

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024



200 Glamorgan Street
Alliance OH 44601
330-821-2100
www.alliancecityschools.org
Rob Gress, Superintendent

Welcome

Alliance Students and Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff, and administration, I'd like to welcome you to the Alliance City Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

This school year promises to be a year of successes for our students and staff as we move toward our vision of preparing all Aviators for success in life, college and careers by providing safe learning environments, rigorous, relevant, and engaging work and opportunities for students to excel in the arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities aligned to their individual interest and talents.

The purpose of this handbook is to inform students and parents of the high expectations we have for our students at Alliance City Schools. If there are any questions regarding policies and procedures, please do not hesitate to ask a teacher or administrator for further assistance.

Again, welcome to Alliance City Schools and we hope your year will be successful and enjoyable.

Sincerely,



Rob Gress
Superintendent

Vision and Mission Statement:

Vision ~ All Aviators will graduate prepared for life, college and careers.

Mission ~ Our mission is for all students to reach their fullest potential and become productive citizens through staff who establish high expectations; a safe, positive and engaging learning environment; and content that supports critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity.

Aviator Profile:

1. Communicators - Ask thoughtful questions, listen well and are able to clearly and concisely express their thoughts and ideas.
 2. Collaborators - Are able to compromise and work with people of all personality types and backgrounds to reach a common goal.
 3. Critical thinkers - Have the ability to analyze and assess complex problems or situations and produce logical conclusions or solutions.
 4. Creative innovators - Use imaginative and unique ideas to develop more efficient and effective methods of problem solving.
 5. Caring citizens - Have selfless attitudes and strive to build stronger communities through civic pride, volunteerism and community involvement.
 6. Courageous risk takers - Are not afraid to take chances in order to accomplish something greater or facilitate change, whether it involves their career, finances, personal life or society.
-

Alma Mater:

On the rolling verdant terrace, with the trees close by
Stands our noble Alma Mater, Dear Alliance High.
Lift your voices, laud and praise her, for there are but few
That is like our Alma Mater, hail the Red and Blue.
Far above all other schools, stands Alliance High,
She will never be forgotten, as the years go by.
Lift your voices, laud and praise her, for there are but few
That are like our Alma Mater, hail the Red and Blue

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SECTION I ~ GENERAL INFORMATION

I to I TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The mission of the 1-to-1 program in the Alliance City School District is to create a collaborative learning environment for all learners. This environment will enable and support students and teachers to implement transformative uses of technology while enhancing students’ engagement with content and promoting the development of self-directed and lifelong learners. Students will transition from consumers of information to creative producers and owners of knowledge. The team will establish collaborative professional learning communities, based on integrative professional development for teachers, so that this program enhances classroom environments implementing high quality instruction, assessment and learning through the integration of technology and curriculum. Technology immersion does not diminish the vital role of the teacher. To the contrary, it transforms the teacher from a director of learning to a facilitator of learning. The Board of Education, district staff and community members will all play a key role in the development of effective and high quality educational experiences.

ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

All students will be permitted to use the computer and the internet for assigned research and class projects by signing the Alliance City Schools Acceptable Use Policy annually. Internet usage is not for visiting chat rooms, instant messaging, using social media sites, downloading music or for unsupervised personal entertainment. Not following the guidelines may result in suspension and/or loss of privileges or other administrative consequences.

AFTER SCHOOL

All students are to leave the building within 10 minutes after dismissal unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member, advisor, or coach. Students are not to remain after school for activities that occur after the end of the school day. If a student is assigned or chooses to stay after school for a school sanctioned activity, it is the student’s responsibility to notify their parents in advance, along with providing an estimated time of completion and setting up appropriate transportation at the duration of the activity.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Any change of address or telephone number during the school year is to be reported to the home school office or updated at any time in Final Forms.

BICYCLES

The Board of Education regards the use of bicycles for travel to and from school by students as an assumption of responsibility on the part of those students - a responsibility in the care of property, in the observation of safety rules, and in the display of courtesy and consideration toward others. The Board will permit the use of bicycles by students in accordance with the administrative guidelines of the Superintendent. The Board will not be responsible for bicycles which are lost, stolen, or damaged.

CHILD FIND

Each year school districts throughout Ohio participate in an effort to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, birth through 21. A disability means there are conditions such as a multi-handicap, hearing, visual, orthopedic, and/or other health handicap, severe behavior disorder and/or speech/language handicap. Many times children with disabilities are not visible because they do not function in the mainstream of a community. Parents are not always aware that there are programs and services available for these children. If you know of a child who may have one or more of the

above suspected disabilities, including preschool age children, please contact the Office of Student Services at 330-821-2100.

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

Students with chronic health conditions will be provided with a free appropriate public education. If their impairment does not require specially designed instruction for them to benefit educationally, they will be eligible for accommodations/modifications/interventions of the regular classroom, curriculum, or activity (i.e. the school setting) so that they have the same access to an education as students without disabilities. Such accommodations/modifications/interventions will be provided pursuant to a Section 504 Plan (form 2260.01 F13).

Chronic health conditions, for the purposes of this policy, shall include medically diagnosed:

- "Peanut" and other food allergies;
- Allergies;
- Asthma;
- Diabetes;
- Seizure disorders.

All information regarding student identification, health care management, and emergency care shall be safeguarded as personally identifiable information in accordance with Policy 8330 and Policy 8350.

The District will coordinate school health practices for management of a chronic health condition and shall provide for:

- A. Implement of individual health care action plans as prescribed by physicians;
- B. Coordination of healthcare management activities by school staff;
- C. Communication among school staff who interact with children with chronic health conditions;
- D. Development of protocols to prevent exposure/episodic reactions.

School health practices shall provide students with chronic health conditions the opportunity for:

- A. Full participation in physical activities when students are well;
- B. Modified activities as indicated by the student's health care action plan, 504 plan, or Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
- C. Access to preventative medications before activity (as prescribed by their medical providers) an immediate access to emergency medications during activity;
- D. Communication regarding student health status between parents, physicians, teachers (particularly physical education teachers), and coaches.

Healthcare management activities shall include:

- A. Procedures to obtain, maintain, and utilize written health care action plans, signed by the child's parents and physician, for each student with a chronic health condition;
- B. Procedures for students to have immediate access to medications in accordance with Policy 5330 and AG 5330 that allow students to self-care and self-administer medications, inhalers, and EpiPens, as prescribed by a medical professional and approved by parents/guardians;
- C. Management and care of the student's chronic health condition in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, or at any school related activity or event.

Staff will be trained about chronic health conditions and their control in each school in which there is a student with a chronic health condition.

Designated staff who have responsibility for specialized services such as giving inhaler treatments or injections, or conducting glucose and/or ketone tests shall be provided training specific to the procedures by a licensed health professional.

The school nurse shall maintain a copy of the training program and the record of training completed by school employees.

CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The School District has an obligation to protect staff and students from non casual-contact communicable disease if suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The School will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non Casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents may be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception is applicable, students shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, and in accordance with policies of the Board and/or may be reassigned by the Superintendent to an online/virtual learning environment if the Superintendent determines that reassignment is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or others.

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

Use of Mask/Face Covering

Face coverings/masks should:

- A. fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- B. fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;

- C. not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- D. be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

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

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

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

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

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

Use of Face Shields

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

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

DRESS CODE

Students and staff are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate to the school environment and does not cause disruption to the academic process. Research has shown a correlation between appearance and behavior, especially in the school setting. Cleanliness and appropriateness are the two (2) most important aspects of personal appearance. While the standard of cleanliness is rather obvious, the standard of appropriateness raises some questions. What is appropriate for a formal occasion would not be worn at a picnic. Thus, appropriateness is relative to what the activity is and the activity's purpose. In the District, the activity is education and the purpose is learning.

To assist parents, students, staff and administrators general guidelines for appropriate dress and appearance include the following.

- A. Parents and students maintain responsibility for their dress and personal appearance.
- B. When any dress or grooming interferes with the cleanliness, health, welfare, or safety of students, or when any dress or grooming disrupts the educational process by being distracting, indecent, or inappropriate to the educational process, it is prohibited.
- C. Sponsors and teachers of elective programs (such as vocational classes) or elective activities (such as sports and music) may require more strict standards regarding dress and appearance for participants in their program or activity.
- D. The principal, with the assistance of the staff, has the responsibility of uniformly administering the dress code. The decision of the principal is final.
- E. As new trends in fashion or dress are accepted or become out of date, the District reviews the changing standards of the community served.

In order to minimize misunderstanding in terms of what is appropriate for the District, the following regulations will define appropriate standards for dress while at school or school sponsored activities:

- A. No shorts or mini-skirts that end above mid-thigh.
- B. No shirts or blouses that expose the midriff (they must be able to be tucked in).
- C. No tank tops, muscle shirts, halters, or excessively low cut shirts.
- D. Hats, coats, bandannas, and sunglasses are not to be carried to or worn in class.
- E. No dress that promotes hate, violence, profanity, vulgar, or negative messages, anything advertising or related to alcohol, tobacco, and drugs or anything sexually explicit.
- F. No transparent garments, open mesh garments, or garments with large open sides may be worn without an under liner.
- G. Shoes or sandals must be worn and must not present a safety hazard.
- H. No biking pants, spandex, or tights worn as pants

- I. Hair must be clean, worn out of the eyes, and groomed at all times; free of grooming tools such as picks, rollers, combs, and other such articles.
- J. Lower garments are to be worn at waist level; if a belt is worn, it must be of proper length; undergarments are not to be exposed or worn as outerwear.
- K. No “dog collars”, spiked bracelets or chains that could be dangerous to persons or destructive to school property.
- L. No gang or cult-related items of any kind.
- M. No inappropriately tattered clothing or clothing with inappropriate holes.

Student violations of the dress code can result in removal from class (until the violation can be resolved) and disciplinary action. Parents will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing for their student to change attire.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Board policy requires that the following guidelines be followed for early dismissal of any student.

- A. Only principals or designee(s) may release a student from school before the end of the school day.
- B. Principals or designee(s) may release students before the end of a school day only upon presentation of a written or face-to-face request from the child’s parent or for emergency reasons.
- C. Requests for early dismissal should be submitted to the principal or designee as early in the school day as possible.
- D. Students may be released only to a parent, whose signature is on file in the school office or to a properly-identified person authorized in writing by the parent to act on their behalf.
- E. A student may be released “on his/her own” only with verified parental permission.

EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS

If the School must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the School will notify the following radio and television stations: 1310 AM WDPN, 1480 AM WHBC, 92.5 FM, 94.1 FM & 91.1 WRMU, WNIR 100, WJMP 1520, Cleveland TV Channels 3, 5, 8 & 19

- Information concerning school closings or delays can also be found on the School’s web page at www.alliancacityschools.org
- Parents will be notified of school closings or delays via a pre-recorded telephone message delivered to the phone number on file.

Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the school each year in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

English Language Learners are students whose primary or home language is other than English who need special language assistance in order to effectively participate in school instructional programs. If a student has a language other than English spoken in the home and has completed the Home Language Survey at enrollment, the student will be assessed for English Language Proficiency. If the student qualifies, he/she is then an ELL (English Language Learner). ELLs may be born in the USA or come from other countries.

ENROLLING IN SCHOOL

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian reside.

- A. Unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy.
- B. Unless enrolling and paying tuition.

New students under the age of 18 must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian.

When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. a birth certificate or similar document
- B. Court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities , or custody (if appropriate)
- C. Proof of residency
- D. Proof of immunizations

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment. Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The district registrar will assist in obtaining the transcript and sent to the home school,, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the District Liaison Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

New students 18 years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

A student suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the District's school during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission , however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has been recently discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, the student will not be admitted until the following records, which are required to be released by DYS to the Superintendent, have been received:

- A. an updated copy of the student's transcript;
- B. a report of the student's behavior while in DYS custody;
- C. The student's current IEP, if one has been developed for the child; and
- D. a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

Foreign students and foreign-exchange students (from recognized and approved student programs) are eligible for admission on the same basis as other non-resident students.

TITLE IX

The Alliance City School District has developed policies that focus on the right of pupils and the right to participate in academic, athletic, and any other extra curricular activities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin or disability.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

In accordance with all federal, state, and local laws Alliance City Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, military status ancestry, genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes"), or any other legally protected category, in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. (In accordance with Policy 4122). Alliance City Schools Section 504 Coordinator is Dr. Amy Cramer and the Title IX Coordinators are Mr. Shawn Jackson and Mrs. Michelle Balderson, 200 Glamorgan St. Alliance, OH 44601.

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship, and/or personal sense of self-worth. As such, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the Protected Classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators").

Michelle Balderson
Director of Primary Education
330-821-2100 Ext. 1254
200 Glamorgan St., Alliance, OH 44601
baldersonmi@alliancecityschools.org

Shawn Jackson
Director of Secondary Education
330-821-2100 Ext. 1243
200 Glamorgan St., Alliance, OH 44601
jacksonsh@alliancecityschools.org

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation, or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po2260

NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

Coverage

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

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

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

The Board of the Alliance City School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations:

Shawn Jackson
Director of Secondary Education
330-821-2100 Ext. 1243
200 Glamorgan St., Alliance, Ohio 44601
jacksonsh@alliancecityschools.org

Michelle Balderson
Director of Elementary Education
330-821-2100. Ext. 1254
200 Glamorgan St., Alliance, Ohio 44601

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

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po2266

ANTI-HARASSMENT

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that 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 discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

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

Definitions

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

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the Reporting Party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

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

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

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

Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one (1) or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation, and may involve:

- A. teasing;
- B. threats;
- C. intimidation;
- D. stalking;
- E. cyberstalking;
- F. cyberbullying;
- G. physical violence;
- H. theft;
- I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
- J. public humiliation; or
- K. destruction of property.

Harassment

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;

- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Sexual Harassment

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes, or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings, or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.
- H. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

- I. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggests the desire for a romantic relationship.
- J. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.
- K. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- L. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- M. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment, or such that it is intended to, or has the effect of, denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or activities.

Race/Color Harassment

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

National Origin/Ancestry Harassment

Prohibited national origin/ancestry harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin or ancestry and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin or ancestry, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such

harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The following individual(s) shall serve as the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer(s) (hereinafter, "the Compliance Officer(s)"):

Michelle Balderson
Director of Primary Education
330-821-2100 Ext. 1254
200 Glamorgan St., Alliance, OH 44601
baldersonmi@alliancecityschools.org

Shawn Jackson
Director of Secondary Education
330-821-2100 Ext. 1243
200 Glamorgan St., Alliance, OH 44601
jacksonsh@alliancecityschools.org

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually on the School District's website.

The Compliance Officer(s) are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding harassment.

The Compliance Officer(s) will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Compliance Officers shall accept reports of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a Third Party or receive reports that are initially filed with an administrator, supervisor, or other District-level official. Upon receipt of a report of alleged harassment, the Compliance Officer(s) will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the request of the Complainant or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer(s) will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The Compliance Officer(s) will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer(s) will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All Board employees must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) days of learning of the incident.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to the Compliance Officer(s) within two (2) days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer(s) or designee must contact the Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po5517

SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With respect to vocational education services, a qualified person with a disability means a disabled person who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the vocational program or activity.

Compliance Officer(s)

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

Dr. Amy Cramer
Director of Special Education
330-821-2100
200 Glamorgan St.

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually on each individual school's web site.

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

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

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

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

Training

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

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

Facilities

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

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

Education

The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities. An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For disabled students who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEIA, the special education and related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504

Plan (Form 2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan.

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability who resides within the District with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home.

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

Use the link [Alliance City Schools Board of Education Policies](#) to see the full board policy code po2260.01

FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS

The School complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. The School conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety drills will be conducted once per school year. Teachers will provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property, or other acts of violence.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency.

iCARE TEAM

iCare teams are in place in each of the Alliance City Schools for students and families to ensure that academic, behavioral, and social programs and services meet students' individual needs to achieve their potential. Teams are teachers, staff, administrators, and community agencies.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Kindergarten students must be immunized against Hepatitis B and chickenpox. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic,

the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to District Health Nurse.

The Ohio Department of Health with the Ohio Department of Education announced new requirement that for the 2016-17 school year that all incoming 12th graders are to have the Meningococcal (Meningitis) vaccine prior to the start of the school year. All 7th graders are to have received the Tdap vaccine and the Meningococcal (Meningitis) vaccine prior to the start of the school year.

LOST AND FOUND

Check with the School office for the location of the lost and found. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

LUNCH

National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

Alliance City Schools participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast program. Beginning in the school year 2016, Alliance schools were approved for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). The CEP is a Federal program that allows us to offer meals at No Cost to all of our students and provides funding to help support the cost of the Food Service Program. Alliance City Schools follows the Offer versus Serve policy sponsored by the USDA. Offer vs.

Serve is intended to decrease waste and costs by allowing students to refuse up to two components in a lunch and one component in a breakfast. The lunch components consist of a meat/meat alternative (cheese, beans or yogurt), grain (bread, rice, or noodles), vegetable, fruit, and milk. The breakfast components consist of an entrée, fruit/juice and milk. All students are required to take a fruit or vegetable when buying lunch.

Pay-For- It

Our Point of Sale system is set-up to take credit/debit cards and electronic checks via the Pay-For-It system found at www.payforit.net. An account needs to be set-up for your child(ren) using their PIN (student ID) number. This system will allow you to view the purchases your child(ren) have made for the past 14 days as well as allow you to add money to their account. The system can also send email reminders of your child's account balance when you set up the information. You do not have to pay online to view your child's account.

Point of Sale Software

Food services operates under a Point of Sale (POS) system, which means EVERY student must type in their student ID number (PIN) in order to purchase any items. Under POS, each student has an account and the correct amount is removed (debited) from the account when the child purchases an item. Parents are encouraged to send money in the form of checks to be placed on student accounts or on our on-line payment system (see pay-for- it above). Please place the child's name or PIN number in the memo portion of the check. All money left on the account at the end of the school year, stays with the student and will transfer to the next grade. Refunds are only granted if a student withdraws from the school district. Please contact the Food Services Dept for any questions.

PRICING

Breakfast

Breakfast- No Cost/Adult- \$2.00

Lunch

Elementary Lunch – No Cost

Middle and High School Lunches- No Cost

Extra Entrée \$1.50

Extra Milk- \$0.50

Adult Lunch- \$3.00

Charge Policy

Should our No Cost Meals change, Alliance City Schools will allow a child to charge a meal in the event that the child forgets his/her lunch money. At this time, we do not allow charging for a la carte items. Please set-up an account in the Pay-For-It system to view your child's balance and purchases in order limit your child from having to charge. Grades Pre-K-5 are permitted to charge a total of three meals with a letter accompanying the child home, explaining that a charge took place. Grades 6-8 only three charges permitted per year with a letter accompanying the child home. There will be no charging at the High School. All charges must be paid in full prior to the Memorial Day holiday. There is no charging permitted after the Memorial Day holiday.

Special Dietary Needs and Food Allergies

Food Service is happy to accommodate students with special dietary needs and food allergies within our abilities. Students must provide written medical documentation from the treating physician in order to provide for this accommodation. This documentation must include, but is not limited to, a statement of the allergy, what dietary changes from the traditional school meal are necessary, what specific foods must be omitted or substituted and what dietary items can be used to replace the items. This documentation should be given to the school nurse.

We are unable to substitute any item for milk except in the case of an allergy or disability according to the USDA and the Ohio Department of Education [USDA Final Rule Fluid Milk Substitutions in the School Nutrition Program (73 FR 52903)]. We will provide a cup and water to any student that asks, as well as sell bottled water and juice cups a la carte. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NON-PRESCRIBED (OVER-THE-COUNTER) MEDICATIONS

No staff member will dispense non-prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student without prior parent authorization. Parents may authorize the administration of a non-prescribed medication on forms that are available from the principal's office/health aide/nurse. Physician authorization is not required in such cases.

By written notice parents may also authorize that their child () may self-administer non-prescribed medication.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, the student will be brought to the school office while the student's parents are contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

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, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is completed and on file in the principal/health aide/nurse's office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's *Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy* and asbestos management plan is available for inspection at the Board offices upon request.

RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND F.E.R.P.A.

Ohio Revised Code 3319.321 permits school districts to release directory information without the permission of the parent/guardian as long as it is not any person or group for use in a profit making plan or activity. Parents have the right to object, in writing, to the release of directory information. If parents/guardians do not want their child's Directory Information released to groups approved by the Alliance City Schools, they should notify the principal in writing. Alliance City Schools follows the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regarding all student records.

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health services have been integrated into Alliance City Schools to provide mental health services to all schools in the district. Through individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation to students and families the goal is for positive changes in student's academic performance and decreases in disciplinary problems. Please contact your building Principal or school counselor who is interested in services.

SPECIAL NEEDS REQUESTS

Upon request to the building administrator, the Alliance City School District shall make reasonable accommodations for a disabled person to participate in school activities. To make proper arrangements for the needed accommodation, please submit a written request to the building administrator a minimum of one week in advance of the scheduled school activity.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. (Section 504) prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- A. Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- B. Has a record of such an impairment; or
- C. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEIA), A.D.A. Section 504) and State Law. Contact the Office of Student Services at Alliance City Schools, 330-821-2105 to inquire about evaluation procedures, programs, and services.

STUDENT VALUABLES

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School is not liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables.

USE OF MEDICATIONS

Students who must take prescribed medication during the school day, must comply with the following guidelines:

- A. Parents should, with the counsel of their child's prescriber, decide whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.

- B. The Parent/Guardian Authorization & Physician Request Form must be filed with the building principal/health aide/nurse before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during the school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medication.
- C. All medications must be registered with the principal/health aide/nurse and must be delivered to school in the original containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.
- D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the principal/health aide/nurse by the student's parent or guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request. Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications for allergies and /or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours provided the student has written permission from a parent or physician and has submitted the proper forms. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication, epi pens, or inhalers to any other students for their use or possession.
 - () Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.
- E. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
- F. The health aide/nurse will maintain a log noting the date and the time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the prescriber's written request and the parent's written release.

USE OF OFFICE TELEPHONES

Office telephones may not be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call.

Telephones are available in the School for students to use when they are not in class. Students are not to use telephones to call parents to receive permission to leave school. Office personnel will initiate all calls on behalf of a student seeking permission to leave school.

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom. Students must seek permission from the Principal prior to using any other school equipment or facility. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students may possess wireless communication devices (WCDs) in school, on school property, during after school activities (e.g. extra-curricular activities) and at school-related functions, provided that during school hours and on school vehicles the WCDs are powered completely off (i.e., not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and concealed and secured in hall lockers (but not locker room lockers) or vehicles in the elementary and middle schools, and stored out of sight in the high school.

A "wireless communication device" is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. The following devices are examples of WCDs: cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), BlackBerrys/Smartphones, Wi-Fi-enabled or broadband access devices, two-way radios or video broadcasting devices, laptops, and other devices that allow a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information. Students may not use WCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

Also, during after school activities when directed by the administrator or sponsor, WCDs shall be powered completely off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

The requirement that WCDs must be powered completely off will not apply if the student is using the WCD for an educational or instructional purpose (e.g. taking notes, recording a class lecture, writing papers) with the teacher's permission and supervision, when the student obtains prior approval from the building principal. However, the use of any communication functionality of the WCD is expressly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, wireless Internet

access, peer-to-peer (ad-hoc) networking, or any other method of communication with other devices or networks. In no circumstances shall the device be allowed to connect to the District's network. The preceding prohibitions do not apply to Board-owned and issued laptops, PDAs or authorized assistive technology devices.

Students are prohibited from using WCDs to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using a WCD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal. Students who violate this provision and/or use a WCD to violate the privacy rights of another person may have their WCD confiscated and held until the end of the school year.

"Sexting" is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the WCD.

WCDs, including but not limited to those with cameras, may not be possessed, activated or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include but are not limited to locker rooms, shower facilities, restrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. The building principal has authority to make determinations as to other specific locations and situations where possession of a WCD is absolutely prohibited.

No expectation of confidentiality will exist in the use of WCDs on school premises/property.

Students are prohibited from using a WCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior.

Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their WCDs to receive such information.

Possession of a WCD by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the WCD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography). Discipline will be imposed on an progressive scale ranging from a warning to a recommendation for expulsion based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation. If the WCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed. Any WCD confiscated by District staff will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the building's central office until it is retrieved by the parent/guardian. WCDs in District custody will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance with Policy **5771** – Search and Seizure. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring a WCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis. A person who discovers a student in possession of or using a WCD in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the building principal. Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their WCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to WCDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices. Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office. Students may use school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

VISITORS

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the School. Visitors must report to the office upon entering the School to sign in and obtain a pass using our raptor system. Any visitor found in the building without (1) signing in (2) a pass shall be reported to the Principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, he/she should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.

Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL

No student under the age of eighteen (18) is allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his /her parents and in compliance with State law. A student who otherwise withdraws from school shall be reported to the juvenile judge of the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if he/she is under the age of 18. Parents must notify the home school or the district registrar about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records, including disciplinary records of suspension and expulsion, will be transferred to the new school within 14 days of the parents' notice or request.

STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES

The Board of Education will provide the necessary textbooks and/or electronic textbooks required by the course of study free of charge for its students. The Board may charge fees for any additional materials used in the course of instruction. The Board may furnish these additional materials free of charge to students determined to have a serious financial need. Any waiver of fees shall be made pursuant to Policy 6152.01.

The Board will not charge a fee to a student who is eligible for a free lunch under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 for any materials needed to enable the student to participate in a course of instruction. However, the Board may nonetheless charge a fee for materials needed for a student to participate in extracurricular activities or student enrichment programs or tools, equipment, and materials that are necessary for workforce-readiness career-technical education training program that may be retained by the students after completion of the course.

School fees shall be paid in advance for each school term at the time of initial registration or initial enrollment.

Fees

For the purposes of this policy, "school fees" or "fees" means any monetary charge collected by the District from a student or the parent(s) or guardian of a student as a prerequisite for the student's participation in any curricular or extracurricular program of the District.

A. "School fees" include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. all charges for required workbooks and instructional materials
2. all charges and deposits collected by a school for use of school property (e.g., locks, towels, laboratory equipment)
3. charges for field trips made during school hours, or made after school hours if the field trip is a required or customary part of a class or extra-curricular activity
4. graduation fees
5. school records fees
6. school health service fees

B. "School fees" do not include:

1. library fines and other charges made for the loss, misuse, or destruction of school property;
2. charges for the purchase of class rings, yearbooks, pictures, diploma covers, or similar items;
3. charges for optional travel undertaken by a school club or group of students outside of school hours;
4. charges for admission to school dances, athletic events, or other social events;
5. optional community service programs for which fees are charged (e.g., preschool before and after-school child care, recreation programs).

A charge shall not exceed the combined cost of the material used, freight and/or handling charges, and nominal add-on for loss. Money received from resale of such material shall be returned to the Treasurer with an accurate accounting of all transactions.

Fines

When school property, equipment, or supplies are damaged, lost, or taken by a student, a fine will be assessed. The fine will be reasonable, seeking only to compensate the school for the expense or loss incurred.

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

In accordance with R.C. 3313.642, failure to pay fees and fines may result in the withholding of grades and credit. In the event the above course of action does not result in the fee being collected, the Board authorizes the Treasurer to take the student and/or his/her parents to Small Claims Court for collection. Under no circumstances will the Board withhold the grades, credits, official transcripts, diploma, IEPs, or Section 504 Plans of a student for nonpayment of fees for materials used in the course of instruction, if a complaint has been filed at any time in a juvenile court alleging that the student is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, or if the student has been adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child. Further, the Board will transfer immediately the grades, credits, official transcripts, IEPs, or Section 504 Plans of a student upon the receipt of either another district's or school's request for those records pursuant to R.C. 3313.672, or a juvenile judge's order under R.C. 2151.272. The Superintendent may request a copy of any order regarding a child's custody or placement issued pursuant to a complaint filed under R.C. 2151.27. The Board, however, will not withhold records required to be transferred pursuant to this paragraph pending receipt of a copy of the order.

WAIVER OF SCHOOL FEES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Alliance City School District may waive fees assessed by the District for instructional materials for students who demonstrate a serious financial need. The Superintendent may, as deemed necessary, establish additional procedures to supplement the procedures established in this policy regarding the requests for the waiver of fees. This waiver does not include District fees associated with extra-curricular activities or student enrichment programs that are not part of a course of instruction.

Additionally, the District may charge fees for tools, equipment, and materials, as specified, that are necessary for workforce-readiness career-technical education training programs that may be retained by the students after completion of the course.

Eligibility Standards

Students eligible for a waiver of school fees include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Students who qualify for aid under Ohio Works First (R.C. 5107) or Disability Assistance (R.C. 5115).
- B. Students who qualify for free lunch under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.
- C. Students whose families have suffered very significant financial losses due to severe illness or injury in the family or unusual expenses including, but not limited to, fire, flood, or storm damage.
- D. Other good and just reasons.

Notification to Parents

- A. Annually the substance of this policy shall be communicated in writing to the parent(s) or guardian of all students in the District.
- B. The first bill or notice sent to parents or guardians who owe fees shall state:
 - 1. The District will waive fees for persons unable to afford them in accordance with its policy.
 - 2. The procedure for applying for a fee waiver, and the name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information concerning a fee waiver.

Procedures for Resolution of Disputes

- A. A parent(s) or guardian who cannot pay school fees may write a letter requesting a waiver of fees to the Superintendent. The letter must contain the following:
 - 1. name(s) of student(s)
 - 2. name of parent(s) or guardian(s)
 - 3. address of parent(s) or guardian(s)
 - 4. phone number of parent(s) or guardian(s)
 - 5. school where child(ren) attend(s)
 - 6. reason for request for waiver of fees

The Superintendent shall have the authority to review the waiver request and request such further information, if any, as s/he deems necessary in order to make a decision on that request.

