



**THE EDGE ACADEMY
AKROS MIDDLE SCHOOL
AKROTECH HIGH SCHOOL**

Student/Parent Handbook

2023-2024

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Mission of The Edge Academy and Akros Middle School and AkroTech High School

The mission of The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School is to strive to become one of the highest performing community schools by creating a climate and culture which facilitates ongoing learning success inside and outside the classroom.

The vision of The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School is to provide competent and compassionate education to the students and families of The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School to prepare them to be well rounded leaders within the community.

Purpose of the Student/Parent Handbook

- Create a consistent set of expectations for student behavior at The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School.
- Reinforce positive behavior and provide students with opportunities to develop appropriate skills.
- Outline the interventions and consequences for students who engage in inappropriate behavior.
- Explain the rights and responsibilities to all members of the school community.
- Inform parents and students concerning various school policies and procedures.

Special Education

It is our policy that an Individual Education Program (IEP) will be developed for each child with a disability who needs special education. The IEP will be designed to meet the unique educational needs of the child and shall be developed in a planning conference. The IEP shall be reviewed and revised as often as necessary and at least annually.

Testing

Students will take Ohio state assessments as mandated by the Ohio Department of Education. All students will take benchmark tests at least 3 times a year to assist us in evaluating student academic success throughout the school.

Emergency School Closing

If an emergency closing is necessary, it will be announced on news channel WKYC and posted on our website, Facebook page, Class DoJo and a K12 will be sent out. (If Akron Public Schools close due to inclement weather, The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School will also be closed).

Financial Responsibility

Parents are held financially responsible for the following:

- Student damage to school property will be charged to parents at replacement value
 - Student misuse of school supplies (books)
 - Computers/Technology = replacement fee determined by administration
- Field trip expenses

Lunch

- Please call by 9:00 a.m. to order a lunch if your child is going to be late. We cannot provide a lunch for any student who hasn't called or come in by 9:00 a.m.
- **Do not pack soda pop in your child's lunch. It will be confiscated due to the National School Lunch Program Policies.**
- **Please do not bring restaurant or fast food to school for your child's lunch**
- **Please do not pack anything to be microwaved. We are not permitted by law to warm up any food items for students.**
- No open containers are permitted from the time students arrive at school until they depart.

Weapons Prohibited by Adults and Minors

Dangerous Weapons

Any visitor found possessing a weapon or other device designed to inflict serious bodily harm on School premises or on property being used by the School for School purposes may be charged with a felony. This restriction applies to visitors licensed to possess firearms unless serving as an authorized security officer or unless the Governing Authority has provided them with written authorization to convey or possess deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance in (to) the school safety zone. This policy does not apply to law enforcement personnel or state or federal officers, agents, or employees who are authorized to carry a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance and are acting within the official duties of such position.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that any visitor possessing a weapon or other device designed to inflict serious bodily harm is reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

A weapon may be brought on School property for educational purposes under controlled circumstances when authorized by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

20 USC 7151; R.C. 2923.122.

Visitors, Volunteers, and Guests

The Board welcomes and encourages visits to School programs by parents, other adults, and interested educators. But in order for the educational program to continue undisturbed when

visitors are present and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons, it is necessary to invoke visitor controls. All visitors, including parents and volunteers, must report to the School office upon entering the School building and sign the guest register. This procedure has been adopted for the safety of our students and staff. Children from other schools may not visit during the school day. Exceptions may be made at the Superintendent or his/her designee's discretion for families who are considering enrollment.

The Superintendent or his/her designee has the authority to prohibit the entry of any person, including but not limited to parents, other adults and/ or educators, to a program of the School or to expel any person when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be detrimental to the good order of the program. If such an individual refuses to leave the School grounds or creates a disturbance, the Superintendent or his/her designee is authorized to request from the local law enforcement agency whatever assistance is required to remove the individual.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may promulgate such administrative guidelines as are necessary for the protection of students and staff from disruption to the educational program or the efficient conduct of their assigned tasks.

All volunteers (both new and current) having unsupervised access to students on a regular basis are hereby notified that the School may at any time require a set of fingerprints for purposes of making a criminal records check. If a criminal records check is conducted on a volunteer, and the records check reveals one of the prohibited violations, the School may no longer utilize the volunteer in a position involving unsupervised access to children on a regular basis, unless a notice is sent out to the parent or guardian of each child served by the School. The notice must be in writing, name the volunteer and indicate that the volunteer has been convicted of or entered a guilty plea to one or more of the prohibited violations. The notice must be sent to the parent or guardian on the date the School commences providing services to the child or on the date the School decides to accept the person as a volunteer after receiving the report of the result of the criminal records check, whichever is later.

R.C. 109.575

Public Conduct on School Property

No person shall assault, strike, threaten, or menace a teacher, instructor, or person in charge of a class of students, or any employee while in the performance of their duties, or disrupt, disturb, or interfere with any activity conducted in or on the School premises, or unlawfully assault, strike, threaten, menace, follow, pursue, or lay hands upon a student or other person in or on the School premises, or on the way to or from School or School-sponsored activity.

School officials have the authority to call a law enforcement officer if any individual violates this policy or other posted regulations, or does not leave School property when requested to do so.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline

Classification of Violations

Violations of school rules will be classified as Level One, Level Two, and Level Three infractions.

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to conform to the Student Code of Conduct at School, on the School premises, at School activities or functions whether on or off the School premises and on transportation to and from School, if paid for or provided by the School and are subject to the School's disciplinary process when they fail to do so. Students may also be subject to the School's disciplinary process for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, regardless where it occurs, if the misconduct is directed at School Staff or their property.

Progressive Discipline

First Level Offense

1. Teacher explains or reviews class and School rules and warns the student of possible consequences.
2. Teacher applies appropriate in school consequences.

Second Level Offense

3. Teacher applies appropriate consequences, including longer time-outs, or alternate areas for reflection, loss of privileges, detention, etc.
4. Teacher personally communicates the problem(s) with the student's parent(s).
5. Teacher sends a written report home and a copy to the office.

Third Level Offense

If actions taken at Levels 1-2 have not corrected the inappropriate behavior, or, if the student engaged in serious act(s) of misconduct for his or her grade level, the Principal may suspend the student from School, not to exceed ten School days, subject to Policy 273.

Fourth Level Offense

Subject to Policy 273, if actions taken at Levels 1-3 have not corrected the inappropriate behavior, or, if the student engaged in serious act(s) of misconduct for his or her grade level, the highest level administrator of the School likened to a Superintendent may expel the student from School, not to exceed 80 days, unless one year is specifically authorized, or, unless the student is permanently excluded under Policy 273.

Progressive discipline levels may be skipped for serious acts of misconduct at the discretion of the Principal and/or the highest level administrator of the School likened to a Superintendent.

Students are entitled to a safe, comfortable environment in which to learn. Students who disrupt the learning atmosphere shall be removed. Teachers are expected to take steps to encourage students to refocus their energy toward appropriate learning activities. If the problem affects the learning opportunities of others, the teacher will refer the student to the principal's office. The discipline procedure follows

Infractions and Likely Disciplinary Action

	<u>DEFINITION</u>	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
Academic Misconduct	Plagiarizing, cheating, copying another's work or internet materials, gaining unauthorized access to material, using, submitting, or attempting to obtain data or answers dishonestly or by means other than authorized by the teacher. Falsifying information (signing homework, etc.).	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 2-3 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.
Bomb Threat	Making a bomb threat to a School building or to any premises at which a School activity is occurring at the time of the threat.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.
Criminal Act	Committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult that results in serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.
Disruptive Behavior	Engaging in any conduct that causes or results in the breakdown of the orderly process of instruction and/or School activities, including but not limited to failure to carry out directions and/or School guidelines, failure to cooperate with School personnel or parent volunteers, verbally harassing other Students or Staff, and running and/or making excessive noise in the building.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 2-3 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.
Dress Code Violations	See Dress Code	Change into school provided uniform for the day and return it at the end of the school day. Excessive dress code violations may result in additional consequences (Levels 2-3)		
Electronic and Other Communication Devices	No Student shall display or possess any electronic devices (cellular telephones, PDA's, CD players, iPods, gaming devices, etc.) without approval on School property from the beginning of the day to the conclusion of School.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 2-3 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.

Firearm	Bringing a firearm to the School or onto School Property (any Property owned, used, or leased by the School for School, School extracurricular or School-related events).	1 year mandatory expulsion.	1 year mandatory expulsion.	1 year mandatory expulsion.
	Bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity that is located at a School or on School property.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.
	Possessing a firearm at School, on School Property or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity which firearm was initially brought onto School Property by another person.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.
Gang Activity	No student shall be involved in initiations, hazing, intimidations and/or related activities of group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to Students or Staff. No Student shall wear, carry or display gang paraphernalia or exhibit behaviors or gestures which symbolize gang membership or cause and/or participate in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student. See also Gang Policy.	Levels 1-3	Level 2-4	Level 3-4
Homework	Daily homework assignments are an extension of, and reinforce class work, and may be assigned Monday through Friday evenings. The amount of homework and time required for its completion will depend on the grade level of the student and the type of skill or content being developed. All homework must be completed in a timely manner, as determined by the classroom teacher. Repeated failure to timely complete homework is of great concern, and may result in appropriate disciplinary measures.	Level 1	Level 1-2	Level 2 -3

Inappropriate language	Using or directing, insulting, degrading, or demeaning language, written or verbal, toward School personnel or any member of the School community. See also Dignity Policy.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 1-3 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.
Insubordination	Verbal or nonverbal refusal to comply with a reasonable request or directive while on School property or at any School related activity or event.	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 2 disciplinary action.	Level 3 or 4 disciplinary action.
Intimidation/ Menacing/ Bullying/Cyber-Bullying	Threats, verbal or physical, that inflict fear, injury, or damage. Cyber-bullying is a sub-set of bullying and involves the use of information and communication technologies, including but not limited to email, cell phone and pager text messages, blogs, MySpace, Facebook, Wikipedia, Bebo, the Internet, Xanga, Piczo, instant messaging, defamatory personal Web sites, and defamatory online personal polling Web sites, to support deliberate or repeated, or hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm, intimidate or harass others on School time or the School premises, at School events, programs or activities or off School time or School premises if such acts affect other Students or Staff of the School. See also Anti-Bullying.	Level 2-3 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.
Knife	Bringing a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to School, onto School property, to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the School or which the School is a participant.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.
	Possessing a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at School, on School Property or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity which knife was initially brought onto School Property by another person.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.	Level 4 disciplinary action and 1 year discretionary expulsion.
Lying	Intentionally giving untrue	Level 1-2 disciplinary	Level 1-2 disciplinary	Level 2-4 disciplinary

	communication.	action.	action.	action.
Obscenities/ Verbal Abuse/ Vulgarity	Directing obscene, abusive, vulgar, profane, harassing, insulting, racial, sexual, religious, or ethnic slurs, written or verbal, toward School personnel or any member of the School community. This shall include use of obscene gestures and signs that willfully intimidate, insult, or in any other manner, abuse others.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.
Physical Contact	Participating in unacceptable physical contact, including but not limited to fighting, pushing, intentionally hurting other students. See also Fighting Policy.	Level 1-3 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.
Refusal to Do Classroom Work	The refusal to complete work, labs, projects, or other assignments given by the teacher.	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 2 disciplinary action.	Level 3 disciplinary action.
Minor Safety	Students shall be concerned about their own safety and that of others. Student actions that may be considered a minor safety risk include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking during safety drills • Running, pushing, yelling, or other inappropriate behaviors • Any inappropriate playground behaviors • Minor insubordination to adults 	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 2 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.
Major Safety	Behavior that creates a more severe possibility of harm to oneself or others, including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving the school building or grounds without permission • Other acts which could harm the student or others 	Level 2-4	Level 2-4	Level 2-4
Sale, Use, Possession, or Distribution of Alcohol, Drugs, or other Chemical	Using, selling/purchasing, distributing, possessing, or attempting to possess, mood altering chemicals, or substances (including counterfeit or look-alike substances), distributing any narcotics, drugs, controlled substances of any kind,	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.	Level 4 disciplinary action.

Controlled Substances	or alcoholic beverages, or other intoxicant on School property or at School functions or event. See also Drugs and Alcohol.			
Sale, Use, Possession, or Distribution of Tobacco Product	Using, selling/purchasing, distributing, possessing or attempting to possess, any tobacco product or paraphernalia (including e-cigarettes, vapor-based nicotine, and lighters). See also Use of Tobacco on School Premises.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 2 - 3 disciplinary action.	Level 2- 4 disciplinary action.
School Property	Textbooks, computers, and school facilities are available for student use. Proper care and use of school property is expected. All violations in this area require restoration and/or restitution. Violations include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defacing textbooks, library books, and other school materials • Destruction or improper use of school computers, printers, or other technology • Defacing/destruction of school property including desks, walls, lockers, etc. • Failure to respect the property of other students, teachers, school personnel, etc. • Gum chewing on school property • Improper use of restrooms and/or supplies • Stealing 	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 2 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.
Sexual or Other Harassment	Unwelcome advances of a sexual nature, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment that includes unwelcome physical contact shall be assumed to have the effect of substantially interfering with the victim's employment or educational environment.	Level 1-3 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.	Level 3-4 disciplinary action.

	See Harassment Policies.			
Tardiness	To class: The act of a student not being in his/her classroom or seat when class is scheduled to begin as defined in the School schedule.	Disciplinary action consistent with Truancy Policy.	Disciplinary action consistent with Truancy Policy.	Disciplinary action consistent with Truancy Policy.
Theft	Stealing, attempting to steal, possessing or transferring School or private property, or participating in the theft or attempted theft of School or private property.	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 2 or 3 disciplinary action.	Level 3 or 4 disciplinary action.
Toys or Play Objects	School is a place of learning. Distractions cause students to be inattentive. Therefore students are to keep all toys or play objects at home unless the teacher designates a specific day for sharing what a student owns. If a Student chooses to share a toy or other object on such an occasion, the School is not responsible for these items. Violations include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing toys or distracting objects to school • Creating toys or distracting objects at school 	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.	Level 1-2 disciplinary action.
Truancy	Habitual or chronic absence from School or class without legitimate excuse and failure to follow proper attendance check-in/check-out and absence procedures. See also Truancy Policy.	Disciplinary action consistent with Truancy Policy.	Disciplinary action consistent with Truancy Policy.	Disciplinary action consistent with Truancy Policy.
Violating Classroom Rules	Not following the classroom rules as determined by the classroom teacher.	Level 1 disciplinary action.	Level 2-3 disciplinary action.	Level 2-4 disciplinary action.

Transportation Discipline

Bus suspensions (for bus riding privileges only, but not for suspension from School) may be imposed for any period of time as set forth in the School’s Code of Conduct. Students are required to be provided notice of an intended suspension (which is not required to be in writing) and an opportunity to appear before the Principal before a suspension is imposed.

If immediate removal of a Student is authorized, the Student must be given notice, as soon as practicable, of the reasons for the removal and of a hearing before the Principal which must be held within seventy-two (72) hours of the removal. Immediate removal is authorized when the Student's presence poses a danger to persons or property or a threat to the safe operation of the school bus. The length of time removed from ridership shall be in accordance with the School's Code of Conduct. If students are being transported by the home district and not by the School, and if the home district requires its own code of conduct to be imposed, the School shall post the bus riding code of conduct of the home school districts from which Students are being transported, in a central location in each School building, and make them available to Students or Parents upon request.

Suspensions or immediate removal from bus riding privileges of disabled students shall be accomplished in accordance with the laws governing suspension and expulsion of disabled students.

R.C. 3313.66; R.C. 3313.668; R.C. 3327.014; OAC 3301-83-08

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE:

- PBIS will be used for classroom discipline (Please refer to our PBIS flow chart).

CLASSROOM CONSEQUENCES:

- Every one (1) suspension results in a strike. A suspension for a fight automatically results in a strike
- 3 strikes may result in an expulsion.
- Any habitual, or consistent violation of the school rules over a period of time deemed to be extreme by the principal/assistant principal, will be grounds for extended days of suspension, or expulsion from school.

***SUSPENSIONS WILL FOLLOW THE STEPLADDER APPROACH, MEANING THE FIRST SUSPENSION WILL BE ONE (1) DAY, THE NEXT THREE (3) DAYS, FIVE (5) DAYS, SEVEN (7) DAYS, THEN TEN (10) DAYS AND A STUDENT WILL BE UP FOR EXPULSION.**

Search and Seizure

The School recognizes that the privacy of Students may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reason or in an unreasonable manner.

The School acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Where locks are provided for such places, Students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall Students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a School official.

The Board may require the Superintendent or his/her designee to conduct a regular search at least annually of all such storage places.

Students have no expectation of privacy with respect to the use of the internet, intranet, or email. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the School network system may lead to the discovery that a student has or is violating School policy or the law. Violations of School policy, the Student Code of Conduct or the law may result in severe penalties, up to and including expulsion.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, School authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles, of a Student, with or without the Student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of School rules. Specifically:

Search and Seizure of Property:

1. School lockers, desks, and property are on loan to the Students and remain the property of the School. They may be inspected and reclaimed at any time.
2. Students must not keep prohibited items, including drugs, drug paraphernalia, firearms, explosives, and property belonging to others within their lockers, backpacks, or desks.
3. Students must open their lockers at the request of School officials.
4. When on School grounds, Students and their personal property may be searched if a School official has grounds to believe the search may turn up evidence that the Student has violated or is violating the law or School rules.
5. A Student shall have the opportunity to be present during the search of his or her locker, desk, or other property unless the Student is absent from School or the safety or welfare of the School or an individual necessitates a search during the Student's absence.

The search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by the Superintendent or his/her designee. This person should be of the student's gender and conduct the search in the presence of another staff member of the same gender. However, no strip searches may be conducted by School personnel.

This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the Student is under the jurisdiction of the School.

Administrators are authorized to arrange for the use of a breath-test instrument for the purpose of determining if a Student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. It is not necessary for the test to determine blood-alcohol level, since the School has established a zero tolerance for alcohol use.

The School also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs, when the Superintendent or his/her designee has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs may be present in the School. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places on School property where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or with

organizations certified in canine detection and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each student search, including the reasons for the search; information received that established the need for the search and the name of informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found; and the disposition made of them. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

U.S. Const. Amend. IV, XIV; Oh. Const. Art. 1 §14.

Use of Tobacco and Other Stimulants on School Premises

The use of tobacco and some oral, stimulants, including betel nuts, present a health hazard that can have serious consequences both for the user and the nonuser and is, therefore, of concern to the School.

For purposes of this policy, “use of tobacco” shall mean all uses of tobacco, including a cigar, cigarette, pipe, snuff, or any other matter or substances that contain tobacco, as well as electronic, “vapor,” or other substitute forms of cigarettes. Additionally, “use of betel nuts” shall mean any and all use, possession, consumption or chewing of the areca nut (commonly known as the betel nut) or substances containing the areca nut.

The School cannot, even by indirection, condone the use of tobacco or the use of betel nuts. As such, the School prohibits the use of tobacco or betel nuts on School Property.

20 U.S.C. 6081-6084; R.C. 3313.751; R.C. Chapter 3794.

Expulsion and Suspension Policies

The Principal or his/her designee may suspend a student for up to ten (10) school days. The person designated as Superintendent in OEDS-R (hereafter “Superintendent”) may expel a student for up to eighty (80) school days, and in some instances, one (1) year. Provided however, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year neither the Principal nor the Superintendent shall initiate the process of issuing an out-of-school suspension or expulsion to students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, unless the student has committed a firearm, bomb-threat, or knife offense; or other criminal offense that results in serious bodily injury or property damage; or where the student’s out-of-school suspension or expulsion is necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, fellow classmates, or school personnel. The Principal or Superintendent may not suspend, expel, or remove any student from School solely on the basis of the student’s unexcused absences from School.

In the event that, in the opinion of the Principal or his/ her designee, a student's presence at the School creates a health risk, presents a danger to other persons or property or seriously disrupts the functions of the School, the student may be removed from the premises without formal suspension or expulsion procedures. A removed student in grades pre-kindergarten through three may be removed for the remainder of the school day and shall be permitted to return to curricular and extracurricular activities on the following school day without a hearing, unless the student's conduct warranting the emergency removal is likely to result in an out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Students in grades four through twelve may be removed, and must be provided with notice and procedures to follow the removal in accordance with R.C. 3313.66, including a hearing on the next school day following the removal.

A student shall be expelled for one (1) year for bringing a firearm to the School or onto school property (any property owned, used, or leased by the School for School, School extracurricular, or School-related events).

