staff members should strive to secure individual and group discipline, and should be treated with respect by students at all times. By the same token, staff members should extend to students the same respect and courtesy that they, as staff members, have a right to demand.

Although it is desired that staff members have a sincere interest in students as individuals, partiality and the appearance of impropriety must be avoided. Excessive informal and/or social involvement with individual students is prohibited. Such conduct is not compatible with professional ethics and, as such, will not be tolerated.

Staff members are expected to use good judgment in their relationships with students both inside and outside of the school context including, but not limited to, the following guidelines.

1. Staff members shall not make unprofessional comments to students regarding the school and/or its staff.
2. The exchange of purchased gifts between staff members and students is discouraged.
3. Staff-sponsored parties at which students are in attendance, unless they are a part of the school's extracurricular program and are properly supervised, are prohibited.
4. Staff members shall not fraternize, written or verbally, with students except on matters that pertain to school-related issues.
5. Staff members shall not associate with students at any time in any situation or activity which could be considered sexually suggestive or involve the presence or use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs.
6. Dating between staff members and students is prohibited.
7. Staff members shall not use insults or sarcasm against students as a method of forcing compliance with requirements or expectations.
8. Staff members shall maintain a reasonable standard of care for the supervision, control and protection of students commensurate with their assigned duties and responsibilities.

9. Staff members shall not send students on personal errands.
10. Staff members shall, pursuant to law and Board policy, immediately report any suspected signs of child abuse or neglect.
11. Staff members shall not attempt to counsel, assess, diagnose or treat a student's personal problem relating to sexual behavior, substance abuse, mental or physical health and/or family relationships but, instead, should refer the student to the appropriate individual or agency for assistance.
12. Staff members shall not disclose information concerning a student, other than directory information, to any person not authorized to receive such information. This includes, but is not limited to, information concerning assessments, ability scores, grades, behavior, mental or physical health and/or family background.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

CROSS REFS.: GBC, Staff Ethics
GBCA, Staff Conflict of Interest
GBCB, Staff Conduct
GBI, Staff Gifts and Solicitations
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JG, Student Discipline
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations
JO, Student Records
KBA, Public's Right to Know
Student Handbooks

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement
Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

STUDENT FEES, FINES AND CHARGES

Materials Fees

Students enrolled in District schools are furnished basic textbooks without cost. However, a fee for consumable materials and supplies used in the instructional program is established at the beginning of each school year and may vary as the cost of materials and supplies fluctuates. Such fees are to be deposited in the rotary operating funds of the Board to defray the cost of the materials and supplies.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to prepare a schedule of fees for materials to be used in courses of instruction and a schedule of charges that may be imposed for damage to school property.

The District does not charge students eligible for free lunch under the National School Lunch Act or Child Nutrition Act a fee for any materials needed to participate fully in a course of instruction. This exception only applies to recipients of free lunch, not students who receive reduced-price lunch. This provision does not apply to extracurricular activities and student enrichment programs that are not courses of instruction.

Fines

When school property, equipment or supplies are damaged, lost or taken by individuals, a fine is assessed. The fine is reasonable, seeking only to compensate the school for the expense or loss incurred. Free lunch eligibility does not exempt a student from paying fines for damage to school property.

The late return of borrowed books or materials from the school libraries is subject to appropriate fines.

All fines collected are sent to the Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund of the Board.

Collection of Student Fees and Fines

The administration may establish regulations for the collection of student fees and fines.

Grades and credits are not made available to any student, graduate or to anyone requesting same on his/her behalf until all fees and fines for that student have been paid in full. Participation in extracurricular field trips will not be permitted unless payment has been received. Students will be prohibited from participating in commencement exercises unless payment has been received.

Collection Process

1. The principal will advise parents of fees due at the beginning of the school year.
2. The first week of October, the principal will send a letter from the Treasurer and an invoice to parents of students with outstanding fees and fines.
3. A payment schedule may be arranged at the building level with full payment to be received by June 15.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: National School Lunch Act of 1946, 42 USC 1751
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 USC 1771
ORC 3313.642
3329.06

CROSS REFS.: IGCB, Experimental Programs
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)

STUDENT RECORDS

In order to provide students with appropriate instruction and educational services, it is necessary for the District to maintain extensive educational and personal information. It is essential that pertinent information in these records be readily available to appropriate school personnel, be accessible to the student's parent(s) or the student in compliance with law, and yet be guarded as confidential information.

The Superintendent is responsible for the proper administration of student records in keeping with State law and federal requirements and the procedures for the collection of necessary information about individual students throughout the District.

Upon request, all records and files included in the student's cumulative file are available to parent(s) or the student (if he/she is over 18 years of age). This request must be in writing and is granted within seven calendar days. No records are to be removed from the school. A principal, teacher or other qualified school personnel must be present to explain any of the tests or other material.

The District provides notice to parents annually, in accordance with the procedures set forth under administrative regulations, of the rights held by parents under law and this policy. It is the intent of the District to limit the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records except:

1. by prior written consent;
2. as directory information and
3. under other limited circumstances, as enumerated under administrative regulations.