- B. No fee shall be collected from any parent(s) or guardian who is seeking a fee waiver in accordance with the District's policy until the District has acted on the initial request or appeal (if any is made), and the parent(s) or guardian have been notified of the decision.
- C. If the Superintendent denies a request for fee waiver, then a copy of the decision shall be mailed to the parent(s) or guardian within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of the request. The decision shall state the reason for the denial and shall inform the parent(s) or guardian of the right to appeal, including the process and timelines for that action. The denial notice shall also include a statement informing the parent(s) or guardian that

reapplication may be made for a waiver any time during the school year, if circumstances change. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

Nondiscrimination

The Board expects all staff members to exercise the utmost care to see that, as a result of their actions or comments, students cannot differentiate between those students whose parents are unable to purchase required instructional materials or pay required fees and those whose parents can.

SECTION II ~ ACADEMICS

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

The Board of Education is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of operations within the school system.

However, the use of the District's network and technology resources by students is a privilege, not a right. As a prerequisite, students and their parents must sign and submit a *Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety* form annually. (See also, Policy 7540.03)

The Superintendent shall develop and implement a written District Technology Plan (DTP). Procedures for the proper acquisition of technology shall be set forth in the DTP. The DTP shall also provide guidance to staff and students about making safe, appropriate and ethical use of the District's network(s), as well as inform both staff and students about disciplinary actions that will be taken if Board technology and/or networks are abused in any way or used in an inappropriate, illegal, or unethical manner.

Further safeguards shall be established so that the Board's investment in both hardware and software achieves the benefits of technology and inhibits negative side effects. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to, using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, recognizing what constitutes cyberbullying, understanding cyberbullying is a violation of District policy, and learning appropriate responses if they are victims of cyberbullying.

Social media shall be defined as internet-based applications (such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, et cetera) that turn communication into interactive dialogue between users. The Board authorizes the instructional staff to access social media from the District's network, provided such access has an educational purpose for which the instructional staff member has the prior approval of the Principal.

However, personal access and use of social media, blogs, or chat rooms from the District's network is expressly prohibited and shall subject students and staff members to discipline in accordance with Board policy.

The Board authorizes the access and use of social media from the District's network to increase awareness of District programs and activities, as well as to promote achievements of staff and students, provided such access and use is approved in advance by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall review the DTP and report any changes, amendments or revisions to the Board annually.

DIPLOMA DEFERRAL

Social graduation is an opportunity for students with individualized education programs (IEPs) to participate in high school graduation ceremonies without obtaining an official diploma. Students with IEPs who have completed all academic requirements for high school graduation, but who have not yet completed their transition-related IEP goals may be eligible for social graduation. Students may participate in social graduation only upon the recommendation of their respective IEP teams. If social graduation is recommended, the student may engage in all aspects of the graduation

celebration (e.g., wearing a cap and gown; sitting with the graduation class; having his/her name printed in the program and read aloud at the ceremony; walking across the stage to receive a faux diploma). Instead of receiving an official diploma, however, the student will receive an unsigned diploma or certificate of participation. Refer to Board Policy 5460.01

EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The Board of Education acknowledges that some students seek to pursue educational goals that include graduation from high school at an earlier date than their designated class.

A student who completes the requirements for early high school graduation may participate in the graduation ceremonies with his/her designated class or the class graduating in the year in which he/she completes the District's requirements for high school graduation.

Early High School Graduation - General

Application for early high school graduation must be submitted to the high school principal.

The principal may honor this request if all conditions for high school graduation are met and the student fulfills the high school graduation requirements. Refer to Board Policy 5464

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to provide alternative means by which students achieve the goals of the District. Educational options are learning experiences or activities that are designed to extend, enhance, supplement, or serve as an alternative to classroom instruction.

The superintendent shall prepare a plan of educational options for use in meeting a variety of student needs. Such options will include the District's Credit Flexibility Plan and may include, but not be limited to, distance learning, online coursework, tutorial programs, independent study, correspondence courses, educational travel, project portfolios, internships, mentorship programs, summer school, and early college entrance. Refer to Board Policy 2370.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the School's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips.

- A. Attendance rules apply to all field trips
- B. While the district encourages students to participate in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission for the student to attend.
- C. Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips.

GRADES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for providing a system of grading student achievement that can help the student, teachers and parents properly judge how well the student is achieving the goals of the District's program and are consistent throughout all buildings in the District. The Board believes that the District's grading system should be a reliable system and one that ensures each student's grades accurately signify his/her degree of accomplishment of those expected learning outcomes. In some cases, an elective class may issue a Pass (P) / Fail (F) grade, which does not impact final GPA.

HOMEWORK

The following guidelines have been developed to assist principals in working with staff to establish appropriate homework assignments:

- A. All homework assignments should have a specific purpose related to the learning objectives of a program or course.
- B. Homework assignments should be appropriate to the grade level and the abilities of the students involved.
- C. Assignments should involve application of knowledge, reinforcement of communication, research and other skills and should provide experiences which strengthen attitudes and allow for creativity.
- D. Punishment assignments should never be given.
- E. The purpose of homework, in terms of the goals of a program, should be clear to the student when assigned, the work corrected when returned, and both the strengths and weaknesses of his/her work communicated in ways which provide for improved performance.
- F. As part of the process of using homework as a learning tool, students should be involved in learning how to critique their own and each others' work based on clearly-defined criteria related to the particular program or course of study.
- G. The time limits for the completion of homework should:
 - 1. Be reasonable and consistent with the nature of the assignments given;
 - 2. Provide for interim appraisal of progress where assignments involve blocks of time;
 - 3. Include a reasonable time for make-up of missed homework assignments and/or improvements based on teacher comments.
- H. Parents should be made aware of the District's homework guidelines as well as the way each of their child's Teachers will be using homework as a learning activity.

PROMOTION, ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION

The Board of Education 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 to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It is the Board's intent that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development.

Such a pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the instructional objectives established for each.

The promotion and retention provisions of this policy shall be in compliance with the terms of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee (Policy 2623.02)

Promotion:

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when she/he has:

- A. Completed the course and State-mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- B. Demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Retention:

A student may be retained at his/her current grade level when s/he has, in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and reading and the core subjects of science, language arts or social studies.

A student may be placed at the next grade level when retention would no longer benefit the student.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for promotion, placement, and retention of students that:

- A. require the recommendation of the relevant staff members for promotion, placement, or retention;
- B. require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level;
- C. assure that efforts will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before she/he is retained;

- D. require that a student be retained if s/he 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;
- E. assign to the principal the final responsibility for determining the promotion, placement, or retention of each student.
- F. provide parents the opportunity to appeal the decision about their child's promotion, placement, or retention.

Academic Acceleration:

Academic acceleration may involve whole-grade acceleration or individual subject acceleration. Academic acceleration occurs when a student is not only doing the caliber of work necessary to be promoted to the next grade or enrolled in the next course in the academic sequence, but also demonstrates the ability to do the caliber of work required of students in that next grade level/subject/course. An acceleration evaluation committee will determine whether the student will be permitted to skip a grade level (i.e., whole-grade acceleration), or take a subject at a higher grade level or skip a course in the usual and customary academic sequence (i.e., individual subject acceleration). Refer to Board Policy 5410.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The Board of Education values excellence and wishes to inculcate in students the desire to do their best in all things. It shall be the policy of this Board, therefore, to recognize outstanding accomplishment in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular areas.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop a plan for recognition of outstanding student achievement based on well-defined, consistent criteria and standards.

SECTION III ~ STUDENT ACTIVITIES

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.

The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.

The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.

The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone. It should also offer an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.

The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event.

No student may practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by the student's parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a concussion and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health. See Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2.

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extracurricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a 1.5 grade-point average and may have received a failing grade in a course for the grading period previous to the one in which the student wishes to participate.

Students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate on a District interscholastic team must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant. See Policy 9270.

An exception may be made by the principal if the student has been participating in an intervention program and has shown satisfactory progress toward achieving the minimum grade-point average.

If a student who becomes ineligible under these standards improves their grade point average during the current grading period to meet the eligibility standard, the student may be reinstated at the beginning of the next grading period.

Restoration of an "Incomplete" Grade

If a student's failure to meet the academic eligibility requirements is due to an "incomplete" grade given in one (1) or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have their eligibility restored once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- A. the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
- B. the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education grading policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- C. the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
- D. there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the student's individualized disability.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) that are consistent with State and Federal law, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics who have:

- A. maintained a satisfactory academic record;
- B. attended school regularly;
- C. demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;
- D. returned all school and athletic equipment;
- E. refrained from participation in a contest on a noninterscholastic team, or as an individual in the same sport during the school's season.

The superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics which shall include a complete schedule of events.

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:

"Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment."

The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport:
 - a. each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District-approved physician;
 - b. parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.
- D. Any student practicing for or competing in an interscholastic event who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the practice or competition by the student's coach (and/or the referee serving during the practice or competition).

Any student who has been removed from practice or competition by a coach or referee because the student has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to any practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible until both of the following occur:

1. The student's condition is assessed by a physician or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to assess such a student.
2. The student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to grant such a clearance.

The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include:

- A. criteria for judging these important qualities;
- B. procedures by which these values will be communicated to students, parents, and supporters;
- C. means for monitoring the behavior of each of these groups to ensure their behavior reflects high standards.

The guidelines should also provide a set of behavioral expectations for each type of participant as well as a Sportsmanship Code of Conduct which each type of participant is to follow. The Superintendent is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate this Sportsmanship Code.

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05 - Prohibition From Extra-Curricular Activities).

In order to support the High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- B. establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce the concept that athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;
- C. attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;
- D. support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship;
- E. recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in college credit plus program as long as the student fulfills all academic, non academic and financial requirements.

No student will be limited from wearing religious apparel while participating in interscholastic or non-interscholastic extra-curricular activities unless such apparel poses a legitimate danger to the participants. If such danger is identified, the student will be offered reasonable accommodations available for the participant wearing religious apparel.

For a list of activities currently being offered or further information, contact the Athletic Director, at 330-821-2245.

NON SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education will not permit the use of school facilities by non-district-sponsored, student clubs and activities and District-sponsored, non-curriculum-related clubs and activities during instructional hours. During non-instructional time, however, no group of students, regardless of the size of the group, will be denied an opportunity to meet on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the activity.