A student may also be expelled for a period not to exceed one (1) year for:

1. bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity that is located at a School or on school property;
2. bringing a knife to the School, onto school property, or to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the School or in which the School is a participant;
3. possessing a firearm or knife at School, on school property, or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity which firearm or knife was initially brought onto school property by another person;
4. committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult that results in serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property;
5. making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a School activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

A firearm is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or 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 silencer, or any destructive device. A destructive device, includes but is not limited to, any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, mine, or other similar device.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of at least one sharp blade that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

The specific circumstances under which the Superintendent may modify a one (1) year expulsion could include:

1. a recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs in accordance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act;
2. the student was unaware that s/he was possessing a firearm or knife;

3. the student did not understand that the item s/he possessed was considered a firearm or knife;
4. the student brought the item to School as part of an educational activity and did not realize it would be considered a firearm or knife; and
5. the student may be eligible for participation in an alternative program.

A student may be expelled for up to eighty (80) days for serious misconduct or rules violations, or for other just cause.

During the period of suspension, removal, or expulsion, the student may not attend or participate in any School functions without permission from the Principal. The student may enter School facilities only when given permission by Principal or if accompanied by a parent or guardian who accepts responsibility for the student's actions and/or behavior at the facility.

Students issued an in-school suspension shall serve suspensions in a supervised learning environment and may be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension. While serving an out-of-school suspension, the Board **DOES NOT** authorize students to receive instructional services from the School. If students are authorized to receive instructional services from the School, then such instructional services may include completing of tests and exams; homework packets; individual tutoring; library or online assignments; essay on behavior leading to suspension; and grading of all work. Any student serving an out-of-school suspension shall be permitted to complete any classroom assignment missed due to the suspension and receive at least partial credit for the completed assignment; however, the student may receive a reduced assignment grade on account of the suspension. The School will not automatically award a failing grade on any complete assignment solely based on the student's suspension.

The Board also authorizes the Principal to suspend a student from any or all co-curricular or extra-curricular activities for misconduct or rules violations. The length of suspension shall be determined by the Principal commensurate with the seriousness of the student's misconduct or rules violations in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Accordingly, students prohibited from participating in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

If the Principal determines that a student's behavior on a School vehicle violates School rules, s/he may suspend the student from School bus riding privileges for the length of time deemed appropriate for the violation and remediation of the behavior.

The Board authorizes the Principal the option to require a student to perform community service or another alternative consequence in conjunction with, or in place of, a suspension or expulsion, except when an expulsion is imposed for bringing a firearm to School or onto school property.

The Board designates the Superintendent or his/her designee as its representative at all hearings regarding the appeal of a suspension, provided the Principal and Superintendent is not the same person.

The Board will hear the appeal of an expulsion.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for implementing this policy and ensuring compliance with applicable laws.

A copy of this Policy is to be posted in common areas of the School and made available to students and parents upon request.

Due Process Rights

Suspension

The following procedure does not apply to in-school suspensions. The Principal may suspend a student if the following procedure is met:

1. Prior to the imposition of the suspension, a written Notice of Intent to suspend will be given to the student, which contains the following:
 - a. The reasons for the intended suspension; and
 - b. If the suspension is based on one of the serious criminal offenses for which permanent exclusion is allowed, and if the student is age 16 or older, the notice must also indicate the possibility that the Superintendent may seek permanent exclusion.
2. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, if the student is in grades pre-kindergarten through three, whenever possible, the Principal shall consult with a mental health professional under contract with the School, if any, prior suspending the student.* If the events leading up to the suspension indicate a need for additional mental health services, the Principal or mental health professional shall, in any manner that does not result in a financial burden to the School, assist the student's parent or guardian with locating providers or obtaining those services, including referral to an independent mental health professional.
3. The student must be allowed an informal hearing before the Principal or his/her designee to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain his/her actions. The student is not entitled to call witnesses at this informal hearing.
4. Within one school day after the suspension is imposed, the Principal or his/her designee shall provide written notification of the suspension to the parent, guardian, or custodian. The notice must contain the following:
 - a. The reasons for the suspension;
 - b. Notification of the right to appeal to the Board of Directors or its designee. The intent to appeal must be in writing and received by the Board of Directors within 14 days after receiving the notice.
 - c. The right to representation at all appeals;
 - d. The right to a hearing before the Board or its designee; and
 - e. The right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

If the suspension is based on one of the serious criminal offenses for which permanent exclusion is allowed, and the student is age 16 or older, the notice must also indicate the possibility that the Principal may seek permanent exclusion.

If an out-of-school suspension is imposed during the last ten (10) days of the school year, the suspension will not be carried over into the following school year. However, the Principal may require the student to participate in a community service program or another alternative consequence for the number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension, during the first full week day of the summer break. If the student fails to complete the community service or alternative consequence, the School may determine the next course of action, provided however, that the School not require the student to serve the remaining time of the out-of-school suspension at the beginning of the following school year. The Principal or his/her designee may develop an appropriate list of alternative consequences.

Expulsion

Only the Superintendent may expel a student. The following procedure is required:

1. Prior to the imposition of the expulsion, the Superintendent must provide not only the student, but also the parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of his intention to expel. The notice must include the following:
 - a. The reasons for the intended expulsion; and
 - b. The time and place for a hearing, which must be not less than three nor more than five school days after giving the notice, unless the period is extended by the Superintendent at the request of the student, his parent, custodian, guardian, or representative. The parent, guardian, or custodian must be sent written notice of any extension, and the subsequent notice should contain the same information required in the original notice.
 - c. If the student is age 16 or older and the expulsion is for one of the serious criminal offenses for which permanent exclusion is allowed, the notice must also indicate the possibility that the Superintendent may seek permanent exclusion.
2. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, if the student is in grades pre-kindergarten through three, whenever possible, the Superintendent shall consult with a mental health professional under contract with the School, if any, prior to expelling the student.* If the events leading up to the expulsion indicate a need for additional mental health services, the Superintendent or mental health professional shall, in any manner that does not result in a financial burden to the School, assist the student's parent or guardian with locating providers or obtaining those services, including referral to an independent mental health professional.
3. A hearing must be scheduled not less than three or more than five school days after giving the notice, for the student and his parent, guardian, custodian or representative to appear in person before the Superintendent to challenge the reasons for the expulsion or otherwise explain his/her actions.

4. Within one school day after the expulsion is imposed, the Superintendent shall provide written notification to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student and the treasurer of the Board of Directors of the expulsion. The notice must include the following:
 - a. The reasons for the expulsion;
 - b. Notification of the right to appeal to the Board of Directors or its designee. The intent to appeal must be in writing and received by the Board of Directors within 14 days after receiving the notice.
 - c. The right to representation at all appeals;
 - d. The right to an appeal hearing before the Board or its designee;
 - e. The right to request that the hearing be held in executive session;
 - f. If the expulsion is based on one of the serious criminal offenses for which permanent exclusion is allowed, and the student is age 16 or older, the notice must also indicate the possibility that the Superintendent may seek permanent exclusion;
 - g. When the Superintendent expels a student for more than twenty days or for any period of time extending into the next semester or school year, the School shall provide, along with this notice, the student and his parent, guardian, or custodian with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitudes and behaviors that contributed to the incident giving rise to the expulsion. The information must include names, addresses, and phone numbers or the appropriate public and private agencies.

During the period of expulsion, the School may, but is not required to, continue educational services in an alternative setting.

The Superintendent is required to follow through on expellable offenses even if the student in question withdraws from the School prior to the hearing or the Superintendent's decision.

The Superintendent may apply any remaining part or all of the period of expulsion into the following year.

*A community school, community school governing authority, or community school employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a school employee's decision not to provide or procure mental health services for a suspended or expelled student in any of grades pre-kindergarten through three, unless the decision is made with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.

Prohibition of Corporal Punishment

All teachers, administrators, non-licensed school employees, and school bus drivers are prohibited from inflicting or causing to be inflicted corporal punishment as a means of discipline upon a pupil attending the School. However, they may, within the scope of their employment, use and apply 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 upon the person or within the control of the pupil, for the purpose of self-defense or for the protection of persons or property.

R.C. 3313.66-.662; R.C. 3313.668; R.C. 3321.13(B)(4); R.C. 4510.32(B); 20 USC 7961(b)(1)

Discipline/Suspension/Expulsion of Disabled Students

In matters relating to the disciplining of disabled students, the Board shall abide by federal and state laws regarding suspension and expulsion. The Principal will follow the guidelines below and ensure they are properly used when disciplining any student with a disability.

Removals of Not More Than 10 Days – The 10-Day Rule

The School may unilaterally remove a Student with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from the Student's current placement for not more than ten (10) school days. This option may be used only if the disciplinary action is consistent with actions taken against nondisabled students. The School may place Students removed under the 10-day rule in an appropriate interim alternative educational setting (“IAES”) if applicable (see below), another setting, or suspend them. Removals under the 10-day rule are not considered a “change of placement” and the School is not obligated to provide services to Students during those removals. The School can use the 10-day rule to remove a student for either a single removal of ten (10) consecutive school days; or a series of shorter-term removals over the course of the school year that are more than ten (10) school days during that school year, so long as those removals do not constitute a pattern of removals (and therefore, a change of placement). When a removal is not a change of placement, an IEP meeting is not required. However, if one or more IEP team members believe that modifications are needed to the Student’s behavior plan, the team shall meet to modify the plan and its implementation to the extent the team determines necessary.

Removals of More than 10 Days – Change of Placement

A change of placement occurs if a removal is for more than ten (10) consecutive school days; or if a Student is subjected to a series of removals which accumulate to more than ten (10) school days, that constitute a pattern. If a change of placement occurs (after a Manifestation Determination Review (see below)), then the School must notify the parents or guardians of that decision. This notice must inform the parents or guardians of all the procedural safeguards accorded under the law. These safeguards include a Manifestation Determination Review, a right to receive services, and a continuation of services for a free appropriate public education. The School must provide services that:

- enable the Student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum (although in another setting); and
- enable the Student to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the Student’s IEP.

Manifestation Determination Review (“MDR”)

The School will conduct an MDR to examine a Student's behavior before imposing disciplinary consequences that would amount to a change of placement. The purpose of the MDR is to determine whether a Student's disability caused, influenced or otherwise impacted the Student's behavior in question. To make this determination, the Student's IEP team is required to review certain information and determine whether the behavior causing the disciplinary infraction is or is not a manifestation of the Student's disability.

The MDR is not required for disciplinary removals that do not constitute a change of placement, that is, less than ten (10) school days per incident or a series of removals accumulating to more than ten (10) school days in one school year that do not constitute a pattern.

No later than the date on which the decision to take a disciplinary action which may be a change of placement is made, the School must notify the parents or guardians of that decision and of all procedural safeguards, including the MDR. The School and the parents or guardians must determine which members of the IEP team are relevant to conduct the manifestation determination. The team will review all relevant information in the Student's file to determine whether the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the Student's disability or was the direct result of the School's failure to implement the IEP. If the team determines that either condition is applicable for the Student, it must determine that the conduct is a manifestation of the Student's disability.

Manifestation – If the team determines that the behavior was a manifestation of the Student's disability, the full IEP team must meet the following requirements:

- conduct a functional behavior assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan for the student, unless the School conducted a functional behavior assessment prior to the manifestation determination;
- if the IEP team already developed a behavior intervention plan, it must review and modify the plan as necessary to address the behavior; and
- return the Student to the placement from which he or she was removed; 45-day rule exception applies.

No Manifestation – If the team determines that the behavior was NOT a manifestation of the disability, the School may discipline the Student using the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to Students without disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration, continuing to provide services to Students with disabilities.

If a Student's behavior was not a manifestation of the disability, the School will still take steps to attend to the Student's behavior. The Student must receive, as appropriate, a functional behavior assessment, behavioral intervention services, and modifications designed to address the behavior violation in order to attempt to prevent a reoccurrence.

Exceptions to the MDR Requirement – The Unilateral Change in Placement and 45-Day Rule

School personnel may remove a Student to an IAES for up to forty-five (45) school days, without a prior MDR or IEP meeting, when a Student:

- carries or possesses a weapon (a device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, except that the term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length);
- knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs (a controlled substance not legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health care professional, or legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) or under any other provision of federal law), or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance (a drug or other substance identified under Schedule I, II, III, IV or V in the Controlled Substances Act); or
- has inflicted serious bodily injury on another person (a cut, abrasion, bruise, burn or disfigurement, physical pain, illness, impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty, or any other injury, no matter how temporary).

This authority can be exercised if a Student commits any of the offenses described above at the School, on the School premises, or at a School function.

The IEP team will meet subsequent to the unilateral placement in an IAES and must determine what the permanent setting will be, take steps to modify the student's IEP, as appropriate, provide appropriate behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur, and continue to provide the Student with educational services to enable him or her to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward IEP goals.

The School must still do an MDR, but it can occur after the removal to the 45-day setting. If the conduct is a manifestation of the Student's disability, the School must still meet all of the requirements outlined above for the MDR, with the additional exception that the Student stay in the alternative placement for 45 school days, regardless of the outcome of the manifestation.

Due Process Complaint

Parents or guardians who disagree with any decision regarding placement or the outcome of an MDR may appeal the decision through the filing of a due process complaint and may request an expedited due process hearing.

The School may request a hearing to change a Student's placement if the School believes that maintaining the Student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the Student or others. Under those circumstances, the hearing officer may order a change in placement of a Student with a disability to an IAES for a period of up to forty-five (45) school days if the hearing officer agrees with the School's assessment.

During any due process proceedings, the Student's placement, through a disciplinary action, must not change unless the parents/guardians and the School agree otherwise, or upon admissions to the School and parent/guardian consent. The School may change the Student's placement when taking disciplinary actions that constitute a change of placement against students with disabilities, or Students who may be eligible for IDEA services.

In the case where a Student has been placed in an IAES, the Student will remain in the IAES chosen by the School, pending the hearing officer's decision or until the time period expires, whichever occurs first, unless the Parent and School agree otherwise. An expedited hearing will be arranged during an IAES appeal and will occur within twenty (20) days of the hearing request, and the hearing officer must make a determination within ten (10) school days after the hearing.

Disciplining a 504 Student

Section 504 Manifestation Determination Reviews

A Student on a 504 Plan is to be afforded due process relating to any proposed change in educational placement where the Student is subject either to expulsion or suspension for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive school days or a series of suspensions that are each ten (10) or fewer school days in duration, but exceed ten (10) school days in the aggregate and create a pattern of exclusions. In all such cases, except in the case where such suspension or expulsion pertains to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol as detailed below, the School shall follow the procedures outlined in Policy 275 Discipline/Suspension/Expulsion of Disabled Students.

Disciplinary Procedures for Students Possessing or Using Alcohol or Illegal Drugs

The School may take disciplinary action pertaining to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol against any Student on a 504 Plan who currently is engaging in the illegal use of drugs or in the use of alcohol to the same extent that such disciplinary action is taken against Students without disabilities, in accordance with Policy 273 Expulsion and Suspension Policies. In such a case, the disability due process procedures found in Policy 275 Discipline/Suspension/Expulsion of Disabled Students are inapplicable.

Emergency Removal from Placement

Emergency removal of a 504 student from his/her current placement may take place through parental agreement to an interim placement or through injunctive relief from a court, when the current placement presents a substantial likelihood of resulting in injury to the student or others.

29 USC 701 et seq. (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, Seclusion, and Restraint

This policy governs the use of positive behavioral methods and emergency safety interventions including seclusion and restraint. Any use of emergency safety interventions that does not meet the requirements set forth below is prohibited.

Definitions

Aversive behavioral interventions: an intervention that is intended to induce pain or discomfort to a student for the purpose of eliminating or reducing maladaptive behaviors, including interventions such as: application of noxious, painful and/or intrusive stimuli, including any form of noxious, painful or intrusive spray, inhalants or tastes, or other sensory stimuli such as climate control, lighting, and sound.

Behavior Intervention Plan: a comprehensive plan for managing problem behavior by changing or removing contextual factors that trigger or maintain the behavior, by strengthening replacement skills, teaching new skills, and providing positive behavior intervention and supports and services to address the behavior.

Chemical Restraint: a drug or medication used to control a student's behavior or restrict freedom of movement that is not (A) prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under State law, for the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition; and (B) administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under State law.

De-escalation techniques: are strategically employed verbal and non-verbal interventions used to reduce the intensity of threatening, violent, and disruptive behavior before a crisis occurs.

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA): is a collaborative problem-solving process used to describe the function or purpose that is served by a student's behavior. Understanding the function that an impeding behavior serves for the student assists directly in designing educational programs and developing behavior plans with a high likelihood of success.

Mechanical Restraint: (A) any method of restricting a student's freedom of movement, physical activity, or normal use of the student's body, using an appliance or device manufactured for this purpose; and (B) does not mean devices used by trained school personnel, or used by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed, including: (1) restraints for medical immobilization; (2) adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports; or (3) vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

Parent: (A) a biological or adoptive parent; (B) a guardian generally authorized to act as the child's parent, or authorized to make decisions for the child (but not the State if the child is a

ward of the State); (C) an individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; (D) a surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with O.A.C. 3301-51-05(E); and (E) any person identified in a judicial decree or order as the parent of the child or the person with authority to make educational decisions on behalf of the child.

Physical Escort: the temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, waist, hip, or back for the purpose of inducing a student to move to a safe location.

Physical Restraint: the use of physical contact that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his/her arms, legs, body, or head freely. This does not include a physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint, or brief, but necessary, physical contact for the following purposes: (A) to break up a fight; (B) to knock a weapon away from student's possession; (C) to calm or comfort; (D) to assist a student in completing a task if the student does not resist the contact; or (E) to prevent a threat to the immediate safety of the student or others.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports ("PBIS"): (A) a school-wide systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data driven decision making to improve school climate and culture in order to achieve improved academic and social outcomes and increase learning for all students, and (B) that encompasses a wide range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to reinforce desired behaviors, diminishes reoccurrences of challenging behaviors, and teaches appropriate behavior to students.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Leadership Team: the team at the School that plans, coaches and monitors implementation on PBIS. The team may include the a School administrator, teacher representatives across grade levels, and staff able to provide behavioral expertise, and other representatives identified by the district or school such as bus drivers, food service staff, custodial staff, and paraprofessionals.

Prone Restraint: physical or mechanical restraint while the student is in a face down position.

Seclusion: involuntary isolation of a student in a room, enclosure, or space from which the student is prevented from leaving by physical restraint or by a closed door or other physical barrier.

Student personnel: teachers, principals, counselors, social workers, school resource officers, teachers' aides, psychologists, bus driver, related service providers, nursing staff, or other School staff who interact directly with students.

Timeout: a behavioral intervention in which a student, for a limited and specified time, is separated from the class within the classroom or in a non-locked setting for the purpose of self-regulating and controlling his or her behavior. In a timeout, the student is not physically restrained or prevented from leaving the area by physical barriers.

Creation of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

The School shall establish an evidence-based school wide system of positive behavioral interventions and supports that will apply in all settings to all students and staff. The system shall include family involvement. The School's PBIS framework includes all of the following:

- A. A decision-making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of evidence-based academic and behavior practices for improving academic and behavior outcomes for all students;
- B. Data-based decision making to select, monitor, and evaluate outcomes, practices, and systems;
- C. Evidence-based practices along a multi-tiered continuum of supports;
- D. Systems that enable accurate and sustainable implementation of practices; and
- E. Progress monitoring for fidelity and target outcomes.

The School's implementation of its PBIS framework includes:

- A. Explicit instruction of school-wide behavior expectations;
- B. A consistent systems of acknowledging and correcting behaviors;
- C. Teaching environments designed to eliminate behavior triggers; and
- D. Family and community involvement.

Prohibited Practices

The following are **prohibited under all circumstances**, including emergency safety situations:

- A. Prone restraint;
- B. Any form of physical restraint that involves the intentional, knowing, or reckless use of any technique that:
 - i. involves the use of pinning down a student by placing knees to the student's torso, head, or neck;
 - ii. uses pressure point, pain compliance, or joint manipulation techniques; or
 - iii. otherwise involves techniques that are used to unnecessarily cause pain.
- C. Corporal punishment;
- D. Child endangerment as defined in R.C. 2919.22;
- E. Deprivation of basic needs;
- F. Seclusion or restraint of preschool students (if any);
- G. Mechanical or chemical restraints;
- H. Aversive behavioral interventions;
- I. Seclusion of students in a locked room or area; or
- J. Any physical restraint that obstructs the student's airway or impacts the student's primary mode of communication.