The following rights exist:

1. the right to inspect and review the student's education records;
2. the right, in accordance with administrative regulations, to seek to correct parts of the student's education records, including the right to a hearing if the school authority decides not to alter the records according to the parent(s)' or eligible student's request;

3. the right of any person to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if the District violates relevant Federal law, specifically the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and
4. the right to acquire information concerning the procedure which the parent(s) or eligible student should follow to obtain copies of this policy, the locations from which these copies may be obtained, as well as any fees to be charged for such copies. *(See administrative regulations.)

The District proposes to designate the following personally identifiable information contained in a student's education records as "directory information."

1. student's name
2. student's address
3. telephone number(s)
4. student's date and place of birth
5. participation in officially recognized activities and sports
6. student's achievement awards or honors
7. student's weight and height, if a member of an athletic team
8. date of graduation

The above information is disclosed without prior written consent, except when the request is for a profit-making plan or activity. Student records that consist of "personally identifiable information" generally are exempt from disclosure. Student directory information, however, is released unless the parents have affirmatively withdrawn their consent to release in writing.

Administrative regulations set forth a procedure for annual notification to parents and eligible students of the District's definition of directory information. Parents or eligible students then have two weeks in which to advise the District, in accordance with such regulations, of any or all items which they refuse to permit as directory information about that student.

To carry out their responsibilities, school officials have access to student education records for legitimate educational purposes. The District uses the criteria set forth under administrative regulations to determine who are “school officials” and what constitutes “legitimate educational interests.”

Other than requests as described above, school officials release information from, or permit access to, a student’s education records only with the prior written consent of a parent or eligible student, except that the Superintendent or a person designated in writing by the Superintendent may permit disclosure in certain limited circumstances outlined under administrative regulations (e.g., transfers to another school district or to comply with judicial order or subpoena, or where warranted, in a health or safety emergency, etc.).

The District maintains, in accordance with administrative regulations, an accurate record of all requests to disclose information from, or to permit access to, a student’s education records and of information disclosed and access permitted.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Section 1232g
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; 29 USC 1181 et seq.
ORC 149.41; 149.43
1347.01 et seq.
3317.031
3319.32; 3319.321; 3319.33
3321.12; 3321.13
3331.13

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources
IL, Testing Programs
KBA, Public’s Right to Know
KKA, Recruiters in the Schools

Denial of Permission to Release Directory Information Without Prior Written Consent

Dear Parent:

Certain directory information may be released to media, colleges, civic or school-related organizations and state or governmental agencies as well as published in programs for the athletic, music and theater presentations of this District.

Directory information includes the following kinds of information:

1. student's name
2. student's address
3. telephone number(s)
4. student's date and place of birth
5. participation in officially recognized activities and sports
6. student's achievement awards or honors
7. student's weight and height, if a member of an athletic team
8. major field of study
9. dates of attendance ("from and to" dates of enrollment)
10. date of graduation

Please circle the specific categories of information, if any, listed above that you do not wish to be released without your specific prior written permission.

_____ The release of all directory information is denied.

This form must be completed and returned to the principal within 10 days after publication of the notice on "Directory Information" if the release of specific directory information is denied.

Name of Student

School

Grade

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

STUDENT SURVEYS

The Board recognizes the importance of maintaining student records and preserving their confidentiality. Student records containing personally identifiable information are kept confidential at collection, storage, disclosure and destruction stages. Boards that receive funds under any applicable program must provide reasonable notice to parents at least annually at the beginning of the school year that their children may be involved in Board-approved third party surveys. The school must also give the parents the opportunity to opt their child out of the activity. A student shall not be required, as part of any applicable program, to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family, "potentially embarrassing to the student or family";
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
7. religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the students or student's parent or
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program and/or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Parents have a right to inspect a survey created by a third party before that survey is administered by the school to students. Parents are notified by the school when a survey is to be administered and will have at least two weeks to review the materials.

In order to protect student privacy rights when a school survey is to be administered that contains one of the prohibited eight items identified in this policy, parents have the right to inspect the survey. If parents do not want their child to be a participant in the survey, they must notify the school.

The collection, disclosure or use of student personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information, or providing the information to others for that purpose, is prohibited. This does not include personal information collected for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions such as:

1. postsecondary institutions or military recruiters;
2. book clubs, magazines and programs providing access to low-cost literary products;
3. curriculum and instructional materials used by K-12 schools;
4. tests and assessments used by grades K-12 to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude or achievement information about students, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing these tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from these tests and assessments;
5. the sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school or education-related activities or
6. student recognition program.

For specific events, the school must notify the parents annually of the projected or approximate dates of the following activities:

1. the collection, disclosure or use of student personal information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information, or providing the information to others for that purpose;
2. the administration of a survey containing any of the eight items identified in this policy and
3. annually, the District will notify parents of physical exams or screenings conducted on students except for vision, hearing or scoliosis.

[Adoption date: December 22, 2009]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
USA Patriot Act, Sec. 507, P.L. 107-56
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Sec. 1232g
ORC 149.41; 149.43
1347.01 et seq.
3317.031
3319.32; 3319.321; 3319.33
3321.12; 3321.13
3331.13
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-07