An application for permission for non-district-sponsored, student clubs and activities to meet on school premises shall be made to the principal, who shall grant permission provided that he/she determines that:

- A. The activity has been initiated by students;
- B. Attendance at the meeting is voluntary;
- C. No agent or employee of the District will promote, lead, or participate in the meeting;
- D. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of instructional activities in the school;
- E. Non school persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activity.

A student initiated group granted permission to meet on school premises shall be provided the same rights and access and shall be subject to the same administrative guidelines that govern the meetings of student organizations sponsored by this Board, except as provided by this policy. Participation in a student initiated meeting must be available to all students who wish to attend and cannot be denied on the basis of a student's race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or social or economic status.

The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society. A student initiated meeting may be attended by no more than two (2) outside resource persons. The Superintendent may exclude non-students from directing, controlling, or attending any such meetings of students.

A professional staff member may be assigned to attend a student initiated meeting in a custodial capacity but shall not participate in the activity. No professional staff member shall be compelled to attend a student initiated meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to his/her beliefs.

The principal may take such actions as may be necessary to maintain order and discipline on school premises and to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff members.

PROHIBITION FROM EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, and assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code took place.

In addition, student athletes are further subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extracurricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Alliance City Schools provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be taken for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter per Board Policy 2430.

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the school curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05

STUDENT PRECINCT WORKERS

In conjunction with the County Board of Elections, the Board of Education will permit high school students to apply and, if appointed by the Board of Election, to serve as precinct officers at a primary, special, or general election.

To be eligible, a student shall be:

- A. A United States citizen;
- B. A resident of the county
- C. At least seventeen (17) years of age;
- D. Enrolled in the senior year of high school.

As part of the application process, the student shall declare his/her political party affiliation with the Board of Election. Any student selected shall be excused from school on the day of an election at which the student is serving as a precinct officer.

SECTION IV ~ STUDENT CONDUCT

ATTENDANCE

The educational program offered by this District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session or during the attendance sessions to which s/he has been assigned.

A student in grades 9 through 12 may be considered a full-time equivalent student provided the student is enrolled in at least five (5) units of instruction, as defined by State law, per school year.

In accordance with statute, the Superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a written statement of the cause for such absence. The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- A. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. appointment with a health care provider
- C. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- D. quarantine of the home
- E. death in the family
- F. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- G. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- H. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction) to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity.

Any classroom assignment missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student.

If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.

- I. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
- J. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751
- K. service as a precinct officer at a primary, special or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy 5725
- L. The District may require verification of the date and time of the visitation by the college, university or technical college.

M. absence due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status.

N. absences due to a student being homeless

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.

The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences to be in regular attendance for the program provided that s/he reports to such staff member s/he is assigned for guidance at the place in which s/he is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

The Superintendent may excuse a student over fourteen (14) years of age from attendance at school for a future limited period for the purpose of performing essential work directly or exclusively for his/her parents or guardians. Such excuse should not exceed five (5) days and may at the discretion of the Superintendent be renewed for five (5) additional days. At no time, however, shall such an excuse cause a student to be absent from school for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days.

At the discretion of the Superintendent a student may be excused for a longer period of time than ten (10) days if a child's parent or guardian has recently died or become totally or partially incapacitated and there is no older brother or sister living in the home who is out of school. (The Superintendent may request a certificate of a physician attesting to the physical condition of the parent or guardian.)

Attendance shall be taken at the beginning of every block/period in buildings with block/period-based scheduling. Absences from a class block/period shall be accounted for to the nearest full hour.

Attendance shall be taken at the commencement of the school day in buildings with non-period-based schedules. Attendance for students arriving late or leaving early must be tracked and recorded to the nearest full hour.

Contacting the Parent/Guardian of an Absent Student

When a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student has failed to initiate a telephone call or other communication notifying the school or building administration of the student's excused or unexcused absence within 120 minutes after the beginning of the school day, the attendance officer or designee for each school building shall make at least one (1) attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of any student who is recorded as absent without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day by a method designated by the Superintendent in accordance with Ohio law (see AG 5200).

Excessive Absences

When a student of compulsory school age is absent from school with combined non medical excused absences and unexcused absences in excess of thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, that student is considered "excessively absent" from school. The District or school shall notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absences, in writing, within seven (7) school days after the date of the absence that triggered the notice requirement. At the same time, written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken.

The following "medical excuses" will not count toward a student's excessive absence hours: 1) personal illness; 2) illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child; 3) quarantine of the home; 4) health care provider appointments (doctor, dentist, mental health provider, etc.); 5) medically-necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751; 6) death in the family; or 7) other set of circumstances the Superintendent deems on a case-by-case basis to be a good and sufficient cause for medical absence from school.

A medically excused absence occurs any time a student is out of school due to illness or medical visit (physician, dentist, mental health, etc.). A medical excuse for personal illness will be accepted in the form of a doctor's note within five (5) school days of the absence or parent call-in on the day of the absence due to illness or doctor's visit. A student may have up to ten (10) medically excused absences without a doctor's note, but with a phone call from a parent/guardian. This policy will be extended beyond ten (10) days if the student or someone in the student's family is in quarantine due to recognized pandemic/epidemic (e.g., COVID-19) or experiencing symptoms of the pandemic/epidemic.

Habitually Truant

A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is of compulsory school age and 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 for seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year.

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

- A. the student was enrolled in another school district;
- B. the student was excused from attendance in accordance with R.C 3321.04; or
- C. the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

Absence Intervention Team

To the extent required by law as determined on an annual basis, within ten (10) days of a student becoming habitually truant, the Principal shall assign the student to an absence intervention team.

Within fourteen (14) school days after the assignment of a student to an absence intervention team, the team shall develop an intervention plan for that student in an effort to reduce or eliminate further absences. Each intervention plan shall vary based on the individual needs of the student, but the plan shall state that the attendance officer shall file a complaint not later than sixty-one (61) days after the date the plan was implemented, if the child has refused to participate in, or failed to make satisfactory progress on, the intervention plan. Within seven (7) school days after the development of the plan, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the student's parent/guardian/custodian, with written notice of the plan.

Each absence intervention team may vary based on the needs of each individual student but shall include a representative from the child's building, another representative from the child's building who knows the child, and the child's parent or parent's designee, or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. The team also may 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.

The members of the absence intervention team shall be selected within seven (7) school days of the student meeting the habitually truant threshold. Within the same period of seven (7) school days, the Principal shall make at least three (3) meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the participation of the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian on that team. A good faith attempt to secure the participation of the parent shall include, but not be limited to, contacting (or attempting to contact) the parent by telephone, email, or regular mail. If the student's parent responds to any of those attempts but is unable to participate for any reason, the Principal shall inform the parent of the parent's right to appear by designee. If seven (7) school days elapse and the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian fails to respond to the attempts to secure participation, the attendance officer shall investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory abuse or neglect reporting to the public children

services agency. At the same time, the absence intervention team shall continue to develop an intervention plan for the child notwithstanding the absence of the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian.

Intervention Strategies

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is habitually truant, the intervention team may, as part of an intervention plan, take any of the following intervention actions:

- A. provide counseling to the student
- B. request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- C. request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- D. notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences
- E. take appropriate legal action
- F. assignment to an alternative school

In the event that a student becomes habitually truant within twenty-one (21) school days prior to the last day of instruction of a school year, the Principal may, in his/her discretion, assign the designee to work with the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian to develop an absence intervention plan during the summer.

The absence intervention process shall commence upon the first day of instruction of the next school year.

Reporting Requirements

The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against a student on the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all of the following apply:

- A. The student is habitually truant.
- B. The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication, if applicable.
- C. The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan, as determined by the absence intervention team, or any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication.

If the student, at any time during the implementation phase of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, 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 in juvenile court against that student, unless the absence intervention team has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

In the event that the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies falls on a day during the summer months, the absence intervention team may extend the implementation of the plan and delay the filing of the complaint for an additional thirty (30) days from the first day of instruction of the next school year.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish an educational program for parents of truant students which is designed to encourage parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any parent who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for parental education neglect, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Whenever any student of compulsory school age has sixty (60) consecutive hours in a single month or a total of ninety (90) hours of unexcused absence from school during the school year, s/he will be considered habitually absent under R.C. 3321.13(b)(2). The Board authorizes the Superintendent to inform the student and his/her parents, guardian, or custodian of the record of absences without a legitimate excuse as well as the District's intent to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, if appropriate, and the Judge of the Juvenile Court of the student's unexcused absences and habitually absent status.

If a student who is habitually truant violates the order of a juvenile court regarding the student's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant, s/he may further be adjudicated as a delinquent child.

The District shall report to the Ohio Department of Education, as soon as practicable, and in a format and manner determined by the Department, any of the following occurrences:

- A. when a notice that a student has been absent with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year is submitted to a parent/guardian/or custodian;
- B. when a child of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or seventy-two (72) or more hours in a school year;
- C. when a child of compulsory school age who has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant violates the court order regarding that adjudication;
- D. when an absence intervention plan has been implemented for a child under this policy.

This policy was developed after consultation with the judge of the juvenile court of Stark County/Counties, with the parents, guardians, or other persons having care of the students attending school in the district, and with appropriate State and local agencies.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION

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

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

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

- A. any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of

students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or

B. violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

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

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Building Principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the Building Principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

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

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

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

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyber-bullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy **5517** - Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

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

The District shall implement intervention strategies (AG 5517.01) to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

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

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying. If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

Complaints

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

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

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

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

STUDENT HAZING

Policy 5516 applies to all athletic teams (whether interscholastic, intramural, or club teams); groups affiliated with an academic class such as band; Honor societies; performing arts groups; spirit groups (e.g., cheer, dance, drill, etc.); and any other student extracurricular activities, including any outside organizations that are affiliated with or that sponsor the extracurricular organization.

In addition to the definition of hazing set forth in Policy 5516 (which comes directly from R.C. 2903.31), the District considers the following conduct also to constitute hazing:

For the purpose of initiating, admitting, or affiliating a student into or with a team or extracurricular activity, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing the student's membership or status on a team or in an extracurricular activity, intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing, coercing, or forcing a student to do any of the following, regardless of whether such conduct occurs on or off school property:

- A. violate Federal or State criminal law;

- B. consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm;
- C. endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics, or exposure to the elements;
- D. endure brutality of a mental nature, including actively adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact, or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
- E. endure brutality of a sexual nature; or
- F. endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

It is not a defense to a charge of hazing that the student consented to the conduct in question.