Staff must:

- A. Be appropriately trained to protect the care, welfare, dignity, and safety of the student;
- B. Continually observe the student in restraint and/or seclusions for indications of physical or mental distress and seek immediate medical assistance if there is a concern;

- C. Use verbal and on-verbal communication strategies and research based de-escalation techniques in an effort to help the student regain control;
- D. Remove the student from physical restraint and/or seclusion immediately when the immediate risk of physical harm to self or others has dissipated;
- E. Conduct a de-briefing including all involved staff to evaluate the trigger for the incident, staff response, and methods to address the student's behavioral needs; and
- F. Complete all required reports and document staff observations of the students.

Restraint

Restraint may be used only in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate, when there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or to others and no other safe and effective intervention is possible. Physical restraint must be performed by trained staff, except in the case of an unavoidable emergency situation.

Physical restraint may not be used for punishment, discipline, or as a substitute for other less restrictive means of assisting a student in regaining control, and should be used only as a last resort.

Seclusion

Seclusion may be used as a last resort for the student to regain control; it is age and developmentally appropriate; there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others; and there is no other safe and effective intervention available.

Seclusion shall not be: used for punishment or discipline; as a substitute for an education program; as a substitute for inadequate staffing, or for staff training in PBIS frameworks and crisis management; for the convenience of staff; as a means to coerce or retaliate; in a manner that endangers the student; or, as a substitute for other less restrictive means of assisting the student in regaining control reflective of the cognitive, social, and emotional levels of the student.

The room or area used for seclusion cannot be locked, and must allow for the student to exit the area should the staff become incapacitated or leave the area. The room or area must also provide for adequate space, lighting, ventilation, and the ability to observe the student. The student must be under constant supervision by staff trained to detect indications of physical or mental distress that require removal and/or immediate medical assistance and who document their observations of the student.

Multiple Incidents and Functional Behavioral Assessment

For students eligible for special education per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") or who have a Section 504 Plan, the School shall convene the IEP team or Section 504 team within ten (10) school days after the third incident of seclusion or physical restraining in a school year. The IEP team or Section 504 team will consider the need to conduct a functional behavioral assessment ("FBA"). If necessary, this FBA should be followed by a behavioral

intervention plan (“BIP”), or an amendment to an existing BIP, that incorporates appropriate positive behavioral interventions.

Training and Professional Development

The School PBIS Leadership Team or other qualified training shall train all staff working with students at least every three (3) years on the requirements of this policy and shall keep written or electronic documentation of the type of training and the participants. Professional development will include:

- A. An overview of PBIS;
- B. The process for teaching behavioral expectations;
- C. Data collection;
- D. Implementation of PBIS with fidelity;
- E. Consistent systems of feedback to students for appropriate behavior and corrections; and
- F. Consistency in discipline and disciplinary referrals.

The School shall also ensure that an adequate number of personnel in each building are trained annually in crisis management and de-escalation techniques, as well as the safe use of physical restraint and seclusion, and that their training is kept current. The minimum training requirements include:

- A. Proactive measures to prevent the use of seclusion or restraint;
- B. Crisis management;
- C. Documentation and communication about the restraint or seclusion with appropriate parties;
- D. The safe use of restraint and seclusion;
- E. Instruction and accommodation for age and body size diversity;
- F. Directions for monitoring signs of distress during and following physical control; and
- G. Debriefing practices and procedures.

Training must include face-to-face training and allow for a simulated experience of administering and receiving physical restraint. The School shall maintain documentation that includes the following:

- A. The name and position of each person who completed training;
- B. The name, position, and credentials of each person who provided the training;
- C. When the training was completed; and
- D. What protocols, techniques, and materials were included in training.

Student personnel will be trained to perform the following functions:

- A. Identify conditions such as: where, under what conditions, with whom and why specific inappropriate behavior may occur; and
- B. Use preventative assessments that include at least the following:
 - i. A review of existing data;
 - ii. Input from parents, family members, and students; and

- iii. Examination of previous and existing behavior intervention plans.

The School shall ensure that there is a support plan in place for substitute teachers if the individual needs assistance with PBIS or crisis management and de-escalation.

Required Data and Reporting

Staff must document each use of seclusion or restraint and report it to the building administration and the parent immediately. A written report of the incident must be created, given to the parent within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident, and placed in the student's file. This report is subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The School shall report information concerning its use of seclusion and restraint annually to, and as requested by, the Ohio Department of Education.

The School shall give notice of this policy to parents annually, and shall post this policy on its website.

Monitoring and Complaint Procedures

The School shall review this policy on an annual basis.

A Parent may submit written complaints regarding an incident of seclusion or restraint to the School, and the Principal or his/her designee will investigate every complaint and make a reasonable effort to have an in-person follow-up meeting with the parent within 30 days of the complaint's filing.

Parents may choose to file a complaint with the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Integrated Student Supports, in accordance with the complaint procedures established by the Department.

O.A.C. 3301-35-15; R.C. 3319.46.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is an alternative to punitive responses to wrongdoing. It brings together persons harmed with persons responsible for harm in a safe and respectful space, promoting dialogue, accountability, and a stronger sense of community.

In School Suspension

A student may be sent to in school suspension by the administration for conduct that is deemed appropriate for the infraction committed. ISS will be used at the discretion of the administration and can be modified by the administrator at any time throughout the school year. The administration will adhere to all Ohio laws and regulations regarding the use of ISS as stated in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Student Expression

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions: buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following School guidelines:

- A. A material cannot be displayed if it:
 - 1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent, or vulgar,
 - 2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
 - 3. intends to be insulting or harassing,
 - 4. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting School or a School event.
- B. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after School in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Distribution of Non-School-Related Materials

The School recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on School property.

To protect such rights, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the educational objectives and responsibilities of the School, all parents, students, and employees must adhere to the following regulations and procedures regarding distribution of non-School-sponsored material on School property and at School activities.

- 1. Requests for distribution of non-School-sponsored materials will be reviewed by administration on a case-by-case basis.
- 2. Distribution of materials deemed inappropriate by the School is prohibited.
- 3. Administration sets the time, place, and manner of distribution. Non-School-sponsored material may NOT be distributed during a normal School activity

Student Bill of Rights/Responsibilities

The Board recognizes that Students possess not only the right to an education, but the rights of citizenship as well.

In granting Students the education to which they are entitled, the Board shall provide them with the nurture, counsel, and custodial care appropriate to their age and maturity. At the same time, no Student shall be deprived of the basic right to equal treatment and equal access to the

educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence, free expression and association, and the privacy of his/her own thoughts.

Attendant upon the rights guaranteed to each Student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted School authority, and compliance with the rules and regulations of the School.

The Board realizes that as Students differ in age and maturity, so they differ in ability to handle both the rights of citizens and the concomitant responsibilities. The exercise of each right shall be granted, therefore, with due regard for the degree of responsibility possessed by the Student and the Student's need for the continuing guidance and control of those responsible for his/her education.

A Student who has reached the age of majority possesses the full rights of an adult and may authorize those School matters previously handled by his/her parents. Each Student who has reached the age of majority shall assume the full responsibility for his/her performance in School, attendance, and compliance with School rules and regulations.

As members of the School community, Students have both rights and responsibilities described in part below.

1. All individuals are deserving of respect and acceptance. Both adults and youth at the School will exhibit respectful behavior in their speech and actions. All individuals are expected to set positive examples.
2. Students have a right to a learning environment free from physical and verbal threats and harassment. Individuals must not threaten or harass others. Neither must they cause or encourage threatening or harassment of others.
3. Students have a right to learn free from excessive distractions. Individuals must maintain behavior, including dress, vocalization, and other actions, which allows others to learn.
4. Students have a right to the ownership, possession, and respect of their property. Individuals must obtain permission before taking and/or utilizing the property of others. For exceptions, see Policy 268 Search and Seizure. Property must be treated with care and respect.
5. Students have a right and are encouraged to ask questions when they do not understand, as long as the questions are presented respectfully and are appropriate for the setting. At times, questions may need to be deferred.
6. Students have a right to disagree with statements and policies affecting them as long as the students' positions are stated respectfully and in a way which does not disrupt the functioning of the class. Disagreement does not mean that statements and policies affecting students will be changed.
7. Students have a right to obtain an explanation of rules and expected behaviors before they are accused of breaking the rules.

ANTI HARRASSMENT/AGGRESSIVE **BEHAVIORS**

Hazing

Gang Activity

Disorder and Demonstration

Drug Prevention

Anti-Harassment

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the board of education to maintain an education and work environment which is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all school district operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against harassment based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or any other unlawful basis, and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify the problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated; the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

For purposes of this policy, "School District community" means students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel, including Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

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

Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

Informal Process for Addressing Complaints of Harassment

The administrative guidelines will include an informal complaint process to provide members of the School District community or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Members of the School District community or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do

so. The administrative guidelines will include as a requirement the prerequisite that the informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in the informal process. Those members of the School District community or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process. However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

Education and Training

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or 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 and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment

Students have the right to learn in an environment untainted by sexual or other forms of harassment or discrimination. Offensive conduct that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the learning atmosphere or creating an intimidating, hostile, discriminatory, or offensive learning environment, or which disrupts the educational process or impedes the legitimate pedagogical concerns of the School, is strictly prohibited.

Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and verbal or physical contacts of a sexual nature. Other prohibited conduct includes that which has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, discriminatory, or offensive learning environment on the basis of gender, religion, race, color, ethnicity, disability, and/or other legally protected category.

The harassment by a student of a staff member or fellow student is strictly forbidden. Any student who is found to have harassed a staff member or student will be subject to discipline.

The harassment of a student or a staff member should be reported immediately by the student or staff member to any teacher or to the Superintendent or his/her designee. Any person who receives such a report shall immediately advise the Superintendent or his/her designee or a Board member, who will investigate and take appropriate action in accordance with Board directives.

20 USC 1681 et seq.; R.C. 4112.02.

Anti-Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy

The following policy must appear in any student handbook, and in any publications that set forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards for the School and students. Information regarding this policy must be incorporated into employee training materials. Annually, the School shall send a written statement describing the policy and the consequences for violating the policy to each student's custodial parent or guardian, either electronically or with report cards.

The School prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (including cyber-bullying) of any student on school property or at school-sponsored events (any event conducted on or off School property, including School buses and other School related vehicles, that is sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board). A safe and civil environment in the School is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation and bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, are conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and the School's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate bullying.

“Harassment, intimidation, or bullying” means either of the following: (1) any intentional, written, verbal, electronic, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students has exhibited toward another particular student more than once, and the behavior both causes mental 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; or (2) violence within a dating relationship. The definition of “harassment, intimidation, or bullying” also includes the above described acts which are electronically generated, stored or transmitted, sometimes called “cyberbullying.”

The School reserves the right to discipline students' off campus behavior which substantially disrupts the School's educational process or mission, or threatens the safety or well-being of a Student or Staff member. Factors which may be considered in determining whether the behavior warrants discipline include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) whether the behavior created material and substantial disruption to the educational process or the School's mission due to the stress on the individual(s) victimized or the time invested by Staff in dealing with the behavior or its consequences; (2) whether a nexus to on-campus activities exists; (3) whether the behavior creates a substantial interference with a Student's or Staff member's security or right to educate and receive education; (4) whether the behavior invades the privacy of others; or (5) whether any threat is deemed to be a true threat by the administration or Board, using factors and guidelines set out by the courts or by common sense, reasonable person standards.

Some acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyber-bullying may be isolated incidents requiring that the school respond appropriately to the individuals committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or part of a larger pattern of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying that they require a response either in the classroom, School building, or by law

enforcement officials. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for students who commit an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying range from positive behavior intervention up to and including suspension or expulsion. Due process procedures for suspension and expulsion will be followed, as provided for under R.C. 3313.66. The disciplinary procedures and Code of Conduct of the School shall be followed and shall not infringe on any student's First Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

All school personnel, volunteers, and students are required to report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the Principal or his/her designee. All other persons may report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the Principal or his/her designee. Should any School employee, or School official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the School, receive notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment, they shall immediately report it to the Title IX Coordinator. Anonymous communications, if necessary, may be made by telephone, electronic mail, or in writing. In the case of sexual harassment as defined by Title IX, the School shall follow the School's Title IX Grievance Procedure. For all other incidents, the Principal or his/her designee is responsible for determining whether an alleged incident constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the Principal or his/her designee shall conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of the reported incident, and prepare a report documenting the prohibited incident that is reported. Once an investigation is completed, if the reported incident has been substantiated, the Parent of any Student involved in the prohibited incident shall be notified. Semiannually, the Principal will provide the Board President with a written summary of all reported incidents. To the extent permitted by R.C. 3319.321 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g), Parents have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident, and, if the School has a website, the School shall post this summary of reported incidents on the School website. All School personnel, volunteers, and Students shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy promptly and in good faith.

The School prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any victim or person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Principal or his/her designee after consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, in accordance with School policies and procedures.

Students are prohibited from deliberately making false reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and Students who deliberately do so will be disciplined up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The School shall implement the following strategy for protecting victims from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and from retaliation: supervise and discipline offending students fairly and consistently; provide adult supervision during recess, lunch time, bathroom breaks and in the hallways during times of transition; maintain contact with parents and guardians of all involved parties; provide counseling for the victim if assessed that it is needed; inform School personnel of the incident and instruct them to monitor the victim and the offending party for the indications of harassing, intimidating and bullying behavior. Personnel are to intervene when prohibited behaviors are witnessed; check with the victim daily to ensure

that there has been no incidents of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation from the offender or other parties.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying behavior can take many forms and can vary dramatically in seriousness and impact on the targeted individual and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. While conduct that rises to the level of “harassment, intimidation, or bullying” will warrant disciplinary action whether and to what extent to impose disciplinary action (*i.e.*, detention, in- and out-of-school suspension, or expulsion) is a matter left in the professional discretion of the Principal, or other decision-maker in the case of sexual harassment. The following procedure sets forth possible interventions for the Principal to enforce the prohibition against harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Anonymous complaints that are not otherwise verified, however, shall not be the basis for disciplinary action.

1. Non-Disciplinary Interventions

When verified acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying are identified early and/or when such verified acts do not reasonably require a disciplinary response, students may be counseled as to the definition of harassment, intimidation or bullying, its prohibition and their duty to avoid any conduct that could be considered harassing, intimidating or bullying. If a complaint arises out of conflict between students or groups of students, peer mediation may be considered. Special care, however, is warranted in referring such cases to peer mediation. A power imbalance may make the process intimidating for the victim and therefore inappropriate. The victim’s communication and assertiveness skills may be low and could be further eroded by fear resulting from past intimidation and fear of future intimidation. In such cases, the victim should be given additional support. Peer mediation may be deemed inappropriate to address the concern at the discretion of the School administration.

2. Disciplinary Interventions

When acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying are verified and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences. In- and out-of-school suspension may be imposed only after informing the accused perpetrator of the reasons for the proposed suspension and giving him/her an opportunity to explain the situation. Expulsion may be imposed only after a hearing before the Board of Directors, a committee of the board or an impartial hearing officer designated by the Board of Directors in accordance with Board policy. This consequence shall be reserved for serious incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and/or situations where past interventions have not been successful in eliminating prohibited behaviors.

Nothing in this policy prohibits a victim from seeking redress under any provision of Ohio or federal law that may apply.

To the extent state or federal funds are appropriate, the School shall require that all students enrolled in the School be provided with age-appropriate instruction of this policy annually, including a written or verbal discussion of the consequences for violations. The School may form a prevention task force and/ or programs to educate students about this policy, such as

holding an assembly on harassment, intimidation and bullying for Parents and Students, to raise the level of awareness and help prevent the prohibited conduct.

The School shall incorporate training on this policy into the in-service training required under R.C. 3319.073. The School may provide training, workshops, or courses to other Staff and volunteers who have direct contact with students.

R.C. 3313.666, 3313.667, 3319.073

Anti-Hazing Policy

The School prohibits all acts of hazing. Hazing, like other violent and disruptive behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and the School's ability to educate its students in a safe and civil environment. **No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.**

Hazing or hazing activity means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization, or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any student or other organization, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. For purposes of this policy, mental harm means mental stress, anxiety, physical injury, sickness, injury to feelings, humiliation, mental anguish, and/or depression, connected to and arising from the hazing activity.

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times, regardless of whether the activity occurs on or off of property owned, used or controlled by the School, so long as the hazing activity is in any way connected to the activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned, used or controlled by the school. This policy will be actively enforced at all times.

Hazing is a violation of School policy separate and distinct from harassment or other prohibited conduct. No Student, including leaders of student organizations, may plan, encourage or engage in any hazing activity. Students having engaged in hazing activity and who fail to abide by this policy are subject to disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion, removal or permanent exclusion as set forth elsewhere in this policy manual, and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties pursuant to State law.

Staff are to be particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events, which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering Staff member of the prohibition contained in this policy and are prohibited from participating or permitting hazing, and must end all hazing activities immediately. All hazing incidences are reported immediately to the Principal or his/her designee. Additionally, no administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, or volunteer of the School who is acting in an official capacity shall fail to immediately report the knowledge of hazing to a law

enforcement agency in the county where the hazing victim resides or where the hazing is occurring or has occurred.

No Staff shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing activities, and Staff who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties pursuant to State law.

R.C. 2307.44; 2903.31; 2903.311; 3313.661.

Gang Activity Policy

The Board believes gangs or gang activity create an atmosphere that seriously disrupts the educational process.

Students are prohibited from engaging in gang activities while at School, on School property, or at School-sponsored events.

As used herein the term “gang” means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

The term “gang activity” shall mean any conduct engaged in by a student 1) on behalf of any gang; 2) to perpetuate the existence of any gang; 3) to effect the common purpose and design of any gang; or 4) to represent a gang affiliation, loyalty or membership in any way while on School grounds or while attending a School function. These activities include recruiting students for membership in any gang and threatening or intimidating other students or employees to commit acts or omissions against his/her will in furtherance of the common purpose and design of any gang.

A violation of this policy is grounds for suspension or expulsion from School.

Gangs

Membership or affiliation in gangs is against the philosophy of The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School. Indication of gang involvement (colors, hats, signs, language, gestures, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Writing gang symbols on any property of The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School is grounds for discipline and may result in expulsion. Any student who indicates possible gang affiliation will be referred to authorities.

Disorder and Demonstration

The School recognizes the right of each Student to attend School for the purpose of receiving an education. The disruption of the educational program of the School by disorder or any other purposeful activity will not be countenanced.

For purposes of this policy, disorder shall be any deliberate activity by an individual or a group, whether peaceful or violent, which interferes with the normal operation of the School. The School, having the responsibility for providing an educational program for the students of the School, shall have the authority to preserve order for the proper functioning of that program.

Students shall not be disturbed in the exercise of their constitutionally guaranteed rights to assemble peaceably and to express ideas and opinions, privately or publicly, provided that such exercise does not infringe on the rights of others and does not interfere with the operation of the School.

Drug Prevention

The School recognizes that the misuse of drugs is a serious problem with legal, physical, and social implications for the whole community.

For purposes of this policy, “drugs” shall mean:

1. all controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by applicable federal and Ohio law;
2. all chemicals that release toxic vapors;
3. all alcoholic beverages;
4. any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in School has been granted pursuant to Board policy;
5. anabolic steroids; and
6. any substance that is a “look-alike” to any of the above.

The School prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia, as the term is defined by law, on School grounds, on School vehicles and vehicles used for School-sponsored events, and at any School-sponsored event.

The School's drug prevention program:

1. Emphasizes the prevention of drug use;
2. Provides for a comprehensive, age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol education and prevention program which:
 - a. addresses the legal, social, psychological, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use;

- b. provides information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs and alcohol;
- c. assists students to develop skills to make responsible decisions about substance abuse and other important health issues;
- d. promotes positive emotional health, self-esteem, and respect for one's body;
- e. advises students that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful; and
- f. meets the minimal objectives as stated in the essential performance objectives for health education as established by the State Department of Education.

Disciplinary sanctions, up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on students who violate this Policy.

The sanctions may include, together with punitive action, voluntary referral to appropriate persons or agencies for screening and assessment. Such referral may only be made to qualified and properly licensed individuals or programs.

The School will provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to Students and will direct Students and their Parents to the appropriate programs.

This policy serves as notification to parents and students that compliance with this policy and other standards of conduct is mandatory.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will conduct a biennial review of the School's program to determine its effectiveness and implement changes as needed and to ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

The School will provide a Student assistance program which includes guidelines for prevention, intervention, referral, treatment, and after-care. Such a program must be comprehensive in nature addressing all issues affecting students' academic, social, and emotional well-being in the educational setting which may negatively affect behavior and interfere with their ability to learn.

The School's policies and procedures on Search and Seizure, Suspension and Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion, among others, will be complied with fully in dealing with Students suspected of drug use or possessing or distributing drugs in School.

The School shall develop a curriculum for instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco for students at each grade level and conduct such in-service training programs for Staff members necessary to ensure effective teaching about drugs and assistance to Students with drug problems.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy. Such guidelines shall ensure that the proper notice regarding the use of anabolic steroids is posted in all School locker rooms used by students in grades 7-12, as applicable. *20 USC 7114.*

ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY/ WITHDRAWAL

RC 3314.041 Notice

Dismissal

Discipline Action for Unexcused Tardiness or Absence

Intervention Strategies

Missing and Absent Children

Calamity Day Make-up

Admission and Lottery Standards

Compulsory and Early Kindergarten Admissions

Enrollment of Suspended or Expelled Elsewhere

Residency Policy

Tuition Out of State Students

R.C. 3314.041 Notice

N O T I C E

Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 3314.041, the governing authority of each community school and any operator of such school shall distribute to parents of students of the school upon their enrollment in the school the following statement in writing:

The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School are a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code. The school is a public school and students enrolled in and attending the school are required to take proficiency tests and other examinations prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at the school that are prescribed by law. Students who have been excused from the compulsory attendance law for the purpose of home education as defined by the Administrative Code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment in a community school. For more information about this matter, contact the school administrator or the Ohio Department of Education.

Records upon Enrollment

Newly enrolled student records:

1. Upon entry, a request for records will be made within twenty-four (24) hours from the public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school the pupil most recently attended.
2. "Entry" is defined as the beginning of learning opportunities by a student at the School.
3. If the records are not received, a second request and contact with the parent and former school should be made within the first fourteen (14) days by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
4. If the records are not received within fourteen (14) days of the date of request, or the pupil's previous school indicates that it has no record of the pupil's attendance, or if the pupil does not present any one of the following: (1) a certification of birth; (2) a passport or attested transcript of a passport 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; (3) an attested transcript of the certificate of birth; (4) an attested transcript of the certificate of baptism or other religious record showing the date and place of birth of

- the child; (5) an attested transcript of a hospital record showing the date and place of birth of the child; or (6) a birth affidavit, the Principal will contact the former school directly, then the Principal or his/her designee will notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the pupil resides of this fact and of the possibility that the pupil may be a missing child.
5. The School shall not admit any student requesting admission to the School after discharge or release from the custody of the department of youth services until the School is in receipt of (1) an updated copy of the student's academic transcript; (2) a report outlining the student's behavior in school while in custody of the department; (3) the student's current IEP if applicable; and (4) a summary of the institutional record of the student's behavior.
 6. The School shall not deny admission to a child who has been placed in a foster home or in a residential facility (*e.g.*, a group home, child's crisis care facility, children's residential center, residential parenting facility with 24-hour care, county children's home or district's children's home) if the child does not present a birth certificate, or a comparable certificate from another state or country, or another document specifically listed above in (3) to attest to the child's date and place of birth upon registration for admission. Required documentation must be presented within ninety (90) days of the child's initial entry into the School. If the required records are not produced within ninety (90) days of enrollment the Principal or his/her designee will notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the pupil resides of this fact and of the possibility that the pupil may be a missing child. A student under the care of a domestic violence shelter at the time of initial enrollment shall notify the School of that fact, and the School shall inform the school from which it requests the pupil's records of that fact.
 7. In the event that an order or decree is issued allocating or modifying an allocation of parental rights and designating a residential parent, or that a grandparent power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit is executed, that residential parent or grandparent shall provide the School with a complete and accurate copy of the order and any other relevant documentation.

Requests for student records:

1. Upon receipt of a request for student records, the School will comply within two (2) business days.
2. Copies of the student's records will be made and kept on file.

R.C. 3313.672; O.A.C. 3301-10-01.

Attendance/Truancy/Withdrawal

Attendance

The Edge Academy and Akros Middle School:

The student day is 7:50 A.M. – 2:40 P.M. If students arrive after 7:50 A.M. they must get a tardy slip from the main office. Students may not enter the building prior to 7:00 A.M.

- Breakfast is served from 7:30 until 7:45 A.M. **Students will not be served a breakfast if they arrive after 7:45.**
- An arrival after 7:50 A.M. will be considered tardy.

AkroTech High School (9-11th grade only)

The student day is 8:30 A.M. – 3:27 P.M. If they arrive after 8:30 they must get a tardy slip from the main office

- Breakfast is served from 8:15 A.M – 8:30 A.M.

NOTE: With the new HB 410 law, students who are absent with or without legitimate excuse for 38 or more hours in one school month or 65 or more hours in one school year. Within 7 days of student becoming excessively absent from school, the attendance administrator shall notify the parents of the student's absences in writing. Further actions may be taken including intervention attendance team.

If a student must be absent, the parent must contact the school before 8:30 A.M. This is consistent with state law regarding missing children. A written note must be sent with the child when he or she returns to school.

Dismissal at the end of the day:

If you are picking your child up after school, please come to the front entrance of the middle school building (off Park Street). This must be done prior to 2:30 P.M. which is when busses start loading.

Students will always be placed on their scheduled bus unless proper communication is made with The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School office. (Ex. note or phone call).

No dismissal changes will be accepted after 2:30 P.M.

General Policy

Students enrolled in the School must attend School regularly in accordance with the laws of the State. The educational program offered by the School is predicated upon the presence and punctuality of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. A

parent must contact the School in accordance with the procedure set forth in Policy 252 whenever a student is absent.

Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled at the School during the days and hours that the School is in session. Attendance need not always be within the School facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where School is in session by authority of the Board.

Excused Absences

Absences due to the following will be excused:

1. Personal physical illness that prevents attendance at School (at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee, a written statement from a physician may be required).
2. Personal mental illness such that the student will not benefit from instruction (at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee, a written statement from a physician/mental health professional may be required).
3. Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child (at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee, a written statement from a physician and an explanation as to why the child's absence was necessary may be required).
4. Quarantine of the home (absence will be excused for the duration of the quarantine as determined by proper health officials).
5. Death in the family (absence will be excused for no more than eighteen (18) hours unless the Principal or his/her designee determines that a longer absence is reasonably necessary).
6. Medical or dental appointments (at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee, a written statement from a physician confirming the appointment may be required).
7. Observance of religious holidays consistent with the child's truly held religious beliefs.
8. College or university visits (at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee, verification of the date and time of the visit may be requested).
9. Absence due to a placement in or changes to a foster care placement or any court proceeding related to a student's foster care status.
10. Absences due to a student being homeless.
11. The existence of an emergency condition at home such as absence, illness, or death of the parent.
12. Necessary work in a family business or on a family farm (after proof of necessary absence is provided to the Principal or his/her designee).
13. Necessary work directly and exclusively for a child's parent, if the child is over the age of fourteen (14) and has been in regular attendance at school during the current school year (after proof of necessary absence is provided to the Principal or his/her designee).
14. Instruction at home from a person qualified to teach the branches of education in which instruction is required, and such additional branches, as the advancement and needs of the

child may require (after adequate certification of home instruction has been provided to the Principal or his/her designee).

15. An emergency or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the School constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence.
16. If a student is absent from School for the sole purpose of traveling out of state to participate in a School-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity, the School shall count that absence as an excused absence, up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the School is open for instruction. The student must complete any classroom assignments he/she misses due to the absence. If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the School is open for instruction, a classroom teacher must accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance in order to count the student as in attendance.

The Principal or his/her designee reserves the right to verify statements and to investigate the cause of absence.

Excuses from future school attendance:

1. Shall be limited to a period not to exceed thirty (30) school hours and can be renewed at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee for thirty (30) additional hours. Absences shall not exceed sixty (60) consecutive hours unless the child's parent has recently died or become totally or partially incapacitated and there is no older sibling living in the home who is out of school. At the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, a written statement from a physician may be required.
2. May not materially endanger the child's educational welfare and scholastic advancement.

Withdrawal

A student who fails to participate in seventy-two (72) consecutive hours of learning opportunities will be automatically withdrawn, unless the student's absence is excused. Otherwise, a parent may withdraw a student voluntarily by signing a Voluntary Withdrawal form with the Principal or his/her designee.

Whenever a student withdraws from the School voluntarily, the Student's teacher shall attempt to ascertain the reason for withdrawal and shall immediately inform the Superintendent or his/her designee of the reason for the withdrawal. If the Student voluntarily withdrew from the School as a result of a change in residence, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the superintendent of the district to which the Student has moved of all essential information regarding the Student, including the Student's new address.

If the Superintendent or his/her designee becomes aware that a Student who has withdrawn from the School for reasons other than a change of residence is not enrolled in another school, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the registrar of motor vehicles and the juvenile judge of the county in which the School is located of the Student's likely violation of the State's compulsory education laws. Notice shall be given within two (2) weeks and shall include the

Student's name, address, date of birth, School, and the district where the Student resides. Any notice given in error shall be immediately rescinded by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Disciplinary Action for Unexcused Tardiness or Absence

Repeated unexcused absences/tardiness may be grounds for disciplinary action that will not include suspension or expulsion.

A student is tardy when a student is more than five (5) minutes late for School or for a class. If a student misses more than half a class, the student will be marked absent for the class. When tracking hours of missed instruction for excessive absence and truancy purposes, the School shall

Track tardiness and early dismissal times based on the precise amount of missed instruction, tracked to the nearest minute (e.g., if a student is thirty-five (35) minutes tardy to school and leaves school forty-five (45) minutes early, the student shall be counted as absent for eighty (80) minutes of that day).

Students shall not be considered absent for purposes of habitual truancy calculations while out of class for a legitimate reason, including but not limited to restroom breaks, visits to the nurses office, counselor meetings, or remediation sessions.

Any student who, due to a medically-documented physical or mental impairment, is absent for an extended period will not be disciplined. Such students may be entitled to receive an education tailored to their individual needs or abilities as provided for under federal and/or state law.

Truancy and Absence Intervention Strategies

The Superintendent or his/her designee may act as the School's attendance officer or delegate that duty as permitted by law. The School's attendance officer shall investigate possible School attendance violations, and is authorized under Ohio law, to serve warrants, to enter places where children of compulsory School age are employed, and to take such other actions as may be necessary to enforce the compulsory education laws.

A student is excessively absent from school if a student is absent from the School with or without legitimate nonmendical excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month or sixty-five (65) or more hours in one (1) school year. Within seven (7) days of a student becoming excessively absent from School, the attendance officer shall notify the student's parents of the student's absences in writing.

A student is habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year.

Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student otherwise habitually truant include but are not limited to:

1. the student was enrolled in another school;
2. the student's absence was excused in accordance with applicable law or policy; or,

3. the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

If the student is habitually truant and the student's parents have failed to cause the student's attendance, the School will assign the student to an absence intervention team ("AIT") within ten (10) days. The Superintendent or designee selects the AIT members, who shall include a representative of the School who knows the child and the child's parent, guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. Members may also include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, or representative of a public or nonprofit agency designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

Within seven (7) days of the School's determination that the student is a habitual truant, the School will make at least three (3) reasonable, meaningful attempts to secure the child's parent, guardian, or custodian's (for the purposes of this policy, "parent") participation on the AIT. If the parent responds to attempts but is unable to attend, the School will notify the parent of the right to participate by designee. In the event the parent does not respond to the attempts at all, the School will investigate whether the failure to respond triggers child abuse and neglect reporting requirements and instruct the other members of the AIT to develop a plan for the child.

Within fourteen (14) days after its formation, the AIT will develop a written plan ("AIT plan") to reduce or eliminate Student's further absences. The AIT plan will state that a complaint will be filed in juvenile court alleging that the child is an unruly child not later than sixty-one (61) days after implementation if the child refuses to participate in or fails to make satisfactory progress on the plan or other alternatives to adjudication. The School will make reasonable attempts to provide student's parent with written notice of the plan within seven (7) days of development.

If a student becomes habitually truant during the last twenty-two (22) school days of the year, the School may assign one official to work with the parent and develop an AIT plan in lieu of forming a full AIT. The plan shall be implemented not later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of instruction of the next school year.

AIT Exemption: The School shall be exempt from AIT procedural requirements if it has a chronic absenteeism rate of less than 5% of the student body per the last state report card.

The School shall employ absence intervention strategies for all students who are excessively absent from School. Such strategies shall include the following, if applicable:

1. Providing a truancy intervention plan for any student who is excessively absent from school;
2. Providing counseling for a habitual truant;
3. Requesting or requiring a parent to attend parental involvement programs;
4. Requesting or requiring a parent to attend truancy prevention mediation programs;
5. Notification of the registrar of motor vehicles of student's truancy status if the student misses sixty consecutive hours of instruction or ninety hours of instruction during the course of the school year; and
6. Taking legal action under R.C. 2919.222, 3321.20, and/or 3321.38.

On the 61st day after the implementation of an AIT plan or other intervention strategy, the attendance officer shall file a complaint with the juvenile court against a student, if all of the following apply:

1. the student is a habitual truant;
2. the School has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the AIT plan, other intervention strategies, and any other offered alternatives to adjudication; and
3. the student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the AIT plan, as determined by the AIT, or any offered intervention strategies or alternatives to adjudication.

If the 61st day falls during the summer months, at the School's discretion, the AIT or attendance officer may extend the implementation of the plan and delay filing the complaint for an additional thirty (30) days from the first day of instruction of the next school year.

If, however, at any time during the implementation phase of the AIT plan or other intervention strategy, the student is absent without legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours or forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint with the juvenile court against the student, unless the AIT has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is also authorized to establish a parent education program for parents of students who are habitually truant. Any parent assigned to the program who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for neglect of parent education, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Reporting

The School shall report to the Ohio Department of Education, as soon as practicable, any of the following occurrences:

1. When a student is deemed habitually truant.
2. When a student is deemed excessively absent.
3. When a student has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant and violates the court order regarding that adjudication.
4. When an AIT plan has been implemented for a student.

This Board consulted with the juvenile court of the counties in which the School is located, parents of students attending the School, and state and local agencies deemed appropriate by the Board prior to adopting this policy.

R.C. 2151.011; R.C. 2151.27; R.C. 3314.03(A)(6); R.C. 3314.11; R.C. 3321.01; R.C. 3321.041; R.C. 3321.13-.191; O.A.C. 3301-69-02.

Missing and Absent Children

The Board believes in the importance of trying to decrease the number of missing children. Therefore, efforts will be made to identify possible missing children and notify the proper adults or agencies.

At the time of his/her initial entry to school, a student, or if the student is a minor, a parent, shall present to the person in charge of admission (1) any records given to him/her by the elementary or secondary school she/he most recently attended (2) a certified copy of an order or decree, or modification of such an order or decree allocating parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the pupil and designating a residential parent and legal custodian of the pupil, if applicable; and (3) a certification of birth* issued pursuant to Section 3705.05 of the Ohio Revised Code or a comparable certificate or certification issued pursuant to the statutes of another state, territory, possession, or nation. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the student's entry into the school, a school official shall request the student's official records from the elementary or secondary school the student most recently attended. If the school the student claims to have most recently attended indicates that it has no records of the student's attendance or the records are not received within fourteen (14) days of the date of request, or the student does not present a certification of birth or comparable certificate or certification from another state, territory, possession, or nation, the Principal or his/her designee shall notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the student resides of this fact and of the possibility that the student may, be a missing child, as this term is defined in Section 2901.30 of the Ohio Revised Code.

If the School receives notification from a law enforcement agency that it has made a missing child report for a current or a former student, then the School must mark the student's records so that whenever a copy of, or information regarding the records is requested, any School official responding to the request is alerted that the records are those of a reported missing child. In addition, when a request of records or information is received, the person in charge of admission must immediately report the request to the law enforcement agency that notified the School that the student might be a missing child. When forwarding a copy of, or information from the student's records in response to a request, the School must do so in such a way that the receiving school is not able to discern that the student's records are marked. The School must retain the mark in the records until notified that the student is no longer a missing child, at which time the School must remove the mark from the student's records in such a way that it would be impossible to tell that the records were ever marked.

The School will immediately give notice to the Ohio Attorney General's missing children clearinghouse and the law enforcement agency where the missing child resides if the School becomes aware that any missing child might be in attendance at the School. To the extent that it can, the School will also assist parents in the case of a missing student by coordinating with local law enforcement and the missing children clearinghouse.

The School has established an informational program for students, parents, and community members relative to missing children issues, which is available from the School upon request, including information regarding the fingerprinting program, if applicable. The School's

informational program is based on assistance and materials provided by the Ohio Attorney General's missing child education program and resources available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The primary responsibility for a student's attendance at School rests with his/her parent. A parent 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 procedure for absences is as follows:

1. A parent must call or email the School to inform the School that his/her child or children will be absent from School. This phone call should take place within the first hour that School is in session or as soon as practicable.
2. If a parent fails to call or email the School, the school's attendance officer or his/her designee will contact the parent or other person having care of the student to inform him/her of the student's absence. This contact shall occur within one hundred twenty minutes (120) after the beginning of each school day. Attempted contact shall be made one of the following ways:
 - (a) A telephone call placed in person;
 - (b) An automated telephone call via a system that includes verification that each call was actually placed, and either the call was answered by its intended recipient or a voice mail message was left by the automated system relaying the required information;
 - (c) A notification sent through the school's automated student information system;
 - (d) A text-based communication sent to the parent's or other emergency contact's electronic wireless communications device;
 - (e) A notification sent to the email address of the parent or other emergency contact; or
 - (f) A visit, in person, to the student's residence of record.

A community school, community school governing authority, or community school employee is not liable for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a community school employee's good faith efforts to comply with parental notification procedures.

Parents or other responsible persons shall provide the School with their current home and/or work telephone numbers and home addresses, as well as emergency telephone numbers for such purposes.

Parental notification is not necessary when students are absent with legitimate excuse, to students who are in home-based, online, or internet- or computer-based instruction, or to students who were not expected to be in attendance at a particular school building due to the student's participation in off-campus activities, including participation in a college credit plus program.

*May substitute any of the following documents for a birth certificate: 1) a passport or attested transcript showing the date and place of birth of the child; 2) an attested transcript of a birth certificate; 3) an attested transcript of a baptism certificate or other religious record showing the date and place of birth of the child; 4) an attested transcript of a hospital record showing date and place of birth, or 5) a birth affidavit.

R.C. 109.65; R.C. 3313.96; R.C. 3313.672; R.C. 3321.141.

Calamity Day Make-up Policy

Prior to August 1 of each school year, the Board may adopt a plan that requires students to access and complete classroom lessons posted on the School's website in order to make up hours in that School year on which it is necessary to close the School for any of the following reasons:

1. Disease epidemic;
2. Hazardous weather conditions;
3. Law enforcement emergencies;
4. Inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the school's operation;
5. Damage to the school building; or
6. Other temporary circumstances due to utility failure rendering the school building unfit for school use.

A plan adopted by the Board shall provide for making up any number of hours, up to a maximum of the equivalent of three (3) school days. The plan must provide for the following:

1. Not later than November 1, each classroom teacher shall develop a sufficient number of lessons for each course taught by the teacher that school year to cover the number of make-up hours specified in the plan. The teacher shall designate the order in which the lessons are to be posted on the School's website in the event of a school closure.
2. To the extent possible and necessary, a classroom teacher shall update or replace, based on current instructional progress, one or more of the lesson plans before they are posted on the website.
3. As soon as possible after a school closure, a school employee responsible for website operations shall make the designated lessons available to students on the School's site. A lesson shall be posted for each course that was scheduled to meet during the hours of the closure.
4. Each student enrolled in a course for which a lesson is posted on the site shall be granted a two (2) week period from the date of posting to complete the lesson. The student's

classroom teacher shall grade the lesson in the same manner as other lessons. The student may receive an incomplete or failing grade if the lesson is not completed on time.

5. If a student does not have access to a computer at the student's residence and the plan does not include "blizzard bags" (see below), the student shall be permitted to work on the posted lessons at the School after the School reopens. If the lessons were posted prior to the reopening, the student shall be granted a two (2) week period from the date of the reopening, rather than from the date of posting as otherwise required. The School may provide the student access to a computer before, during, or after the regularly scheduled school day or may provide a substantially similar paper lesson in order to complete the lessons.

Blizzard Bags

In addition to posting classroom lessons online, the School may include in the plan distribution of "blizzard bags," which are paper copies of the lessons posted online. If the School opts to use blizzard bags, teachers shall prepare paper copies in conjunction with the lessons to be posted online and update the paper copies whenever the teacher updates the online lesson plans. The plan must specify the method of distribution of blizzard bag lessons, which may include, but not be limited to, requiring distribution by a specific deadline or requiring distribution prior to anticipated school closure as directed by the Superintendent.