Policy 5516 also applies to behavior conducted online, via email, or through electronic media (e.g., texts, instant messages, social media) that relates to school activities and is not protected by freedom of expression. The District does not regularly search for online information but may act if such information is brought to the administration's attention.

Identifying Acts of Hazing

The following are key indicators that an individual is or has been subjected to hazing:

- A. the activity is degrading and/or demeaning
- B. there is risk of injury or a question of safety
- C. alcohol or drugs are present
- D. cryptic language is used to describe an event, activity, or interaction
- E. active members of the team or extracurricular activity are unwilling to participate in the same activity with new members
- F. active and new members are unwilling to discuss the activity with advisors, coaches, family members, or other school staff
- G. members of the team or extracurricular activity justify their actions as "traditional" in an attempt to convince others that is an acceptable event
- H. changes in behavior such as oversleeping, constant exhaustion, or an inability to focus
- I. a drop in GPA

Reporting An Allegation or Incident of Hazing

Student safety is the District's top priority. As such, the administration takes all reports of misconduct seriously to protect everyone's health and well-being. The District depends on all community members (staff and students combined) to identify and report behaviors of concern so that the District can provide distressed students and employees with appropriate support services and resources. Any person having knowledge of any activity or conduct that may constitute hazing should contact the Superintendent, Building Principal, or Athletic Director. If an administrator, teacher, classified employee, coach, extracurricular activity advisor, or volunteer associated with an athletic team or extracurricular activity sees any concerning and/or suspicious behaviors, the individual is required to report it to the Superintendent, Building Principal, or Athletic Director.

Students on an athletic team or participating in an extracurricular activity should immediately report any hazing incidents that occur within their team/activity to the Building Principal or Athletic Director, providing a detailed description of the events that have transpired, the names of any individuals involved, and a description of any actions taken by the coaches/advisors of the team/activity.

Anonymous reports may be submitted online at ahs.alliancecityschools.org. Say Something Anonymous Reporting.

Making an intentionally false accusation of hazing is prohibited and subject to corrective or restorative action as enumerated in the Student Code of Conduct.

If a member of the school community is aware of immediate physical danger to a student or others, the person must contact local police or dial 911.

Investigations of Allegations and Charges

The District is committed to reviewing all reports of hazing. While anonymous reports are accepted, the District's ability to obtain additional information may be compromised and its ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.

Upon receiving a report of alleged hazing, the Building Principal or the Athletic Director will investigate the claims. As part of the investigation, the District will:

- A. contact (if possible) the individuals bringing forward the allegations of hazing;
- B. contact the individuals alleged to have perpetrated the hazing;
- C. contact the coach or advisor associated with the team or extracurricular activity involved;
- D. interview all parties, including victims, the accused students, and any witnesses;
- E. request relevant information/evidence from the students involved (e.g., text messages, screenshots, pictures, videos).

During the course of the investigation, students may request to enter information into the record and may recommend specific witnesses to the investigators. Ultimately, the investigator will determine the relevance of the information or the credibility of the witnesses.

Students participating in an investigation process are expected to do so in an active, cooperative, and truthful manner.

While students are required to attend investigation meetings, they will not be compelled to answer questions or provide information. If a student fails to participate in the investigation process, the District will nevertheless proceed to resolve the matter. No adverse inference will be drawn against a student who does not participate in the investigation process.

Falsifying, distorting, intentionally omitting, or misrepresenting information is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

The Building Principal/Athletic Director will determine whether interim/supportive measures are needed to protect the safety and/or well-being of anyone involved in the incident and offer such to affected individuals.

The District may encourage a student to undergo a physical examination, particularly when allegations of physical abuse are part of the hazing investigation. If the results of the physical examination are provided to the District, the report will be protected by applicable Federal and State laws, but the investigator may include a summary of any physical signs of hazing (i.e., bruises, burns, blood alcohol content, drug usage, etc.) in the investigation report.

The investigator will provide a written investigation report to the Superintendent. Upon receipt of the report, the Building Principal/Athletic Director will determine if the claims are substantiated. If they are, the Building Principal and Superintendent (to the extent warranted) will impose disciplinary consequences commensurate with the severity of the wrongdoing in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, other educational activities may be required as conditions of the sanction. Further, the Superintendent may take collective action with respect to the team or extracurricular activity that was implicated in the hazing.

Violations of Policy 5516 by employees may result in corrective action or discipline (including termination) in accordance with Board of Education policy and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Every effort will be made to complete the investigation in a timely manner.

The District will always notify the appropriate law enforcement agency(ies) when a report of hazing is received and document that the notification was made.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a charge alleging unlawful student hazing/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation involving allegations or charges of student hazing/retaliation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by R.C. 2903.31, or because that individual made a report, charge, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing related to R.C. 2903.31 and/or Policy 5516, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by that law and/or Policy 5516.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of student hazing, filing a charge of student hazing, or participating in an investigation or meeting involving allegations or charges of student hazing is a serious violation of Policy 5516 that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Reports or charges of retaliation may be filed according to the procedures set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under Policy 5516 or this administrative guidelines.

DISCIPLINE OF A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. (I.D. E. I. A.), and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act. (A. D. A.), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. of 1973

DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

The Board of Education recognizes that students have limited constitutional rights when it comes to their education.

Accordingly, the Board establishes the following procedures which District Administrators shall use when dealing with students:

A. Student subject to suspension:

When a student is being considered for an out-of-school suspension by the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrator:

1. The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
2. The student will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.
3. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.

4. Within one (1) school day of the suspension the Superintendent, Principal, or other administrator will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student. The notice will include the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend. If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.
5. Notice of this suspension will also be sent to the:
 - a. Superintendent;
 - b. student's school record (not for inclusion in the permanent record).
6. If a student leaves school property without permission immediately upon violation (or suspected violation) of a provision of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code or prior to an administrator conducting an informal hearing as specified above, and the student fails to return to school on the following school day, the Principal, Assistant Principal, Superintendent, or any other administrator, may send the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) notice of the suspension, and offer to provide the student and/or his/her parents an informal hearing upon request to discuss the reasons for the suspension and to allow the student to challenge the reasons and to explain his/her actions, any time prior to the end of the suspension period.

Appeal of Suspension to the Board or its designee

The student who is eighteen (18) or older or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such appeal will be provided in regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer or the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend.

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

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

B. Students subject to expulsion:

When a student is being considered for expulsion by the Superintendent:

1. The Superintendent will give the student and parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intended expulsion, including reasons for the intended expulsion.
2. The student and parent or representative have the opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or designee to challenge the proposed action or to otherwise explain the student's actions. The written

notice will state the time and place to appear, which must not be earlier than three (3) school days nor later than five (5) school days after the notice is given, unless the Superintendent grants an extension upon request of the student or parent.

3. Within one (1) school day of the expulsion, the Superintendent will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student and Treasurer of the Board. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of the notice of expulsion. If the offense is one (1) for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.

Appeal of Expulsion to the Board

A student who is eighteen (18) or older or a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and will be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if it is held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such appeal will be in accordance with regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date of the Superintendent's decision to expel with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent.

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

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

C. Students subject to emergency removal:

Students whose conduct warrants emergency removal shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.03 - Emergency Removal.

D. Students subject to permanent exclusion:

Students whose conduct is that for which permanent exclusion is warranted shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.01 - Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students.

E. Students subject to suspension from bus riding/transportation privileges:

Students whose conduct warrants suspension from bus riding and/or transportation services shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.04 - Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges.

In determining whether disciplinary action set forth in this policy is to be implemented, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. Further, any individual charged with making a disciplinary determination under this

policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

These procedures shall not apply to in-school disciplinary alternatives including in-school suspensions. An in-school suspension is one served entirely in a supervised learning environment within a school setting. Nor shall these disciplinary alternative procedures apply to students who are prohibited by authorized school personnel from all or part of their participation in co-curricular, interscholastic, and/or non-interscholastic extracurricular activities.

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education is committed to protecting students from harm that may or may not be directly associated with the school environment but also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public children's services agencies.

When law enforcement or other authorities arrive at the school and wish to interview a student or investigate an alleged violation of law, they must contact the building administrator indicating the nature of their investigation and their desire to question a student or students.

Investigation of Child Abuse/Neglect by a Public Children's Services Agency or Law Enforcement Agency

Every Board official and employee who, in connection with his/her position, knows or suspects child abuse or neglect must immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to a public children's services or law enforcement agency in accordance with Board Policy 8462.

At the request of the building administrator, an official of a public children's services agency or law enforcement agency may interview a student on school property during school hours in order to investigate a claim of child abuse/neglect involving such student or a member of the student's family. If neither the student nor a member of his/her family is the subject of the child abuse/neglect investigation, such agency should contact the student during non-school hours and investigate the matter off school property. If at all possible, unless the alleged child abuse took place on school property and/or involves an emergency situation.

If the student (or a member of his/her family) is the subject of a child abuse/neglect investigation, or the student is being interviewed regarding alleged child abuse that took place on school property or involves an emergency, the building administrator shall attempt to contact the parent prior to questioning, and she/he will remain in the room during questioning unless compelling reasons for exclusion are provided by the agency.

If an agency investigating child abuse/neglect indicates that the parent is believed to be the perpetrator, the building administrator will not contact either parent prior to the interview. The building administrator will remain in the room during questioning unless compelling reasons for exclusion are provided by the agency.

Investigations of Violations of Law by law Enforcement Agencies

Such agencies should contact a student during non-school hours and investigate alleged violations of the law off school property if at all possible. An investigation can take place immediately on school property during school hours at the request of the building administrator if the alleged violation of law took place on school property or in emergency situations.

Before the student(s) is (are) questioned as a witness to or suspect in an alleged violation of law, the building administrator shall attempt to contact the parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during the questioning unless compelling reasons for exclusion are provided by the agency.