R.C. 3313.482; 3314.08

Admissions and Lottery Standards

The School is open to any individual entitled to attend school in Ohio pursuant to R.C. 3313.64 or 3313.65, except that admission may be limited to the geographic area and grade or age levels specified in the Community School Contract.

The School will not discriminate in the admission of students to the School on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, sex, intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability, provided, however, that the School may limit admission to students identified as "at risk" in the Community School Contract. Upon admission of a student with a disability, the School will comply with all federal and state laws regarding the education of students with disabilities.

If there are more applicants than there are spaces, a lottery will be conducted in the following manner:

- Each applicant will be assigned a number;
- The numbers will then be drawn at random by a disinterested third party;
- The first number drawn will be the first new applicant placed on a permanent waiting list and so on until all numbers are drawn;

- Applicants on a permanent waiting list prior to any lottery will retain their position on the waiting list;
- The school may separate the lottery and the waiting lists for each grade or age grouping;
- Students attending the previous year and students who reside in the district in which the school is located will have first preference for a position;
- Secondary preference may be given to siblings of existing students and students who are the children of full-time School Staff, provided the total number of students receiving this preference is less than five percent (5%) of the School's total enrollment.

R.C. 3314.06.

Compulsory and Early Kindergarten Admissions

The School shall admit or evaluate children seeking admission to kindergarten in accordance with the following:

- A. The School shall admit a child to kindergarten if the child is five years of age prior to **SEPTEMBER 30** of the year of admittance.
- B. Notwithstanding the provisions provided below, for a child who does not meet the age requirements for mandatory admission to kindergarten, but who will be five years of age prior to January 1 of the year in which admission is requested, the School shall evaluate the child for early admittance in accordance with this policy upon referral by the child's parent or guardian, an educator employed by the School, a preschool educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Following such evaluation, the Board or its designee shall make a decision as to whether to admit the child based on the child's score on the evaluation and any other factors it deems relevant.
- C. For purposes of this policy, the Board-designated evaluation procedure will consist of a readiness test administered to a prospective kindergartner by the Board's designee.
- D. The School chooses not to admit a child seeking admission to kindergarten or first grade who will not be five prior to January 1 of the year in which admission is requested, and therefore the School has no Academic Acceleration Policy.
- E. First Grade eligibility shall be based on the admissions, promotion, and retention policies of the School.

R.C. 3321.01

Enrollees Suspended or Expelled Elsewhere

The school has the authority to recognize and honor the disciplinary suspensions and expulsions imposed by other public schools. A student who has been suspended or expelled from another school district in Ohio may be denied admittance at the School for a period equal to the period of

the original suspension or expulsion. The student will be provided an opportunity for a hearing before admittance is denied.

If the student has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state, the School may deny admittance for the shorter of (1) the period of such expulsion or removal or (2) the period of expulsion or removal which would have been applied had the student committed the same offense in Ohio. Prior to denial of admission, the student will be given an opportunity for a hearing.

R.C. 3313.66(J)(1)-(2)

Enrollment and Residency Policy

The School admits students residing in the home district of Akron and contiguous districts (“admissions areas”). The School serves grades 6-8 and/or ages 11-14.

A child shall be admitted to the School as a student, if the child’s parent resides in the School’s admission areas. Residency is not determined solely by where the parents own or rent a home or an apartment, but rather by where the primary residence is and where substantial family activities take place. Any one (1) of the following documents can be used to establish proof of residency for verification of a child’s ability to be enrolled. These items must be current, be in the parent’s name, and include a street address. A post office box address cannot be used to validate residency records:

- a. A deed, mortgage, lease, current home owner’s or renter’s insurance declaration page, or current real property tax bill; or
- b. A utility bill or receipt of utility installation issued within ninety days of enrollment; or
- c. A paycheck or paystub issued to the parent or student within ninety days of enrollment that includes the address of the parent’s or student’s primary residence; or
- d. The most current available bank statement issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent’s or student’s primary residence; or
- e. Documented affirmation of the parent’s address from the district of residence where the parent currently resides; or
- f. A USPS return receipt from a certified letter sent to the parents by the district of residence; or
- g. Written confirmation of the parent’s current address from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; or
- h. Written confirmation of the parent’s current address from a local law enforcement agency; or
- i. Any other official document issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent’s or student’s primary residence and as approved by the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction.

If there is a change in the location of the parent or student’s primary residence, the student’s parent must notify the School immediately.

The School shall monthly review the residency records of students enrolled in the School and shall provide an annual verification to the Ohio Department of Education that students are entitled to attend the School. Notwithstanding anything contrary in this policy, after a student's initial submission of one of the approved proof of residency records for enrollment purposes, the School may utilize either: one (1) newly submitted proof of residency documents listed in (a) through (j), or one (1) signed parent statement identifying the student's primary home address in order to conduct the monthly and annual verification. The Principal or his or her designee will compare each submitted proof of residence with the School's EMIS records to ensure that EMIS reporting is accurate that students are permitted to enroll.

All custody or court orders pertaining to the family or student must be turned in when asked, or at admission. If the School and Parent disagree as to residency status, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall determine the public school in which the student may enroll. If the School and the Student's home district (district of residency) disagree about residency, this policy shall supersede any policy concerning the number of documents for initial residency verification adopted by the student's home district. If the district of residence challenges the student's residency, the Principal may request additional documentation from the Parent, which may be provided to the student's home district.

R.C. 3314.03(A); R.C. 3314.11; R.C. 3313.64(B)(1); R.C. 3313.64(K)

Tuition for Out-of-State Students

The Board may open admission to the School on a tuition basis to any individual age five (5) to twenty-two (22) who is not a resident of Ohio, to the fullest extent allowed under state and federal law, and it may set or revise such tuition amount by Board resolution.

R.C. 3314.06.

TESTING

Student Assessment and Academic Prevention/Intervention Services

Security Provisions for Statewide Assessment Tests

Alternate Assessments for Students With Disabilities

Student Assessment and Academic Prevention/Intervention Services

State-Mandated Assessments. The School shall administer State-mandated assessments (*e.g.*, diagnostic assessments and achievement tests) to Students at the times designated by the State Board of Education. The School may, for medical reasons or other good cause, excuse a Student from taking a State-mandated assessment on the date scheduled, but any such assessment shall be administered to such excused Student not later than nine (9) calendar days after the last regularly scheduled test administration date. The School shall annually report to the State Board of Education, not later than June 30, the number of Students who have not taken one or more of the State-mandated assessments.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall administer State-mandated assessments and submit the assessments to the entity with which the Ohio Department of Education contracts for the scoring of the tests, in accordance with Ohio law.

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2022, the parent or guardian of a student may elect not to have a nationally standardized assessment administered to that student. In that event, the School shall not administer the nationally standardized assessment to that student.

Diagnostic Assessments are assessments aligned with the Ohio academic content standards and model curriculum designed to measure student comprehension of academic content and mastery of related skills for relevant subject areas. Diagnostic assessments shall be administered by the School at least once annually for grades levels kindergarten through second grade in reading, writing, and mathematics, and for grade three in reading and writing to the following students:

- Any Student who transfers to the School if his/her former school did not administer each applicable diagnostic assessment to the Student in the current school year (must be administered within thirty (30) days from the date of transfer).
- Previously home-schooled Students enrolling at the School will be given a diagnostic assessment in order to determine their appropriate grade level placement.
- Each kindergarten student will complete the readiness assessment. The School shall administer the readiness assessment not earlier than the first day of the school year and not later than the twentieth day of instruction of the school of that year. The language and reading skills portion of the assessment must be administered by September 30 of that year.
- As required pursuant to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. See Policy 245 Promotion and Retention Policy.

Social Studies Assessments are to be administered in at least the fourth (4th) and sixth (6th) grades. Assessments used for such purposes shall be determined by the School, and may be formative or summative in nature. The School shall not report the results of social studies assessments to the Ohio Department of Education.

Academic Prevention/Intervention Services. The School shall provide intervention services commensurate with the student's performance in pertinent subject areas to students who score below the proficient level on a reading, writing, mathematics, or science proficiency or achievement test or who do not demonstrate academic performance at their grade level based on the results of a diagnostic assessment.

If the School has a three-year average graduation rate of less than seventy-five percent (75%), then the School shall provide intervention services commensurate with the student's performance to any student whose results on the Ohio Graduation Test practice assessment indicate that the student is failing to make satisfactory progress toward being able to attain scores at the proficient level on the Ohio graduation tests. The School shall provide the intervention services prior to the end of the school year, during the summer following ninth grade, in the next succeeding school year, or at any appropriate combination of those times.

Testing Time Limitations. Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, the School shall ensure that no student is required to spend more than two percent (2%) of the school year, cumulatively, taking State-mandated or other School-required assessments or spend more than one percent (1%) of the school year, cumulatively, taking practice or diagnostic assessments. The School may exceed these limitations by resolution of the Board, provided that the Board first conducts at least one public hearing on the proposed resolution.

These time limitations do not apply to:

- Assessments for students with disabilities;
- Related diagnostics for students who did not obtain a passing score on the third grade English language arts achievement assessment;
- Substitute advanced placement or international baccalaureate examinations; or
- Additional assessments administered to identify a student as gifted.

Recordkeeping. The School shall keep records for each student that include the following:

- A unique state student identification code or student data verification code in accordance with R.C. 3301.0714(D)(2);
- A list or designation of which assessments are required and which assessments are not required;
- A list or designation of which assessments, required or not required, are taken and which assessments are not taken during each assessment administration period;
- A score for each assessment taken, whether required or not required;
- Whether or not each student attained the requisite performance standard designated for each required assessment;
- What, if any, assessments must still be taken;
- Whether or not intervention must be provided; and
- For each test required for graduation, the date passed shall be recorded on the student's transcript. No information regarding a test not passed shall be on the student's transcript.

After the administration of any diagnostic assessment and upon a Parent's request, the School shall provide a Student's completed diagnostic assessment, the results of such assessment, and

any other accompanying documents used during the administration of the assessment to the Student's Parent.

Retention. No results from required statewide assessments shall be used as the sole basis for determining whether or not to promote a student from grade to grade, except as specified in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. However, the School may choose not to promote to the next grade level any student who does not take a State-Mandated Assessment if the student is not exempt from the requirement to take assessments.

Summer Remediation Services. Instruction will be developed and offered by the School during the summer to any student who failed to score at the proficient level on a third grade reading achievement test or a diagnostic assessment.

Superintendent Duties. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop an assessment system that includes:

- The administration of state-mandated assessments;
- Regular assessments of student performance;
- Multiple and appropriate assessments that will be used to measure student progress;
- Assessment practices that conform to current professional standards for validity and reliability; and
- Sharing information with parents, students, and the community regarding assessment purposes and results.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall also develop:

- Procedures for using diagnostic assessments to measure student progress in accordance with academic standards;
- A plan for the design of classroom-based intervention services to meet the instructional needs of individual students as determined by the results of the diagnostic assessments;
- Procedures for the regular collection of student performance data; and
- Procedures for using student performance data to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention services and, if necessary, to modify those services.

Students with Disabilities. All identified students with disabilities in the School shall be considered for participation in State-mandated testing. The extent of the student's participation shall be determined by the IEP/504 team. The IEP/504 plan developed for the student must specify the manner in which the student will participate in the state achievement assessments. All students shall participate in diagnostic assessments except those with significant cognitive disabilities or other disabilities as authorized by the Ohio Department of Education on a case-by-case basis.

This policy shall be reviewed and updated annually.

R.C. 3301.0710-.0711, 3301.0715, 3301.0729, 3313.608, 3313.6012, OAC 3301-13 et seq. and 3301-35 et seq.

Security Provisions for Statewide Assessment Tests

A. Administrative Organization. The Superintendent or his/her designee will serve as the School coordinator for the Statewide assessments and is responsible for distributing, collecting, and securing (in a locked cabinet or closet) all testing materials while they are in the School and appointing specific staff members to serve as test examiners.

Examiners are responsible for distributing, administering, proctoring, collecting, and securing all test materials while they are in their possession.

The Superintendent or his/her designee and other staff members specifically designated to administer the tests are the only persons authorized to have access to the test materials or to be present in the testing room(s).

B. Security and Ethical Use of Test Materials. Achievement tests and all material developed for use for testing in any form (except practice tests) are “secure materials.” All testing examiners and classroom teachers giving the test must follow these provisions, as well as the provisions of established by the Ohio Department of Education. It is unethical and illegal to: (1) alter a Student’s responses or assist a Student in cheating in any way; (2) use, or help others to use, any secure materials to prepare Students for the test or to assist Students who have failed the tests; (3) reproduce any secure materials; (4) release secure materials to Students, parents, or any other individual or group.

C. Test Security Violations. All staff members are encouraged to voice any concern about any practice they consider unethical and/or inappropriate by reporting the alleged unethical activity to the Superintendent or his/her designee in writing. Any alleged test security or ethical violation will be investigated by the Superintendent or his/her designee. If it is determined that a violation occurred, any of several consequences may follow:

- A. All security or ethical breeches must be reported to the Ohio Department of Education within ten (10) days of any violation.
- B. One or more answer sheets may not be scored.
- C. The Board, after appropriate procedures are followed, may terminate or otherwise discipline an employee found guilty of a violation.
- D. The State Board of Education, following appropriate procedures, may seek the suspension of an educator’s license certificate.
- E. A law enforcement agency, following an appropriate investigation, may prosecute under Ohio’s criminal code.

Prior to commencing an Ohio Department of Education investigation and taking action as a result of an allegation of a test security violation, the State Board of Education will provide the individual with notice of the allegation and an opportunity to respond and present evidence.

D. Building Administration. All coordinators and examiners are responsible for ensuring that all test security provisions are followed while the test materials are at the School. All test coordinators and classroom teachers giving the test must read the Directions for Administration

and Rules for Testing prior to the testing dates. All test coordinators must keep these booklets on file. The tests will be serially numbered and wrapped in sealed packages when they arrive at the test sites. The testing coordinator is to open the sealed packages at the appropriate time, check and verify in writing the accuracy and receipt of all test materials, and prepare the test booklets. Since testing coordinators are required to account for and return all materials, they must carefully track the materials before, during, and after test administration. This responsibility includes the timely packing and shipping of all used materials and transporting any unused materials to the Superintendent or his/her designee for shipment. Careful written recordkeeping and thorough rechecking are essential throughout the testing process.

E. Final Accounting of Missing Materials. Whenever possible, testing materials are computer scanned before they are shipped to the School and scanned again after they are returned to the testing company. Should any testing materials be unaccounted for after testing materials are returned to the testing company, the Superintendent or his/her designee, along with the appropriate examiner(s), will conduct a thorough investigation. If, after the investigation of all written records, the materials are still unaccounted for, the Superintendent or his/her designee will report his/her findings the Ohio Department of Education. If further investigation should occur, the individual(s) involved will be provided with an opportunity to respond to the charges and present a defense.

F. Communication of this Policy with Students and Staff. By the first of October each school year, the Superintendent will ensure that this policy is handed out to and discussed with students participating in the assessments, as well as staff members who administer the assessments, are authorized to be in the assessment room, and/or who have access to the assessment materials. Students and staff shall be reminded orally prior to each test administration period.

G. Participation of Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities participate in the Statewide assessments, with appropriate accommodations, as necessary. Decisions about how a Student with a disability will participate in any statewide assessment program will be made by the IEP team. The IEP developed for a disabled student must specify the manner in which the student will participate in the state achievement assessments. See Policy 242.2 Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities.

H. Participation of English Learners. Students that are English learners participate in the Statewide assessments according to the applicable rules and laws. They may receive approved accommodations following consultation with their instructor.

OAC 3301-7-01; OAC 3301-13-05

Alternate Assessments for Students With Disabilities

All students with disabilities are required to participate in state assessments as determined annually by the student's IEP and/or Section 504 team. The IEP or 504 Plan developed for a disabled student must specify the manner in which the student will participate in the state tests.

A. Regular Assessments With Accommodations

For each student with a disability who takes a test that is administered to nondisabled students, the School shall include that information in the student's IEP or document that information in writing for a Section 504 student ("504 Plan"), and provide the student with any appropriate accommodations pursuant to this policy. Any accommodations shall meet all of the following criteria specified below:

1. The accommodation is specified in the student's IEP or 504 Plan and is provided for classroom and schoolwide tests.
2. The accommodation does not change the content or structure of a test.
3. The accommodation does not change what type of knowledge or skill that a test is intended to measure.
4. The accommodation does not change or enhance the student's response as to what type of knowledge or skill is intended to be assessed, but it facilitates how the response is provided or assessed.

B. Alternative Assessments

A student's IEP and/or 504 team may excuse a student with a disability from taking any particular test that is administered to nondisabled students during any school year. An excused student with a disability shall participate instead in an alternate assessment approved by the Ohio Department of Education pursuant to federal law. Each excuse from participating in general education tests administered to nondisabled students and the reason for the excusal shall be documented in a student's IEP or 504 Plan. The reasons for excusal shall state why the particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for the student and why the student could not participate in the general education test. Accommodations may be used in accordance with the criteria provided in Part A of this Policy, unless specifically provided by the Ohio Department of Education.

Any student excused from taking a general education test who nevertheless wishes to take a general education test, may do so, and if that student meets at least the proficient level of performance, the student's transcript will show that the performance standard was met. Accommodations provided in accordance with Part A of this policy may be used when students elect to take a general education test.

Any student with a disability who is excused from taking a required test and instead takes an alternate assessment, may be provided accommodations as determined by the student's IEP team, unless the accommodation is prohibited by the Ohio Department of Education.

Required state test pass rates used to determine school and building performance include, to the maximum extent allowed by state and federal law, all the results of those who take tests without any accommodation; those who take tests with accommodations that meet the criteria of this policy; and those who are excused under this policy and instead take alternative assessments.

Any student with a disability who otherwise has completed an IEP program but has not received a diploma due to not having passed a required test may take any test required for graduation at any time it is administered in any school.

R.C. 3301.0711; OAC 3301-13-03.

REPORT

CARD/RETENTION

GRADUATION

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Academic Philosophy

The School will make every reasonable effort to provide all children with a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high quality education, and to close the educational gap between the School's high and low performing students.

Reporting Student Progress and Grades

The School will utilize a range of assessment methods to judge student performance. The School recognizes its responsibility for providing a system of grading student achievement that can help the student, teachers and parents judge properly how well the student is achieving the goals of the School's Program. See also Policies 203 to 203.5 on Parent Involvement.

The Board believes that the School's grading system should be a reliable system and one that ensures each student's grades signify accurately his/her degree of accomplishment of those expected learning goals which are to be stated for each program at every grade level, kindergarten through 12.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop procedures for grading which:

1. Have clear, consistent criteria and standards particularly when grades are based on subjective assessment;
2. Help each student understand in each course or program what behavior and/or achievement is needed to earn each grade as well as what will produce a failing grade; and
3. Provide frequent opportunities for each student to obtain information as to his/her progress toward the learning goals of his/her courses or programs.

The teacher responsible for a student's instruction in a particular course or program shall determine the student's grade. That grade may not be changed without the permission of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Promotion and Retention Policy

The Board recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary, and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate for their needs at the various stages of their growth. Each student will be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development. Parent(s) and students are made aware of the instructional objectives, performance standards, and promotion criteria. Periodically during the year teachers shall provide written progress and grade reports. Teachers will also provide evaluation reports to parent(s) and students during teacher-parent conferences. The grading system used to measure student progress toward achieving the predetermined instructional objectives and performance standards is applied consistently

throughout the School. All promotion and retention decisions are subject to the third grade reading guarantee requirements.

Promotion

A student will be promoted from one grade to the next provided the student meets the applicable promotion criteria. The decision to promote a student shall rest solely with the Principal, with appropriate input from the student's teacher(s), the professional staff, and parent(s).

Retention

A student is required to be retained if he/she is truant for ten percent (10%) or more of the required school days and has failed at least two (2) courses of study, unless the Principal and the teachers of the failed subjects determine that the student is academically prepared to be promoted.

Additionally, a student shall not be promoted or allowed to pass to a higher grade or course level if the student fails to meet established standards for a particular grade or course level.

Retention decisions will be made only after the Principal or applicable teachers have notified and conferred with parent(s) as to the student's progress or lack thereof. These notifications and conferences will take place as soon as teachers and the Principal identify that a student's promotion could be in jeopardy.

Factors

Teachers and the Principal will consider at least the following factors in arriving at decisions on promotion or retention. Factors are applicable in all grade levels.