In those circumstances when an interrogation may expose a student to criminal charges, the building principal should also verify that the student (s) has been informed of his/her right to refuse to answer questions, to be informed that anything he/she says may be used against him/her in court, and to consult with and be advised by legal counsel.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

A multi-tier system of support (MTSS) is a framework for providing instruction to all students. All of the systems of support involve multiple tiers of instruction both academically and behaviorally.

PBIS

ACS practices Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports, through individualized strategies for achieving social and learning outcomes in school communities while preventing problem behavior. The key attributes of PBIS include preventive activities, data-based decision making, and a problem solving orientation. PBIS is implemented to reduce behavior, increase academics, reduce bullying behaviors to ensure a safe learning environment for a positive school climate and culture.

RTI

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and/or behavior needs. The RTI process begins with identifying students in the general education classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. These services may be provided by a variety of personnel, including general education teachers, special educators, and specialists. Progress is closely monitored to assess both the learning rate and level of performance of individual students. Educational decisions about the intensity and duration of interventions are based on individual student response to instruction. RTI is designed for use when making decisions in both general education and special education, creating a well-integrated system of instruction and intervention guided by child outcome data.

Notification and Release of Records

Attempts to notify the parents regarding investigations of child abuse/neglect and other law enforcement investigations should be documented diligently.

When an authorized law enforcement officer or public children's services agency removes a student, the building administrator shall notify the parent and the Superintendent.

No school official may release personally identifiable student information in education records to the police or public children's services agency without prior written permission of the parent, a lawfully-issued subpoena, or a court order. (See Board Policy 8330).

Requirements For Graduation:

The Minimum Standard for Ohio Schools, issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Ohio requires that credits in the following areas be earned for graduation:

Graduation Course Requirements

Subject	Class Credits Required
English	4 units of credits
Social Studies (Must include U.S. History of American History)	3 units of credits
Science	3 units of credits

(Must include one unit of physical sciences, one unit of life sciences, and one unit of advanced study)	
Mathematics (Must include one unit of Algebra II or the equivalent of Algebra II)	4 units of credits
Health and Physical Education (Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for two full seasons are exempt from the physical education requirement)	1 unit of credit
Electives: (Must include: 1 unit or 2 (1/2) units of Business/Tech., Fine Arts or Foreign Language)	6 units of credits
Total Credits Needed For Graduation	21

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The Board of Education recognizes that the privacy of students or their belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner.

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Such spaces remain the property of the Board and, in accordance with law, may be the subject of random search at any time, 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 directs the Superintendent to conduct a routine inspection at least annually of all such storage places.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well being of 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. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age.

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

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 Board has established a zero tolerance for alcohol use.

Administrators are permitted to conduct a random search of any student's locker and its contents at any time, providing proper notice has been given.

Search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs, weapons, and/or bombs when the Superintendent has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs may be present in a 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 and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

Except as provided below, a request for the search of a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the principal who shall seek the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted

by the principal in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the principal. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

The principal 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 principal shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to implement this policy.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education acknowledges that conduct is closely related to learning - an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students.

The Board believes that the best discipline is self-imposed and that students should learn to assume responsibility for their own behavior and the consequences of their actions.

The Board shall require each student of this District to adhere to the Code of Conduct promulgated by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. Such rules shall require that students:

- A. Conform to reasonable standards of socially-acceptable behavior;
- B. Respect the person and property of others;
- C. Preserve the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which they are engaged;
- D. Respect the rights of others;
- E. Obey constituted authority and responded to those who hold that authority.

Date regarding disciplinary action(s) may be entered on a student's record when such notation can be used to assist counselors. All such information shall be removed from the student's permanent record before he/she leaves the School District.

The Board will not tolerate any form of violence, disruptive or inappropriate behavior, nor excessive truancy which is defined in the student handbooks. In addition to disciplinary action specified in the parent/student handbooks, the

Superintendent shall develop strategies that will prevent students from demonstrating any of these unacceptable behaviors.

The Superintendent shall promulgate administrative guidelines for student conduct which carry out the purposes of this policy and:

- A. Are not arbitrary but bear a reasonable relationship to the need to maintain a school environment conducive to learning;
- B. Do not discriminate among students;
- C. Do not demean students;
- D. Do not tend to violate any individual rights constitutionally guaranteed to students.

The Superintendent shall designate sanctions for the infractions of rules which shall:

- A. Relate in kind and degree to the infraction;
- B. Help the student learn to take responsibility for his/her actions;
- C. Be directed, where possible, to reduce the effects of any harm which may have been caused by the student's misconduct

Sanctions may not impose an academic punishment greater than that which the student imposes on himself/herself by his/her own misconduct, but exclusion from co-curricular activities is permissible. A student who has been disorderly on a school bus may be excluded from transportation services until school authorities have received his/her parent's assurances of future good conduct.

The Superintendent shall publish to all students and their parents the rules of this District regarding student conduct and the sanctions which may be imposed for breach of those rules.

The Superintendent shall inform the Board periodically of the methods of discipline imposed by this District and the incidence of student misconduct in such a degree of specificity as shall be required by the Board.

Principals shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the administrative guidelines of the Superintendent and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing and appeal.

Teachers, school bus drivers, and other employees of this Board having authority over students shall have the authority to take such means as may be necessary to control the disorderly conduct of students in all situations and in all places where such students are within the jurisdiction of this Board and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the schools or threatens the health and safety of others.

Discipline on District vehicles shall be the responsibility of the driver on regular bus runs. When District vehicles are used for field trips and other District activities, however, the teacher, coach, or advisor shall be responsible for student discipline. If a student becomes a serious discipline problem on the vehicle, the Superintendent may suspend the transportation privileges of the student providing such suspension conforms with due process.

No student is to be detained after the close of the regular school day unless the student's parent has been contacted and informed that the student will be detained. No student shall be refused transportation services until the parent has been notified or other suitable transportation arrangements have been made. Notification to the parent is the responsibility of District personnel and should be made prior to the departure of school buses. If a parent cannot be contacted, the child should be detained on another day.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

The Alliance Board of Education recognizes the rights of students as individuals and therefore seeks to balance and protect those rights by establishing the rules and regulations necessary to create a suitable curricular climate as well as a suitable co-curricular climate.

Students in Alliance City Schools have the responsibility to act in such a way as not to interfere with the right of others to the same educational opportunity. By accepting the right to participate in school programs on or off school property, the students shall also accept the responsibility to conduct themselves according to the rules, regulations, and provisions governing the operation of these programs.

Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) is practiced at Alliance Early Learning School (AELS), Alliance Elementary Schools, Alliance Intermediate School, Alliance Middle School, Alliance High School and Parkway Learning and Development Center. PBIS is a general education initiative, supporting all children and youth. PBIS is an effective way to address disruptive behavior before it occurs. By teachers being proactive and using a consistent approach to school-wide discipline provided by the Ohio PBIS model and using the PBIS framework, schools see a reduction in disciplinary actions and increases in academic achievement and social behavior outcomes. PBIS allows educators to have more time to teach and students have more time to learn. PBIS is in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code-OAC 3301-35-15 and the Ohio Department of Education.

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct: All school personnel are charged with the responsibility to enforce proper discipline. A variety of techniques and methods are employed to enforce the Student Code of Conduct. It is easy to punish, but more difficult to change behavior. Efforts are designed to change the behavior. Efforts are designed to change the negative behaviors and to enable students to learn respect, responsibility, self-discipline, and a positive attitude for learning.

The building Administrator has the discretionary authority to use or authorize other school personnel to use the following disciplinary measures. The order of this listing does not connote a procedural order or degree of severity.

Some disciplinary measures which may be used are: student conferences, parent conferences, detentions, reduced schedule (shortened school day), behavior contracts, before or after school detentions, financial restitution, restricted lunch, exclusion from school programs or events, or special programs (before, during, and after school).

Some behaviors require a removal from the classroom, such as in-school suspension, as a means of limiting the disruption of school for other students. In other cases, behavior may be so severe and intolerable that out-of-school suspension, emergency removal, expulsion, and/or police referral may be necessary.

The Student Code of Conduct describes the misconduct that will lead to disciplinary action and procedures to be employed in the removal, suspension, and expulsion of students. The code shall be made available to all students and posted in a central location within the school. All students are eligible to make up missed assignments due to suspension and will be counted as a grade for no less than 60%. Types of misconduct for which a student may be suspended, expelled, and/or removed from school or from school sponsored supervised activities are as follows:

1. **Aiding or Abetting Violation of School Rules** – If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, he/she will be disciplined. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior. At no time should a student lie, mislead, or withhold information regarding any problems or other actions that are in violation of school rules.
2. **Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs, or Other Look-Alike Substances** – Possessing, using, selling, buying, transmitting, or secreting an alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, narcotic, or hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, barbiturate, amphetamine, related drugs or look-alike substances, or related paraphernalia or intoxicant on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored and supervised activities is not permitted. (Students will be referred for assessment and the police authorities may be notified.) Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule.
3. **Cheating** – Plagiarism and cheating are forms of falsification and subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. Cheating is prohibited and may result in a zero (no credit, no points) being recorded for the article of work involved. Additional penalties may also be given.
4. **Criminal Acts** – Any criminal acts toward or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials and students will be disciplined by the school. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime) when school rules and the law are violated.
5. **Disrespect** – Willful intimidation, insult, or other abuse, verbally or written, of school personnel or other students is not conducive to learning and will not be permitted.
6. **Disruption** – Engaging in any conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption of any school function or activity is prohibited. This includes conduct that interferes or creates a reasonable likelihood that it will interfere with the health, safety, or well being of the rights of the other students. Some examples include running, throwing an object, horseplay, littering, being persistently unprepared for classes, eating food in classes, note writing, failure to follow rules established in the classroom, and other disruptive actions as determined by the Principal.
7. **Electronic Cigarettes** - The possession or use of electronic cigarettes and/or vaporizers in school or on school grounds is prohibited and is subject to immediate confiscation and all products associated with any device will be confiscated as well as disciplinary action.