- The student's level of academic aptitude and achievement;
- The student's level of social and emotional development and the student's ability to effectively interact with other students in his/her current grade level;
- The student's attendance patterns (absences, tardies, early checkout, excused, or unexcused) and its effect on the student's progress; and
- Any other factors thought to be appropriate by the Principal, teacher(s), and professional staff.

The School will not utilize a Student's failure to attain a specified score on any statewide achievement assessment as a factor in any decision to deny a Student's promotion to a higher grade level, except that the School may use a Student's failure to attain a score in at least the basic range as a factor in deciding to deny a Student's promotion to the next level on the following assessments:

- 3rd grade math and English language arts achievement assessments;
- 4th grade English language arts and math achievement assessments, and the formative or summative social studies assessment prescribed by the School;
- 5th grade English language arts, math, and science achievement assessments;

- 6th grade English language arts and math achievement assessments, and the formative or summative social studies assessment prescribed by the School;
- 7th grade English language arts and math achievement assessments; or
- 8th grade English language arts, math, and science achievement assessments.

The School may choose not to promote to the next grade level a Student who does not take a required statewide achievement assessment or make-up assessment, and who is not exempt from the requirement to take such assessment.

Disabled Students

Promotion and retention of previously identified disabled students shall be subject to the factors and policy above, but shall also consider the contents of the student's individualized educational plan (IEP).

R.C. 3313.608; 3313.609; 3301.0710; 3301.0711; 3313.6411(B); 20 USC 1400 et seq

Credit Flexibility Policy

The Board recognizes that an effective educational program is one that provides opportunities for students to customize aspects of their learning around their respective needs and interests. Credit Flexibility is one method to motivate and increase student learning by allowing access to more resources, customization around individual student needs, and the use of multiple measures of learning.

Credit Flexibility allows students to earn units of high school credit and course credit based on an individually approved Credit Flexibility Plan. The intent of credit flexibility is to meet increased expectations for high school graduation in response to globalization, technology and demographics, and to meet the demand for 21st Century skills.

In accordance with State law, the School must develop and implement a Credit Flexibility Plan that enables students to earn high school credit by:

1. completing coursework;
2. testing out or showing mastery of course content;
3. pursuing an educational option and/or an individually approved option; and/or
4. any combination of the above.

The School may integrate academic content from multiple subject areas into a single course, including a career-technical course, in accordance with Ohio Department of Education standards. Upon successful completion of an integrated course, a student may receive credit for both subject areas that were integrated into the course. If an end-of-course exam is required for the subject area(s) delivered through integrated instruction, the School may administer the relevant subject area assessment(s) upon the completion of the integrated course.

College Credit Plus – Advanced Standing Program

The School recognizes the value to Students and to the School for participation in programs offered by accredited colleges and universities and shall offer high school Students (grades 9 through 12) and middle school Students (grades 7 through 8) opportunities to earn academy credit for both high school and college. “College Credit Plus” (the “Program”) enables Students to earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education while enrolled in high school.

High school Students (grades 9 through 12) and middle school Students (grades 7 through 8) may participate in the Program, so long as the student meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. Applies to a public or participating private college, or eligible out-of-state college participating in the Program, consistent with the college’s admissions procedures, and meet all college or program’s established standards for admission, enrollment, and course placement;
2. Is either:
 - a. remediation-free on one of the assessments in accordance with the most recent Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation-Free Status; or
 - b. meets an alternative remediation-free eligibility option as defined by the Chancellor of Higher Education; or
 - c. if the student previously participated in the Program prior to September 30, 2021, the student scores within one standard error below the remediation-free threshold for one of the assessments in accordance with the most recent Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation-Free Status;
3. Has a cumulative grade point average at the School of at least a 3.0, or its equivalent for students in middle school; and
4. Receives a recommendation from the Principal, or School Counselor or Career-Technical Program Advisor, if any.

A student determined by the School to be an “underperforming student” may be limited in his or her participation or excluded from participation in the Program. Underperforming students mean a student who either (1) has a cumulative grade point average below 2.0 in the college courses taken through the Program, or (2) has withdrawn from or received no credit for two or more courses in the same term.

Underperforming students shall be placed on Program probation and shall only be permitted to enroll in one college course at a time, provided however that the course is not one in the same subject as a course in which the underperforming student previously earned a grade of “D” or “F” or received no credit. An underperforming student registered for more than one college course at the time of being placed on probation will be permitted to dis-enroll from any courses prohibited by his or her probationary status. A student who fails to dis-enroll from such a course will be responsible for all tuition, fees, and textbook costs and shall be dismissed from the Program for the following term. An underperforming student may be removed from Program

probation and permitted to participate in the Program without restrictions if he or she achieves a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better. If a student on Program probation does not raise his or her cumulative grade point average to a 2.0 or higher, the School shall dismiss the student from the Program for the following term. A student who has been dismissed from the Program shall dis-enroll from any additional Program courses, or shall be responsible for all tuition, fees, and textbook costs and shall be dismissed from the Program for an additional term. The School will promptly notify the student, his or her parent, and all relevant institutions of higher education of the student's status as underperforming and his or her probation or dismissal from the Program. A student dismissed from the Program or prohibited from taking a particular Program course may appeal the School's decision to the Governing Authority, which shall consider any extenuating circumstances separate from academic performance that may have affected the student's Program performance. Appealing student's must request an appeal within five (5) business days of the notice of probation or dismissal and the Governing Authority shall issue a decision on the student's appeal within ten (10) business days of the appeal. The decision of the Governing Authority shall be final.

A student dismissed from the Program shall be permitted to return to the Program **ON PROBATION** if the student has demonstrated adequate academic achievement or progress to the satisfaction of the Principal or his or her designee. Academic progress includes improved course grades, an increased grade point average, academic advancement as demonstrated by teacher feedback, a review of the student's entire high school and college academic record, and any other academic progress factor deemed pertinent by the Principal or his or her designee. Failure to make adequate academic progress will result in an extension of the student's dismissal from the Program.

A Student participating in the Program shall elect one of two basic tracks: Option A – Elect to receive only college credit, in which case the cost of attending the college courses is borne entirely by the Student and his/her Parent; or, Option B – Elect to receive both college and high school credit, in which case the Student and his/her Parent may elect for participation to either (1) be subsidized by direct payments to the college out of the School's foundation funds or (2) be borne entirely by the Student and his/her Parent(s). If the School provides its own transportation to students, reimbursement for transportation costs may be available.

Prior to participating in the Program, a Student shall be provided with specific information and counseling designed to make the Student aware of the possible risks and benefits of the Program. The School shall provide information on the program to Students in the grades prior to the years of eligibility on or before February 1, at minimum, through a notice provided to Students annually. All communications sent to Students and Parent(s) related to academic planning shall include information on the Program. Information shall also be made available on the School's website. The School shall hold at least one informational session per year in conjunction with each participating college within a thirty (30) mile radius of the School. If no participating colleges are within a thirty (30) mile radius, the School shall partner with the closest participating college to offer an informational session. This informational session must occur between October 1 and February 15. The School may coordinate with other schools in the area to hold informational sessions.

A Student wishing to participate in the Program shall give notice to the School between February 15 and April 1. If notice is received after April 1, the Student must obtain the written consent of the Principal in order to participate. If the Principal refuses to give written consent, the Student may appeal the Principal's decision to the School's Board of Directors or its designee. All appeals must be filed within fourteen (14) days of the Principal's decision. The Board of Directors shall hold a hearing and make a final decision regarding the student's participation in the Program within thirty (30) days of receiving the student's notice of appeal. The Board's decision to either grant or deny the student's request to participate in the Program shall be final. Students wishing to participate in the Program during the summer term must also comply with the April 1 deadline for notice, but are strongly encouraged to give notice to the School in February in order to improve chances of meeting summer registration timelines.

Before actually enrolling, the Student and his/her Parent shall sign a form stating (1) that they have received the required counseling from the School; (2) that they understand the responsibilities they must assume under the program; and (3) that the School provided them with following information:

1. Program eligibility;
2. The credit awarding process and maximum credit requirements;
3. Financial responsibilities, if any;
4. Transportation and parking responsibilities;
5. Academic support services;
6. Course scheduling;
7. Student participation options, including opportunities to participate during the summer term and deadlines pertinent to participation;
8. The designated point of contact at the School who is available for questions regarding the Program; and
9. Any other possible benefits and consequences of participation in the Program.

The School shall notify each Student participating in the Program of the total number of college credits he/she may earn in an academic year through the Program prior to the date the Student registers for a course or courses in a term at an enrolling college. **Students will only be awarded high school or college credit for those college courses in which the student receives a grade "C" or better.**

Upon receipt of a pre-term notice from an enrolling college specifying the admission of a Student and courses and credit hours for which the Student is registered, the School shall verify (1) that the Student is not taking more than thirty (30) college credit hours during an academic year, which shall begin with the summer term, and (2) that the Student has not exceeded one hundred twenty (120) college credit hours total through the Program. In the event that the number of credits conferred by a college course partially exceeds the maximum number of allowable credits, then the whole course shall be considered to exceed the maximum allowable credits. This review shall be based upon a review of all pre-term notices received for the Student. If a Student has exceeded the maximum number of allowable credits permitted by law, the School shall promptly notify the Student and give the Student the option of (a) adjusting his/her schedule to comply with the maximum allowable credit requirement or (b) self-paying for those credits above the maximum permitted by the Program.

Participating Students must enroll in any non-remedial and nonsectarian courses, so long as the courses apply to a degree or professional certificate. Students must be assessed using the same standard of achievement and held to the same grading standard as non-Program Students enrolled in the college course. The School shall ensure that enrollment in the college course with an end-of-course exam does not circumvent the Student's obligation to sit for any required end-of-course examinations.

The courses offered in the Program shall be the same courses that are included in the participating college's regular course catalogue. High school credit for college courses taken under the Program shall be granted by the School. If a course comparable to one completed at a college is offered by the School, the School shall give comparable credit. If there is no comparable credit offered by the School, the School shall grant an appropriate number of "elective" credits. If there is a dispute as to what constitutes "comparable credit" or "appropriate credit" then the Student may appeal the School's determination to the State Board of Education, the decision of which shall be final.

The School, in coordination with a participating college or university, may elect to provide Program courses at the School under the instructor of a qualified high school teacher. Such a course must follow the same college course syllabus, use the same textbook and other course materials, aspire to achieve the same course objectives and learning outcomes, and assess Students using the same methods as the corresponding college course delivered on a college campus. Students who are not enrolled in a college through the Program, but nonetheless are enrolled in a Program course at the School, shall be held to the same academic standards as those Students enrolled in the Program, but shall not receive college credit for the course. The School shall provide written notice to such Students and those Students' Parent(s) stating that the Student is not earning college credit and that the course would likely need to be repeated upon enrollment in any post-secondary institution.

All high school teachers providing college instruction through the Program at the School must meet the qualifications to be an instructor as set forth by the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education. If the School elects to offer colleges courses at the School, the coordinating college or university must offer such teachers at least one three-hour professional development session per academic year and must conduct at least one full-period classroom observation of each Program course taught by each high school teacher during the first academic year the teacher instructs that course, and alternating academic years thereafter. Any observer must provide the School's Principal with at least twenty-four (24) hours' advance written notice of each observation.

In coordination with at least one participating college, the School shall designate various course "pathways" which, amongst other things, may be based on major, career path, or core coursework. Pathways must provide Students with the opportunity to either earn fifteen (15) credits or thirty (30) credits. Pathways are merely guidance for Students as to the possible course of study that a Student may elect to pursue; however, Students are not precluded from participating in courses outside of any pathway. Pathways shall be included in the School's designated course offering book for Student reference.

Student participation in the Program is based solely on the participating college's established placement standards for college-level courses for which credit is awarded. A 7th, 8th, or 9th grade Student seeking high school credit may not participate in the program for more than the equivalent of four academic school years. Likewise, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Students seeking high school credit may not participate for more than the equivalent of three, two, or one academic school year(s), respectively.

Students may participate in the Program during a summer term, unless the summer term begins during the Student's last quarter of high school or after the Student's anticipated high school graduation date. The Parent(s) of any Student electing to take summer courses through the Program shall be solely responsible for transportation to and from Program courses. Earned credit for summer courses shall be included on the Student's transcript for the coming school year.

Students wishing to take college courses at their own expense, and outside of regular school hours, may do so without participating in the Program. The School shall only recognize college course work that is successfully completed by a Student through the Program in full compliance with all Program requirements and restrictions, and it shall count such completion toward graduation and subject area requirements. Student records shall indicate the successful completion of any college courses taken and include the name of the college at which the credits were earned. Grades earned from the college will be averaged into each Student's high school and college grade point average. Students participating in the Program will receive the same preferential weighting in calculating their grade point average as those Students who participate in other Advanced Standing Programs (e.g., Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, etc.).

If the Student receives a failing grade in any college course while participating in the Program, the Student and his or her Parent(s) may be held responsible to reimburse the amount of state funds paid to the college on the Student's behalf. A Student who receives a failing grade may have grades and credits withheld by the School until such reimbursement occurs. However, the School shall not seek reimbursement from any participating Student who is economically disadvantaged.

The expulsion of a Student from the School may cause the Student to lose the privileges and benefits of the Program. Students who have been expelled from the School may not apply for college enrollment under the Program during the period of expulsion. With respect to Students already enrolled in college at the time of the expulsion, the Board shall deny such Student's high school credit earned in the Program during expulsion. Accordingly, the Board shall send written notice of the expulsion to the college at the time the expulsion is imposed and shall indicate that the School has adopted a policy denying high school credit for Program courses taken during an expulsion. The college may then withdraw its acceptance of the Student. If the college chooses not to withdraw its acceptance of the Student, the Student may continue in attendance for college credit only. In such circumstances, the Student is financially responsible for tuition and fees and must pay the college for any textbooks and materials that were previously supplied without charge.

Annually, the School and the participating college shall jointly submit the required data to the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Higher Education for any Student participating in the Program by July 15. Nothing in the “College Credit Plus” program shall preclude a Student from also choosing to complete coursework in another Advanced Standing Program while enrolled in high school.

Prior to enrolling in any college course through the Program, the student and his or her parent shall sign a permission slip acknowledging the potential for mature subject matter in a course taken through the Program. A copy of the signed permission slip must be included with the student’s application to the college or university. A copy of the permission slip shall be placed on the School’s website.

Advanced Standing Program. Students may earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education upon the Student’s attainment of a specified score on an examination covering the coursework. Coursework in an Advanced Standing Program may include any of the following:

1. College Credit Plus;
2. Advanced Placement;
3. International Baccalaureate courses; or
4. Early college high schools.

R.C. 3313.6013; Chapter 3365; OAC 3333-1-65; OAC Chapter 3301-44.

Diploma Seal Requirements

Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2019.

Earn at least two of the state diploma seals, at least one (1) of which shall be a State-designed seal:

- a. State-designed Seal:
 - i. Biliteracy seal;
 - ii. OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal;
 - iii. One of the following seals:
 - An industry-recognized credential seal;
 - A college-ready seal;
 - A military enlistment seal;
 - A citizenship seal;
 - A science seal.
 - An honors diploma seal; or
 - A technology seal.
- b. Local-designed Seal:
 - i. A community service seal;
 - ii. A student engagement seal; or

- iii. Fine and performing arts seal.

Curriculum Requirements to Graduate

Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2010 but Before July 1, 2022.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS	STATE MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL LOCAL CREDITS	CREDITS EARNED TO DATE	CREDITS REMAINING	HONORS DIPLOMA CREDITS
English Language Arts	4 units	_____	_____	_____	_____
Health	½ unit*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mathematics	4 units**	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physical Education	½ unit***	_____	_____	_____	_____
Science	3 units****	_____	_____	_____	_____
History & Gov.	1 unit*****	_____	_____	_____	_____
Social Studies	2 units*****	_____	_____	_____	_____
Electives	5 units*****	_____	_____	_____	_____

* The half Health unit shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health.

** Math units shall include 1 unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or, 1 unit of advanced computer science⁺ after signing and submitting a letter of understanding of the impact of such a course selection on college admissions. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track shall not be required to take algebra II or advanced computer science and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course as an alternative.

*** For those schools that have adopted a physical education waiver policy, Any student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons, or has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) for at least two (2) full school years, shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. In lieu of a physical education course, the student shall be required to complete one-half (1/2) unit, consisting of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction, in another course of study. Credit received for participation in the JROTC may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half (1/2) unit in another course of study.

**** Science units shall include inquiry based laboratory experiences, and shall include 1 unit of physical science, 1 unit of life science, 1 unit of advance study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics, or physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science; or computer science⁺. No student shall substitute a computer science course for a life science or biology course.

***** The 1 History unit shall include a half unit of American History and a half unit of American Government. For students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, these half units shall include the study of: the Declaration of Independence; the Northwest Ordinance; the Constitution of the United States with an emphasis on the Bill of Rights; and the Ohio Constitution. Study of American History and American Government shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

***** The School shall integrate the study of economics, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship into one or more existing social studies credits or into the contents of another class so that every high school student receives instruction in these concepts. Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the 2 Social Studies units shall include at least a half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

***** Elective units may consist of the combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, which may include computer science⁺, agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps program, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required. Each student must complete two semesters or the

equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. This coursework may be completed in grades 7 through 12; however, if completed in grade 7 or 8, the course must be taught by a person with a valid high school teaching license, and the course has been designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

+ If a student applies more than one computer science course to satisfy curriculum requirements, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or cover different subject matter within the area of computer science.

Curriculum Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2022.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS	STATE MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL LOCAL CREDITS	CREDITS EARNED TO DATE	CREDITS REMAINING	HONORS DIPLOMA CREDITS
English Language Arts	4 units	_____	_____	_____	_____
Health	½ unit*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mathematics	4 units**	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physical Education	½ unit***	_____	_____	_____	_____
Science	3 units****	_____	_____	_____	_____
History & Gov.	1 unit*****	_____	_____	_____	_____
Social Studies	2 units*****	_____	_____	_____	_____
Electives	5 units*****	_____	_____	_____	_____

* The half Health unit shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health.

** Math units shall include 1 unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or, 1 unit of advanced computer science+ after signing and submitting a letter of understanding of the impact of such a course selection on college admissions. Math units may include 1/2 unit of financial literacy++ instruction and one-half unit of a mathematics course. The ½ unit course in mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a course for which the state board requires an end-of-course examination. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track shall not be required to take algebra II or advanced computer science and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course as an alternative.

*** For those schools that have adopted a physical education waiver policy, Any student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons, or has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) for at least two (2) full school years, shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. In lieu of a physical education course, the student shall be required to complete one-half (1/2) unit, consisting of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction, in another course of study. Credit received for participation in the JROTC may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half (1/2) unit in another course of study.

**** Science units shall include inquiry based laboratory experiences, and shall include 1 unit of physical science, 1 unit of life science, 1 unit of advance study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics, or physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science; or computer science+. No student shall substitute a computer science course for a life science or biology course.

***** The 1 History unit shall include a half unit of American History and a half unit of American Government. For students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, these half units shall include the study of: the Declaration of Independence; the Northwest Ordinance; the Constitution of the United States with an emphasis on the Bill of Rights; and the Ohio Constitution. Study of American History and American Government shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

***** Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the 2 Social Studies units shall include at least a half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

*****Elective units may consist of the combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, which may include computer science⁺, agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps program, financial literacy⁺⁺, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required. Each student must complete two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. This coursework may be completed in grades 7 through 12; however, if completed in grade 7 or 8, the course must be taught by a person with a valid high school teaching license, and the course has been designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

⁺ If a student applies more than one computer science course to satisfy curriculum requirements, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or cover different subject matter within the area of computer science.

⁺⁺ Students must complete ½ unit of financial literacy either through one-half unit is lieu of a math course, or as an elective. Students who choose to take 1 unit of advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II shall not be permitted to complete 1/2 unit of financial literacy to satisfy the math unit requirements and shall be required to complete the 1/2 unit of financial literacy as an elective course.

Any other questions about graduation requirements can be brought to the AkroTech administrative team.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE
GIRLS/BOYS

****If your child is not in dress code she will be sent to the uniform closet or the office to call home****

Girls' Dress Code (2023-24 School Year)

Pants

- Navy, khaki, gray or black colored dress pants, joggers, dickies, skirts, shorts or jumpers that are at least *knee length* in the front and back must be worn. Pants must be plain with no decorations (i.e. beads, buttons, sequins, rhinestones, tears, paint, etc.). Knee length or longer leggings are encouraged anytime a student wears a skirt/jumper.
- No blue jeans, denim, yoga, fitness, sweat pant joggers; stretch or skintight pants are permitted.
- Pants will be worn at or above the waistline with a belt if the school deems necessary.
- Pant legs will be worn down at all times (no roll ups). No pulling socks over pants.

Shirts

- **Absolutely no hooded sweatshirts or hooded sweaters are permitted.**
- White, gray, black, or blue colored shirts, polo or button down, with collars must be worn. Solid colors only. Small emblem is permitted. Cleavage must be covered.
- Sweaters/vests may be worn. They are to be **solid** white, blue, or gray. Plain school purchased sweatshirts with school logo are permitted. **No jackets allowed (fleece, cotton, track, ¾ zip, full zip, etc.)**
- Any school purchased polo shirt is allowed.
- School purchased T-Shirts are allowed at The Edge Academy and Akros Middle School (Only on designated days). T-Shirts are not allowed at AkroTech.

Shoes

- Shoes must be white black, brown, blue, or gray. **Bottoms** of the shoes must be solid brown, black, blue, gray or white.
- Shoelaces must be white black, brown, blue, or gray and tied.
- Boots must be brown, white, blue, or black including soles and shoestrings.
- No Crocs

No gang related clothing or items permitted on school grounds at any time.

Socks, Tights/Leggings (worn under uniform skirts, jumpers)

- Socks, Tights/Leggings must be solid black, solid white, gray, solid navy or solid light blue in color.

Belts:

- A belt must be worn if pants are sagging.
- Belts must be dark blue, black or brown.

- No ornamental belt buckles are permitted (ornamental will be defined by administrative staff). **Nothing can hang from belts or belt loops.**

Purses/book bags

- Purses, book bags, lunch boxes, and fanny packs are not permitted in classrooms. The items should be kept in lockers or hooks

-Hats, caps, bandanas, scarves, and hoods are to be removed upon entering the school building. Bandanas are not allowed to be used as headbands. **This includes scarves or caps covering unfinished hair.** If a student wears any of these items in the building they must surrender it to a staff member when requested and appropriately.

-Headbands can be worn but must be black, brown, blue, white, or gray. No emblems. Scarves that look like headbands are not allowed.

Jewelry

- Girls may wear no more than 3 earrings per ear. No large hoops or dangling earrings are permitted because of safety issues. **No body jewelry permitted.**
- A single necklace may be worn. The charm must be no larger than the size of a quarter.
- A single wrist watch may be worn. **NO SMART WATCHES. (CONSIDERED AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE.)**
- One bracelet or wristband is permitted.
- One ring (gemstone or plain silver or gold) may be worn. The gem can be no larger than a dime.
- No lanyards/house keys, etc. are to be worn. They must be kept in your locker.

Hair/Etc.

- No extreme, **bright colors** or designs are permitted in hair (extreme colors or designs will be determined by the administrative staff).
- Shaving designs in the eyebrows are not permitted.
- No tattoos or body art are permitted **this includes non-permanent drawings on arms.**

Violation of inappropriate color or design will result in students to be sent home until hair is back to dress code standards

Nails

- Must be reasonable length with a natural color
- No ornamental jewelry put on nails

All clothing should fit appropriately (not too tight or too loose).

****Administrative staff may add to or change the dress code at any time. School administrators will have the final say in determining what is and what is not appropriate school attire. ****

****If your child is not in dress code he will be sent to the uniform closet or the office to call home****

Boys' Dress Code (2023-24 School Year)

Pants

- Navy, khaki, gray or black colored dress pants or shorts must be worn. Pants must be plain with no decorations (i.e. beads, buttons, sequins, rhinestones, tears, paint, etc.).
- Blue jeans, sweat pant material, jeggings, **sweat pant joggers** are **not** permitted.
- Navy, khaki, gray, or black uniform joggers (not sweat pant material) are permitted.
- **Pants will be worn at or above the waistline with a belt and must fit (not too loose or tight).**
- Pant legs will be worn down at all times (no roll ups). No pulling socks over pants.

Shirts

- **Absolutely no hooded sweatshirts or hooded sweaters are permitted.**
- White, gray, black, or blue colored shirts, polo or button down, with collars must be worn. Solid colors only. Small emblem is permitted.
- Sweaters/vests may be worn. They are to be **solid** white, blue, or gray. Plain school purchased sweatshirts with school logo are permitted. **No jackets allowed (fleece, cotton, track, ¾ zip, full zip, etc.)**
- Any school purchased polo shirt is allowed.
- School purchased T-Shirts are allowed at The Edge Academy and Akros Middle School (Only on designated days). T-Shirts are not allowed at AkroTech.

Shoes

- Shoes must be white black, brown, blue, or gray. **Bottoms** of the shoes must be solid brown, black, blue, gray or white.
- Shoelaces must be white black, brown, blue, or gray.
- Boots must be solid brown, white, blue, or black including soles and shoestrings.
- Snow boots are permitted during the winter months.
- No Crocs

Socks

- Socks must be solid black, solid white, gray, solid navy or solid sky blue in color.

Belts:

- A belt must be worn if pants are sagging.
- Belts must be dark blue, black or brown.
- No ornamental belt buckles are permitted (ornamental will be defined by administrative staff). **Nothing can hang from belt or belt loops.**

- **Book bags**

- Book bags, lunch boxes, and fanny packs are not permitted in classrooms. The items should be kept in lockers.

Hats, caps, bandanas, scarves, and hoods are to be **removed upon entering the school building**. If a student wears any of these items in the building they must surrender it to a staff member when requested and appropriately.

Jewelry

- One wrist watch is permitted. **NO SMART WATCHES. (CONSIDERED AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE.)**
- A single necklace may be worn. The charm must be no larger than the size of a quarter.
- One bracelet or wristband is permitted
- **No earrings** or decorated body parts are allowed.
- No rings or other jewelry are permitted.
- No lanyards/house keys, etc. are to be worn. They must be kept in your locker.

Hair/Etc.

- **No extreme colors or designs are permitted in hair including; names, brands, numbers, words and or symbols, only straight lines are permitted. (Extreme colors or designs will be determined by the administrative staff).**
- **No bald headed Mohawk haircuts or other extreme hair designs are permitted.**
- Shaving designs into the eyebrows is not permitted.
- No tattoos or body art are permitted **this includes non-permanent drawings on the body.**

Violation of inappropriate color or design will result in students to be sent home until hair is back to dress code standards

- **No gang related clothing** or items permitted on school grounds at any time.
- All clothing should fit appropriately (not too tight or too loose).

****Administrative staff may add to or change the dress code at any time. School administrators will have the final say in determining what is and what is not appropriate school attire. ****

Use of Face Masks/Coverings

Although students do not have to wear face masks or coverings you may choose to have your student wear a face mask or covering. Face masks/coverings shall not include masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, and all face masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and code of conduct.

MEDICAL/MEDICATION

Use of Medications

Diabetes

Use of Inhaler/Epinephrine Auto injector

Health Examinations and Immunizations

Emergency Medical Authorization

Communicable Diseases

Head Lice

Peanut or Other Food Allergies

Student Suicide

Pregnant Students

Seventh graders are required to have a booster shot. Please check with your physician to determine if your child is current on his/her booster.

Contagious Health Conditions

The parent is responsible to notify the school if the child has been identified as having a contagious condition (i.e. head lice, measles, pink eye).

A student who has a fever or vomits must be removed from school according to health regulations. **Parents will be contacted to pick up the student. A student should not return to school within 24 hours after vomiting.**

Use of Medications Policy

The School shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, and, only if a physician's request is completed. See Appendix 402-A Physician's Request for Medication Form.

In the case of an emergency, only the custodial parent can authorize treatment or designate alternative individuals to make those decisions in his or her absence. However, if all reasonable measures to contact the custodial parent and his/her designees have failed, the School may seek authorization from an involved non-custodial parent (i.e. a parent who has rights of unsupervised visitation with the child).

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines including those prescribed by a physician or other licensed health professional authorized to prescribe medicine and any nonprescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations, and/or remedies. "Treatment" refers both to the manner in which a medication is administered and to health-care procedures which require special training, such as catheterization.

The total responsibility for dispensing or administering any medication or treatment shall rest solely with the parent(s) and their child. Before any medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the School shall require the written prescription from the child's physician with detailed instructions, written promises of the physician and the parent to forward any changes in the prescription or instructions to the school immediately upon change and to ensure delivery to the appropriate staff. This must be accompanied by the written authorization and waiver of the parent. This document shall be kept on file in the main office of the School with the secured medical files.

Only medication in its original prescription bottle labeled with the date of prescription, student's name, and exact dosage will be administered and only in the presence of another adult. Parents,

or students authorized in writing by physician and parents, may administer medication or treatment but only in the presence of an adult staff member assigned for that purpose.

Only Staff Members who are licensed health professionals or who have completed a Board-approved drug administration program conducted by a licensed health professional may administer to a student a drug prescribed for the student. They may also assist a student with self-administration of medications by doing the following: (1) remind the student when it is time to take a medication and observe to ensure that the student follows the directions on the container; (2) assist the student in the self-administration of medication by taking the medication in its container from the area where it is stored and handing the container with the medication in it to the student; and (3) assist upon request by or with the consent of, a physically impaired but mentally alert student, in removing oral or topical medication from the container and in taking or applying the medication.

A licensed health professional, or a Staff Member who has completed a Board-approved drug administration program conducted by a licensed health professional, may administer any medication requiring intravenous or intramuscular injection or the insertion of a device into the body when both the medication and the procedure are prescribed by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, and the nurse/Staff Member has completed any and all necessary training.

Students who may require administration of an emergency medication may have such medication, identified as stated above, stored in or by the School's office and administered in accord with this policy. The Superintendent or his/her designee may prepare and distribute administrative guidelines to ensure the proper implementation of this policy.

As long as the School or any person administering medication (a) is authorized by the Board to administer medication; (b) has the prescriber's signed statement; (c) has the parents signed authorization, which includes a promise to submit any changes to the prescription; and (d) the person has not acted in a grossly negligent or wonton or reckless manner, then that person shall not be liable for civil damages for administering or failing to administer medication.

Notwithstanding the above, written authorization or instructions from a health care provider are not required for the possession, use or application of nonprescription topical ointments designed to prevent sunburn, provided however, the School shall require written parental authorization for the application of sunscreen to a student by a School employee where application is not required pursuant to a student's Section 504 Plan or Individual Education Program. School employees authorized to apply sunscreen to students shall be of the same gender as the student and shall be observed by another same-gender employee during the application process. Sunscreen shall only be applied be in areas of exposed skin not otherwise covered by articles of clothing.

R.C. 3313.711; 3313.712; 3313.713.

Care of Students with Diabetes

The School shall ensure that each Student with diabetes enrolled in the School receives appropriate care in accordance with orders signed by the Student's treating practitioner. Appropriate care may include any of the following:

1. Checking and recording, or assisting the Student with checking and recording, Student's blood glucose levels and ketone levels;
2. Responding to blood glucose levels that are outside of the Student's target range;
3. Administering glucagon and/or other emergency treatments, as prescribed, in the event that Student experiences severe hypoglycemia;
4. Administering, or assisting the Student in self-administering, insulin through whatever insulin delivery method the Student uses;
5. Providing oral diabetes medications as needed and prescribed;
6. Understanding recommended schedules and food intake for meals and snacks so that dosages may be calculated pursuant to the orders of the Student's treating practitioner;
7. Following any instructions regarding meals, snacks and physical activity provided by the Student's treating practitioner; and
8. Administering diabetes medication by the School nurse or by a School employee trained in diabetes care.

Diabetes medication shall be kept in a location that is easily accessible.

No Student shall be restricted from attending the School on the basis that the Student has diabetes, that the School does not employ a full-time school nurse, or that the School does not have an employee trained in diabetes care. Parents of a Student with diabetes shall not be required or otherwise pressured to provide diabetes care at the School or during School-related activities.

Parental Notice of Rights under Section 504

The Principal or his/her designee shall inform the Student's Parent that the Student may be entitled to a Section 504 plan regarding the Student's diabetes no later than fourteen (14) days after receiving an order signed by a Student's treating practitioner indicating that a Student has diabetes.

Once notice has been given to the Parent, the School shall comply with all other policies and procedures for the development of a Section 504 plan as if the Student was any other Student with a qualifying disability.

School Administration of Diabetes Medication

Diabetes medication prescribed for a Student may be administered so long as all of the following conditions are met:

1. The Principal or his/her designee has a signed, written request from the Parent that the diabetes medication is to be administered, which includes a promise to submit any changes to the prescription;
2. The Principal or his/her designee receives a statement, signed by the prescriber of the medication that includes:
 - a. the name and address of the Student,
 - b. identifies the School and class in which the Student is enrolled,
 - c. states the name and dosage of the diabetes medication and the times or intervals at which the medication is to be administered,
 - d. the date administration of the diabetes medication should begin and end,
 - e. any severe adverse reactions that should be reported to the prescriber and one or more phone numbers at which the prescriber can be reached in the event of an emergency, and
 - f. any other special instructions for administration of the diabetes medication, including sterile conditions and storage; and
3. The Parent provides the diabetes medication in the original container in which it was dispensed by the prescriber or a licensed pharmacist and the container indicates that the Student is the proper recipient of any dosage of the medication.

Student Self-Administration of Diabetes Medication

On the written request of the Student's Parent or treating practitioner, the School shall permit a Student to provide for his/her own diabetes care in accordance with the orders of the Student's treating practitioner during regular school hours and School-sponsored activities in his/her classroom, in any area of the School or school grounds, and at any school-related activity. At the request of the Student or his/her Parent, the School shall provide the Student with access to a private area for performing diabetes care tasks.

The Student shall be permitted to possess on his/her person all necessary supplies and equipment to perform such tasks at all times. If the Principal or his/her designee determines that the Student has performed any diabetes care tasks or used medical equipment for purposes other than the Student's own care, the Board or its designee may revoke the Student's permission to provide for his/her own care.

Training

The Board may approve training that complies with the nationally recognized guidelines adopted by the Ohio Department of Education in order to instruct employees of the School who wish to be able to attend to Students with diabetes. Participation in training is voluntary. Training shall be coordinated by the School's nurse, or if the School does not employ a nurse, by a licensed health care professional with expertise in diabetes. Upon completion of the training, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall have the discretion to determine which employees are competent to provide diabetes care to Students.

Training shall take place prior to the beginning of each school year or as needed but not later than fourteen (14) days after the School receives an order signed a treating practitioner indicating that a Student has diabetes.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may distribute written notice to each employee of the School in search of employees to be trained. The notice must contain a description of the tasks to be performed, that training will be provided by a licensed health care professional, and the method of indicating interest in participating in such training. Any notice must state that participation in training is voluntary, that the employee will not be adversely affected should he/she choose not to participate in training, and that a trained employee will be immune from liability for their actions in providing for the care of a Student with diabetes.

The Board may approve training in the recognition of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia and emergency response procedures for any School employee who has the primary responsibility of supervising a Student with diabetes during some portion of the school day or to any bus driver that the School employs or contracts with who is responsible for providing transportation to a Student with diabetes.

The Board shall not discourage employees from agreeing to provide diabetes care nor will employee be subject to a penalty or discipline for refusing to volunteer to be trained in diabetes care or for providing care or performing duties required to provide care for a Student with diabetes.

Reporting

The Board shall report to the Department of Education by December 31 of each year: (1) the number of Students with diabetes enrolled in the School during the previous school year, and (2) the number of errors in the administration of diabetes medication to Students with diabetes during the previous school year.

Immunity

Neither the School nor any member of the Board or employee of the School shall be held liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing care or performing duties pursuant to R.C. 3313.7112, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton conduct. Nothing in R.C. 3313.7112 serves to eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a School, member of the Board, or employee of the School may be entitled to under Chapter 2744 or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or under common law of the State of Ohio.

A school nurse or other licensed health care professional shall be immune from disciplinary action by the Board of Nursing or any other regulatory board for providing care or performing duties under R.C. 3313.7112 if the care provided or duties performed are consistent with applicable professional standards.

R.C. 3313.7112; R.C. 3313.713

Use of Inhaler/Epinephrine Auto injector

A student may 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, and/or an epinephrine auto injector to treat anaphylaxis at School, any School-related activity, event, or program sponsored by the School or in which the School participates, if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- A. The student has the written approval of the student's physician and, if the student is a minor, the written approval of the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student. The physician's written approval shall include at least all of the following information:
 - 1. the student's name and address;
 - 2. the names and dose 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. circumstances in which the inhaler and/or auto injector should be used;
 - 6. acknowledgement that the prescriber has determined the student is capable of possession and using the inhaler and/or auto injector appropriately and has provided the student with training in the proper use;
 - 7. written instructions that outline procedures School personnel should follow in the event that the asthma medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's asthma attack; and/or in the case of an epinephrine auto injector, the Student is unable to administer the medication or the medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's anaphylaxis;
 - 8. any severe adverse reactions that may occur to the student using the inhaler and that should be reported to the physician;
 - 9. any severe adverse reactions that may occur to another student, for whom the inhaler is not prescribed, should such a student receive a dose of the medication;
 - 10. at least one (1) emergency telephone number for contacting the physician in an emergency;
 - 11. at least one (1) emergency telephone number for contacting the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student in an emergency;
 - 12. any other special instructions from the physician.
- B. The Superintendent or his/her designee has received copies of the written approvals required by Subparagraph 1 of this section.

If these conditions are satisfied, the student may possess and use the inhaler at School or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's School is a participant.

The School, a member of the Board or the Board's representatives, or any Staff or employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a Staff Member's prohibiting a student from using an inhaler because of a Staff Member's good faith belief that the conditions of Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this Section had not been satisfied. The School, a member of the Board, the Board's representatives, or any Staff or employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a Staff Member's permitting a student to use an inhaler because of a Staff Member's good faith belief that the conditions of Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this Section had been satisfied. Furthermore, when the School is required by this Section to permit a student to possess and use an inhaler because the conditions of Subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this Section have been satisfied, the School, any member of the Board, or the Board's representatives, or any Staff or employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from the use of the inhaler by a student for whom it was not prescribed.

This Section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a School, member of a Governing Authority, or Staff or employee may be entitled to under Chapter 2744, or any other provision of the Revised Code or under the common law of this state.

R.C. 3314.14; R.C. 3314.141; R.C. 3313.716, R.C. 3313.718

Note: Students are permitted to carry asthma inhalers with the consent of the student's physician and parent/guardian and written approval as stated above, **however sharing of inhalers is prohibited.**

Health Examinations and Immunizations

A. Immunizations

Students enrolled in the School are required to have, at the time of initial entry into School and at the beginning of each School year thereafter, written evidence on file that they have been immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles (rubeola), mumps, chicken pox, rubella, hepatitis B, and meningococcal disease, as required by Ohio law and applicable Ohio Department of Health ("ODH") regulations and guidelines (collectively, "Laws"). Adequate written evidence of such required immunizations shall consist of a statement indicating that the Student has received the required immunizations, including the immunizations received and the date of receipt, signed by a licensed physician, an official from another school, a public health department, or the Parent. In the case of a Parent's statement, the Superintendent, in his/her sole discretion, may require any other evidence as s/he believes is needed to determine compliance with this policy including, but not limited to, a physician's statement.

B. Record and Reporting

The School shall keep an immunization record for each student, available in writing to the student's parent or guardian. No later than October 15 of each year, the School shall report a summary of the immunization records of all initial entry students to the director of health using the prescribed online reporting form, which may be accessed on the following website:

<https://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/bid/immunization/schdayca.aspx>.

C. Exclusion and Readmission

In the event that (1) a Student has not received the required immunizations OR the Student is not “in the process of being immunized”, and (2) the Student’s Parent has failed to submit adequate written evidence of the required immunizations as set forth in this policy, the Student shall be:

- X **PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL FOR NO MORE THAN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS AFTER INITIAL ENROLLMENT IN THE SCHOOL OR, FOR A STUDENT PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL, NO MORE THAN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

Students who do not comply with this policy and any other immunization requirements of Laws shall be excluded from School no later than the fifteenth (15th) day after admission or, for students not being initially admitted, no later than the fifteenth (15th) day after the beginning of the school year.

Any Student who is admitted or commences a school year who is “in the process of being immunized”, and who does not complete the required immunizations, shall be excluded from School no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the following school year.

“In the process of being immunized” means the student has been immunized against mumps, rubeola, rubella, and chicken pox, and if the student has not been immunized against polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, and meningococcal disease, the student has received at least the first dose of the immunization sequence, and presents written evidence to the Superintendent of each subsequent dose required to obtain immunization at the intervals prescribed by the Director of Health.

Any Student who is excluded for failure to comply with this policy shall be readmitted upon submission to the Superintendent of adequate written evidence, as set forth above, of compliance with this policy and the Laws.

D. Exemptions

Students may be exempted from required immunizations, subject to any requirements of Laws under the following circumstances:

1. A Parent may present a written statement to the Superintendent of objection to immunization for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.
2. A Parent may present a written statement signed by a physician certifying that certain or all required immunizations are medically contraindicated.
3. A Parent may present a signed statement from the Parent or physician that the student has a history of measles (rubeola), mumps, and/or chicken pox and need not be immunized against the disease(s) for which the history so exists.
4. Pursuant to ODH regulations and guidelines, a parent may present laboratory testing results signed by a physician demonstrating that detectable rubella antibody is present in

the Student and the Student need not be immunized against German measles (rubella).

5. Any other circumstances required by the Laws.

The Superintendent may require any other evidence she/he believes is needed to consider a request for exemption and, in his/her sole discretion, may determine whether to grant an exemption under the Laws to required immunizations.

The School may deny admission to a Student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement, if the Director of the ODH notifies the Superintendent that a chicken pox epidemic exists in the School's population. The denial of admission shall cease when the ODH notifies the Superintendent that the epidemic no longer exists. The academic standing of a Student who is denied admission during a chicken pox epidemic may be preserved in accordance with the admission, testing, and other policies of the School, and subject to Superintendent and Board approval.

E. Tuberculosis Testing

The Board and School shall follow the requirements and recommendations of Ohio law and the ODH, if any, with regard to tuberculosis testing of students.

R.C. 3313.67; 3313.671.

Emergency Medical Authorization

The School will annually distribute to parents or guardians of all students the "Health & Fitness Parental Consent Form" and the "Emergency Medical Authorization Form." In the event emergency medical treatment for a student is necessary, the School will adhere to the instructions on the authorization form.

Emergency Medical Authorizations will be kept in a separate, easily accessible file in the care of the Principal or his/her designee during the school year. At the end of the school year, the authorizations will be stored until being replaced the following school year.

Any time a student or a group of students are taken away from the School's facilities as participants in a school event, the staff in charge of the event must take the Emergency Medical Authorizations for those students. This includes, and is not limited to, music trips, athletic trips, field trips, and academic contest participants. This does not include student spectators at events.

Whenever it is necessary for staff members to use emergency procedures in order to care properly for a student, they are to take standard safety precautions, follow the procedures described in the Emergency Medical Procedures policy (Policy 405), and are not to abide by any "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) agreement that may exist for a student, unless ordered to do so by a court of law.

Control of Communicable Diseases

The School recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient operation of the School.

For purposes of this policy, “communicable diseases” shall include Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Chickenpox, Cholera, Conjunctivitis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, Diarrhea (infectious or of unknown cause), Diphtheria, Ebola Virus, Escherichia coli (E. coli) O157:H7 or hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), Giardiasis, Hepatitis A, Measles, Meningitis (aseptic, and viral meningoencephalitis, but not including arthropod-borne disease), Meningococcal disease, Mumps, Pediculosis, Pertussis (whooping cough), Plague, Rubella, Salmonellosis, Scabies, Shigellosis, Smallpox, Streptococcal infection, Tuberculosis (TB), Typhoid fever, Typhus, Viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF), Yellow fever, and Yersiniosis. This list is not exhaustive and may be modified in accordance with State and Federal law.

In order to protect the health and safety of the students, school personnel, and the community at large, the School shall follow all state and federal laws and Board of Health regulations that pertain to communicable disease.

On the recommendation of a physician or a nurse, a teacher may exclude from the classroom and the Superintendent or his/her designee may exclude from the building or isolate in the School any student who appears to be ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease.

The School shall:

1. instruct teaching staff members in the detection of disease and measures for its prevention and control;
2. remove from School property to the care of a responsible adult any student identified and excluded in accordance with this policy;
3. prepare standards for or follow the health department of Center for Disease Control guidelines for the readmission of a student who has recovered from communicable disease; and
4. file reports as required by law and the State Department of Health.

Specific procedures outlined in the Appendices should be adhered to where applicable.

Head Lice

When a suspected case of head lice is brought to the Superintendent or his/her designee’s attention, the Student will be examined. If the examination detects the presence of head lice and/or nits (lice eggs) in the scalp and hair, the Student’s Parents will be informed via telephone of the discovery and of the Student’s exclusion from classes. Parents will be advised to remove the Student from the School for proper pediculicide treatment. The School will give Parents a

copy of **Appendix 410-A** Ohio Department of Health Head Lice Information Pamphlet. If any siblings attend the School, the siblings will be examined for head lice and/or nits.

After the Student has been treated and is ready to return to School, the Student must first report to the Principal's office or school nurse's office accompanied by an adult to be examined by the school nurse or Principal or his/her designee. **THE STUDENT MAY RETURN TO CLASS IF: [CHECK ONE] X THE STUDENT IS FREE OF LIVE HEAD LICE.** If Principal or his/her designee is not satisfied that the Student is sufficiently free of live lice and/or nits as required by this policy, the Student will be sent home with the Parents and may attempt to return to School again the following day. The Student will be re-examined for live head lice one (1) week after the Student is allowed to return to class.

When lice are detected in a classroom, the rest of the class will be examined to identify possible presence of lice or nits. When three or more students in any classroom are found to have head lice, the Principal or his/her designee shall send informative materials home with each class member.

Peanut or Other Food Allergies

The School recognizes that food allergies, in some instances, may be severe and even life-threatening. The School has adopted this policy to create a framework for accommodating students with peanut and other food allergies and to reduce the likelihood of severe allergic reactions of students with known food allergies while at School. This food allergy policy shall be developed based on input from a committee made up of community members such as parents, school nurses, and other school employees, school volunteers, students, and community members.

Parent/Student Responsibility

1. Parents of students, or students age eighteen (18) or older, with food allergies must provide written notification to the Principal of such allergies at the beginning of each School year.
2. Parents of students with life threatening food allergies must provide the School with emergency medications, execute an Emergency Medical Authorization Form, found in **Appendix 406-B**, and cooperate with the School to formulate a Food Allergy Action Plan as described below.
3. Parents are responsible for educating their child on managing his/her food allergy at School, including, but not limited to, identifying "safe foods," by reviewing the weekly lunch menu together, and discussing the vigilance required to self-monitor food products sold at athletic events or special student sales, foods brought for potlucks or classroom celebrations, or foods served on School-sponsored trips.

School Responsibility

1. The School must cooperate in the development of a Food Allergy Action Plan for students with life threatening allergies. The Food Allergy Action Plan must address what actions will be taken to avoid exposure at School and what actions will be taken in the event of exposure. The Plan shall be developed through consultation between the School nurse (if any) (or other School staff or person if none), the student's parents, and the student's physician or allergist. Once created, this Plan should be reviewed and updated annually by the School, the student's parents, and the student's physician or allergist.
2. The School will share the Food Allergy Action Plan developed with appropriate School staff.
3. With the consent of the student's parents, a Food Allergy Action Plan may provide a mechanism for the School to notify the student's classmates and/or a student's classmates' parents of a life threatening food allergy in the classroom.

R.C. 3313.719

Student Suicide

The School recognizes that a Student with self-destructive and suicidal thoughts poses a danger both to himself/herself and to other students and School faculty and staff. The School shall incorporate training in youth suicide awareness and prevention into in-service training required under Ohio law. Each person employed as a nurse, teacher, counselor, school psychologist, or administrator must undergo training at least once every two years.

The School may provide appropriate instruction on personal safety and assault prevention to all students in grades kindergarten through 6. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the School may provide at least one hour or one standard class period per school year of evidence-based instruction for students in grades 6-12 in each of the following topics:

- Suicide awareness and prevention;
- Safety training and violence prevention; and
- Social inclusion.

Students may be excused from instruction in these areas upon written request from the parent.

All School personnel, including teachers and School staff, should be watchful of a Student who exhibits signs of unusual depression or threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or persons familiar with the Student outside of the School should be taken seriously.

Where any teacher or School staff member reasonably suspects that a Student may be self-destructive or exhibiting signs of unusual depression, the teacher or staff member should report all concerns to the Principal or his/her designee and/or School counseling services, including a School Guidance Counselor. The School should also take all reasonable steps to alert a

Student's parent or legal guardian of any concerns related to threats or attempts to commit suicide.

The School shall immediately notify the public Children's Services Agency or local law enforcement agency if, in the course of contact, the parent or guardian refuses to acknowledge the Student's suicidal intent and indicates no plan to act for the safety of the Student, or if the parent is unavailable to be consulted.

If it is believed that a Student poses immediate risk to himself/herself or others, the Principal or his/her designee or a School counselor should immediately contact necessary local emergency medical and law enforcement agencies and the Student's parent or legal guardian. The School shall ensure that all emergency protocols are followed when the Principal or his/her designee determines that it is necessary to initiate such procedures.

Throughout any intervention, it is essential that Board policies and School guidelines regarding confidentiality be observed at all times.

The School should take all reasonable steps to provide a Student with information related to suicide prevention including **twenty-four hour suicide prevention hotlines available via telephone at 1-800-273-8255.**

R.C. 3319.073; O.A.C. 3301-57-01.

Pregnant Students

No student, whether married or unmarried, who is enrolled in the School shall be denied an educational program solely because of pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy-related disabilities, or actual or potential parenthood.

The School reserves the right to require as a prerequisite for attendance in the regular classes of the School and the co-curricular and extra-curricular programs of the School that each pregnant student present to the Principal or his/her designee her physician's written statement that such activity will not be injurious to her health nor jeopardize her pregnancy.

TECHNOLOGY

Acceptable Use Policy

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Electronic Communication Devices

While on School property, in a School vehicle, or while attending School-sponsored or School-related activities, whether on or off School property, Students shall be permitted to possess and use electronic communication devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, beepers, iPods, pagers, radios, CD/MP3/DVD players, video recorders, video games, personal data devices, or other devices deemed to be distracting, provided they observe the following conditions:

1. Devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, or educational mission including, but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual. **Unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a certified employee authorizes the student to do otherwise, devices shall be turned off during the School day.** They may be stored in the Student's backpack during the School day, but **may only be turned on and operated before and after the regular school day.**
2. **When Students violate this prohibition, they shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to losing the privilege of bringing the device onto School property. In addition, an administrator may confiscate the device, which shall only be returned to the Student's Parent. All requests to confiscate these items must be complied with in a spirit of cooperation.** If, upon confiscation, the School becomes aware of other misuse of the device, or, has a reasonable suspicion of other violations of School policy, the Student may be disciplined for additional violations of this or other School policies. In other words, a Student loses his/her privacy rights in the device and information contained in the device, once a School policy is violated and the device confiscated so long as the School has a reasonable suspicion of misuse.
3. Students are responsible for devices they bring to School. The School shall not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of devices brought onto School property.
4. Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the School concerning appropriate use of electronic communication devices.
5. Students shall not utilize an electronic communication device in a manner that would violate the School's Technology and Internet Acceptable Use Policy or its Student Code of Conduct.
6. Examples of types of prohibited behavior involving electronic communication devices include, but are not limited to:

- a. text messaging on or off School Property during School hours to or from a student on School Property;
- b. sexting, which is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones or other electronic communication devices;
- c. using digital cameras or camera phones to invade the privacy of others by transmitting unauthorized or derogatory photos or video clips to another person via email, to another camera phone or by posting it on the web;
- d. using digital cameras, camera phones, or any other device to cheat on examination;
- e. playing digital games;
- f. using digital cameras, camera phones, or any other device to harass or bully another.

Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Unacceptable uses of Technology/Internet include but are not limited to:

1. Violating the conditions of federal and Ohio law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy; trespassing in others' folders, work, or files; copying other people's work or attempting to intrude onto other people's files; or using other users' email addresses and passwords.
2. Using profanity, obscenity, or other language which may be offensive to another user; sending messages with derogatory or inflammatory remarks about an individual's race, sex, age, disability, religion, national origin, or physical attributes via the Internet or Technology; bullying, insulting, intimidating, or attacking others; or transmitting any material in violation of federal or state law.
3. Accessing profanity, obscenity, abusive, pornographic, and/ or impolite language or materials; accessing materials in violation of the Student Code of Conduct; or viewing, sending, or accessing materials that you would not want instructors and parents to see. Should a student encounter any inappropriate materials by accident, he/she should report it to his or her instructors immediately.
4. Violating copyright laws by illegally downloading or installing music, any commercial software, shareware, or freeware. You are required to strictly comply with all licensing agreements relating to any software. All copyright laws must be respected.
5. Plagiarizing works through the Internet or other Technology. Plagiarism is taking ideas of others and presenting them as if they were original to the user.
6. Damaging Technology devices, computers, computer systems, or computer networks (for example, by the creation, introduction, or spreading of computer viruses, physically abusing hardware, altering source codes or software settings, etc.).

7. Using the Technology or the Internet for commercial purposes or activities, which are defined as offering or providing goods or services or purchasing goods or services for personal use, and include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. any activity that requires an exchange of money and/or credit card numbers;
 - b. any activity that requires entry into an area of service for which the School will be charged a fee;
 - c. any purchase or sale of any kind; or
 - d. any use for product advertisement or political lobbying.
8. Neither the Internet nor any other Technology may be used for any purpose which is illegal or against the School's policies or contrary to the School's mission or best interests.

All users are expected to be responsible, courteous and thoughtful when using Technology and the Internet. Common sense should prevail. The use of the School computer network system should be in support of education and research, consistent with the educational mission or objectives of the School and in accordance with federal law, Ohio law, and the Student Code of Conduct

Students and Staff have no expectation of privacy with respect to the use of Technology, the Internet, intranet, or email. The School monitors the online activities of students. Maintenance and monitoring of the School network system may lead to the discovery that a user has or is violating School policy or the law. Violations of School policy, the Student Code of Conduct, or the law may result in severe penalties, up to and including expulsion.

The School makes no warranties of any kind; either express or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the School technology system will be error-free or without defect. The School will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data, interruptions of service, or computer viruses. The School is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the School system. The School will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the authorized use of the system.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), the School has placed a filter on its Internet access as one step to help protect its users from intentionally or unintentionally viewing inappropriate material. The School blocks the categories that are determined to be potentially inappropriate. However, families must be aware that some material accessible via the Internet contains illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive language and/or images. While the goal of the School is to use Internet resources to achieve educational goals, there is always a risk of students accessing other materials. Parents should be aware of these risks.

The School will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms. The School will also educate students on cyberbullying awareness and response.

Cyber Threats

Types of Information

Information is everywhere and constantly going from one person to another, from one device to another, etc. By law, some information is protected from disclosure, and, while some information is not technically legally-protected information, it nonetheless has value.

Types of Threats

The most common types of threats are:

- Data Breach. A leak or spill of sensitive, protected, or confidential data from a secure environment to an insecure environment, where the data may then be copied, transmitted, viewed, stolen, or used in an unauthorized manner. Data breaches often occur with confidential information.
- Denial of Service. Also known as a Distributed Denial of Service (“DDoS”) attack, occurs when a server is deliberately overloaded with requests such that the Website shuts down. Users are then unable to access the Website.
- Spoofing/Phishing. Both spoofing and phishing involve the use of fake electronic documents. Spoofing refers to the dissemination of an email that is forged to appear as though it was sent by someone other than the actual source. Phishing is the act of sending an email falsely claiming to be a legitimate organization in an attempt to deceive the recipient into divulging sensitive information (e.g., passwords, credit card numbers, or bank account information) after directing the user to visit a fake website.
 - Speare phishing is a more targeted form of phishing and typically involves sending an email that appears to come from a colleague or acquaintance.
- Malware/Scareware. Illicit software that damages or disables computers or computer systems. Similar to malware is scareware, which uses social engineering to cause fear or anxiety so that a user buys unwanted and unneeded software, such as antivirus software. Computers can become infected through downloading a piece of malware or scareware disguised as legitimate software from peer-to-peer file sharing or email attachments or links. To help prevent malware or scareware, users should keep their software up to date so that any critical software patches are received. Users should also install antivirus software.
 - Ransomware is form of malware in which perpetrators encrypt users’ files, and then demand the payment of a ransom—typically in virtual currency such as Bitcoin—for the users to regain access to their data. Ransomware can also include

an element of extortion, in which the perpetrator threatens to publish data or images if the victim does not pay. The ransomware is frequently delivered through phishing/spoofing scams.

- Unpatched or Outdated Software Vulnerabilities. Vulnerabilities occur when unpatched or outdated software has not been updated to include the latest software updates allowing unauthorized users to gain access to information networks and systems.
- Removable Media. Media devices that can be connected to computers (e.g. thumb drives, CDs, DVDs, and external hard drives) can be easily stolen, exposing private data. Corrupted devices can be intentionally or unwittingly connected to computers allowing the device to infect the computer with malware.

Types of Security and Preparing for Threats

The School takes a holistic approach to security. There are several security “layers”, and each one has its own security strategy as outlined below:

- **Physical Security** The security of brick and mortar buildings, as well as the students, faculty, and staff that learn, teach, and work in them..
- **Network Security** Focused on ensuring there is not any unauthorized traffic flowing across the network that no one is abusing or gaining illegitimate access to network-connected resources and that sensitive information is security while it is traversing the network (data in motions). DDoS attacks are a form of network resource abuse, and mitigating those attacks is a critical component of network security.
- **Application Security** Eliminating software vulnerabilities that could lead to security breaches.
- **Content Security** Focused on protecting data at rest (e.g., in a database) and on complying with various local, state, and federal requirements for data security and privacy.

- **End Point Security** Traditionally concerned with keeping malicious or otherwise unwanted and unauthorized software and users of endpoint devices. This includes asset location tracking and processes for eliminating sensitive data from and reporting lost or stolen devices.

- **Cloud/Data Center Security** Focused on ensuring the School’s core computing resources are appropriately patched and segmented to prevent unauthorized access and contain any unauthorized access if it does occur.

Identifying an Incident

When a security incident occurs, the School’s Incident Response Plan will enable the School to focus on containment, rather than identifying the people and processes that need to occur. A successful incident management program combines people, processes, and technology.

Reporting and Incident

In the event of a suspect incident, the School’s Superintendent or his or her designee and the School’s IT Director should be immediately notified with details regarding the reasons underlying the suspicion. The Incident Response Team (“IRT”), which shall include the Superintendent or his or her designee and the IT Director, will work to limit the damage and preserve the protected/sensitive information, and determine the amount of outside external assistance required to assist with addressing the threat.

Any individual whose personal information may have been compromised may make a report to any of the following:

- FBI, via a Field Office Cyber Task Force;
- Internet Crime Complaint Center;
- National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (cywatch@ic.fbi.gov);
- National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC@hq.dhs.gov);
or
- U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (“US-CERT”).

Once the incident has been contained, recovery may be needed for people, policies, and technology—all of which are interconnected. The IRT will need to identify the technology and people impacted by the incident, and address any known causes or existing vulnerabilities

Social Media Policy

A social network is a web site on the [Internet](#) that brings people together in a central location to talk, share ideas, share interests, make new friends, etc. This type of collaboration and sharing of data is often referred to as social media. Unlike traditional media that is often created by no more than 10 people, social media sites contain content that has been created by hundreds or even millions of different people. Some of the biggest social network sites used today is Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube and Snapchat, but there are literally thousands of other social sites on the Internet. Although the use of social media has become very popular, we feel that its use causes disruptions in the learning process. Following are several rules governing social media at The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School:

1. The use of social media is prohibited at The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School at all times, unless under the direction of school personnel. This includes accessing the social media through the school’s computers and/or network or the students’ own personal communication device (PCD). PCDs include computers, tablets (e.g., iPads and similar devices),

electronic readers ("e-readers"; e.g. Kindles and similar devices), cell phones (e.g., mobile/cellular telephones, smartphones (e.g., BlackBerry, iPhone, Android devices, Windows Mobile devices, etc.), telephone paging devices (e.g., beepers or pagers), and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

2. Anything students post on a social media site can potentially be harmful to the person(s) posting the information and/or the person(s) the information or images are being posted about. **If a student(s) posts messages or images that cause a disruption at school (even if the postings are completed during non-school hours), disciplinary action will be taken (Which could result in suspension/expulsion from school).** It is the responsibility of the student and parent to make sure that the use of social media outside of the school does not affect what happens inside of the school. The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School urge parents and students to use social media properly, exercising sound judgment and common sense. Additionally, The Edge Academy, Akros Middle School, and AkroTech High School strongly encourage parents to monitor student use of social media at home.

Students that post derogatory or threatening remarks, or disclose confidential information will face disciplinary action.