Vape/Tobacco Products

- 1st offense - 1 day SIL + Vape Educate (+\$15)
- 2nd offense - 2 days SIL
- 3rd offense - 2 days OSS
- 4th+ offense - principal discretion

8. **Electronic Devices and Communication Devices** – Students will follow the BYOD policy.
9. **False Alarms and/or Inducing Panic** – The act of initiating a fire alarm or initiating a report warning of a fire or an impending bombing or other catastrophe without cause is a violation of state law and is subject to discipline by the school and possible contact of police authorities. (Reference: Ohio Revised Code)
10. **Fighting** – Hostile contact toward a student or other person associated with the District that may or may not cause injury is inappropriate. The act of hostile bodily contact among two or more students in or on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity, which is likely to result in physical harm, and/or a substantial disruption will not be tolerated for any reason. Any fight may result in police charges being filed. Most fights can be stopped if the students involved will simply inform a staff member of the pending problem. Rarely is a fight spontaneous. Usually, several students are aware of a situation that may lead to a fight before it occurs. These students are responsible for making the problem known to the school staff. Additionally, any students who instigate a fight will be disciplined accordingly.
11. **Fire** – The unauthorized use of any fire while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity or on Board of Education property or vehicles is not permitted. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated.
12. **Forgery** – Forgery is the act of falsely using, in writing, the name of another person, or falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses, or other data on school forms, or correspondence directed to the school. Using another student's planner is a violation of this rule. Forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses or false identification are not acceptable.
13. **Gambling** – The act of illegal gambling for money or valuables on school premises or at school events is prohibited. Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized sports betting, any other form of wagering, or activities/items that promote gambling. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved will be disciplined and may be banned from that activity.
14. **Grooming and Attire/Violation of Dress Code** – Dress or appearance that constitutes a threat to the student's health or safety, disrupts the educational process, damages school property, or is blatant exhibitionism shall be prohibited. (See District Dress Code for further explanation.)
15. **Harassment** – Every individual deserves to be able to come to school without fear of demeaning remarks or actions. The harassment of other students or members of staff, or any other individuals is not permitted. Harassment is any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment. Physical, verbal, or sexual harassment on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, age, and or disability will not be tolerated. Some forms of sexual harassment of a student by another student may be considered a form of child abuse, which requires that the student-abuser be reported to proper authorities in compliance with State law.
16. **Hazing** – No student, including, but not limited to, leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in the hazing of any person. As used in this policy, "hazing" means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team or organization that causes or creates substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another.
17. **Inciting Others to Violence or Disruption** – Students will be disciplined if they, by words, acts, or deeds directly incite others to commit violence or a disruption to the atmosphere of order and discipline necessary for effective learning.
18. **Insubordination** – Insubordination is the noncompliance of directions or reasonable requests made by any school authority, including intentional interference with a teacher's conduct of the class or failure to identify oneself to school personnel when requested.
19. **Loitering and Trespassing** – Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded, the student is not allowed on school property without authorization of the Principal. Willful presence in a school building or a restricted area of a school building at unauthorized times is also considered trespassing and subject to discipline.

20. **Misuse of the Internet** – Students are expected to comply with Board Policy regarding use of technology and Internet services. Using technology to access, view, possess, or transmit offensive or slanderous materials is not acceptable.
21. **Offensive, Violent. Or Sexual Materials/Actions** – Possessing, using, selling, buying, transmitting, doing, and secreting any of the following is not permitted: Materials or actions, which appeal predominantly to base or other prurient sexual interests, which are potentially offensive to prevailing standards in the community, and which are without redeeming social value. OR Materials or actions, which contain language potentially offensive to prevailing community standards. OR Materials which are lies or slanderous to any person or institute, or which are intended to hold any student, teacher, or other employee, race, ethnic group, or religion, as such, up to scorn, ridicule, or contempt.
22. **Persistent and/or Expanded Misbehavior** – Students who repeatedly violate school rules are showing a blatant disregard for the right of other students to receive a quality education. This will result in the acceleration of the typical system of disciplinary consequences. The student could be suspended or expelled for repeated violations of regulations governing student conduct.
23. **(A) Physical Attack and/or (B) Threat Thereof** – The act of physically assaulting or threatening to assault any person on school property, including Board of Education owned vehicles or while in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored activity is prohibited. A student shall not by words, acts, or deeds threaten to commit, or have committed, acts of violence against persons or property. Statements of threat are considered acts of violence with intent to affect the welfare and safety of others. Threats are taken seriously and will not be condoned.

(C) Bullying- Bullying is defined as a person willfully and repeatedly exercising power or control over another with hostile or malicious intent (i.e., repeated oppression, physical or psychological, of a less powerful individual by a more powerful individual or group). Bullying can be physical, verbal (oral or written), electronically transmitted (cyber bullying), psychological (e.g., emotional abuse), through attacks on the property of another, or a combination of any of these.

Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling, taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation.
- D. "Cyberbullying" – the use of information and communication technologies to post slurs or rumors or other disparaging remarks about a student on a web site or on weblog; sending e-mail or instant messages that are mean or threatening, or so numerous as to drive-up the victim's cell phone bill; using a camera phone to take and send embarrassing photographs of students; posting misleading or fake photographs of students on web sites.

Bullying is Prohibited

Bullying is NOT acceptable and is strictly prohibited. Bullying conduct is conduct that occurs on school property or at school sponsored activities or events; while students are being transported or when the conduct otherwise would substantially impede the educational environment, regardless of where the conduct occurs.

Any student who engages in bullying will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion and referral to local law enforcement. A student's bullying conduct also may be addressed through other behavioral interventions.

Any student who is a bystander to any bullying conduct and encourages this bullying conduct also may be subject to appropriate discipline.

No student shall be retaliated against for reporting bullying conduct. Any student who is determined to intentionally have falsely accused another of bullying shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

24. **Possession of Fireworks or Explosives** – Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are dangerous and forbidden. The act of unauthorized possession, use, or threatened use of any fireworks, explosives, or other such instruments capable of inflicting bodily injury will not be tolerated.
25. **Possession or Use of Weapons** – The act of transporting, possessing, using, or threatening to use a weapon will not be tolerated. A weapon includes conventional objects like guns, pellet guns, knives, or club-type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Students who

violate this rule will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. Criminal charges will be filed for this violation.

26. **Profanity** – The use of profane or obscene language or gestures is not acceptable.
27. **Public Display of Affection (PDA)** – Public display of affection is not permitted. Demonstration of affection is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature.
28. **Refusing to Accept Discipline** – The school may use informal discipline to prevent the student from being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the usual discipline for an infraction, the refusal can result in sterner action. This includes refusing to take a detention slip from a staff member; throwing the detention slip away or refusing to serve a detention.
29. **Sale of Articles** – Students may not sell or offer for sale within the school or on school grounds any articles or services to fellow students or employees, or solicit contribution of such persons. This is not to be interpreted as a restriction of approved school fundraising activities.
30. **Shakedown and/or Strong Arm** – Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else and it is against the law. Students who engage in the act of extortion or borrowing or attempting to borrow any money or thing of value from a person in the school, upon Board of Education owned vehicles, or while in attendance at a Board of Education sponsored activity, unless both parties enter into the agreement freely and without the presence of either implied or expressed threat, will be disciplined and authorities may be contacted.
31. **Theft** – Theft is the act of taking or acquiring the property of others without their consent including personal school belongings, testing/evaluation materials and school forms (building passes, etc.). When a student is caught stealing school or someone's property, he/she will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value that is not needed for learning to school without prior authorization from the Principal. The school is not responsible for personal property.
32. **Tobacco** – The use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products on school premises or at school-sponsored functions, including Board of Education owned vehicles is prohibited.
33. **Truancy and/or Persistent Tardiness** – Ohio attendance laws require students to be in school all day or have a legitimate excuse for absence. Excessive tardiness to school, excessive tardiness to class, truancy from school, truancy from class, and truancy from detention are considered violations of this rule and subject to discipline.
34. **Use of an Object as a Weapon** – Any object that is used to threaten or harm another may be considered a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to, padlocks, pens, pencils, chairs, jewelry, and so on or an object converted from its original use to an object used to threaten or injure another. Students who violate this rule will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. Police charges may be filed for this violation.
35. **Vandalism and/or Destruction of Property** – The act or attempted act or willful destruction or defacement of school or private property either on school grounds, or during a school activity, function, or off-site school event will be cause for discipline by the school and possible contact of police authorities.
36. **Violation of Bus Rules** – Students are expected to comply with bus rules. Rules for the bus include the following: no throwing any object inside or outside of the bus; no body parts hanging outside a window or door; no consumption of food or beverages; riders must remain seated until the driver gives permission to leave; using the emergency exit door without permission; and leaving or boarding a bus at locations other than the assigned stop unless parental and administrative authorization has been given. Students may be denied bus privileges for not following the bus rules.

REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by emergency removal, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or permanent exclusion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student in this District, and one (1) that cannot be imposed without due process. However, the Board has zero-tolerance of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior by its students.

No student is to be removed, suspended out-of-school, expelled, and/or permanently excluded unless his/her behavior represents misconduct as specified in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code approved by the Board. The Code shall also specify the procedures to be followed by school officials when implementing such discipline. In determining whether a student is to be suspended or expelled, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. In addition to the procedural safeguards and definitions set forth in this policy and the student/parent handbook, additional procedures and considerations shall apply to students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (See Policy 5605 - Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities.)

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but where such conduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a District official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

For purposes of this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, the following shall apply:

- A. "Emergency removal" shall be the exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an on-going threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District. (See Policy 5610.03 "Emergency Removal")
- B. "Suspension" shall be the temporary exclusion of a student by the Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, or any other administrator from the District's instructional program for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspension shall not extend beyond the current school year, if at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year.

The Superintendent may instead require a student to participate in a community service program or another alternative consequence for a number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension. The student shall be required to begin such a community service program or alternative consequence during the first full week day of summer break.

The Superintendent may develop a list of appropriate alternative consequences, and set forth such list in the applicable guidelines.

In the event, the student fails to complete the required community service or the assigned alternative consequence, the Superintendent may determine the next course of action. Such course of action, however, shall not include requiring the student to serve the remaining time of the suspension at the beginning of the following year.

The procedures for suspension are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Policy 5611 - Due Process Rights.

A student who is suspended shall be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension, and receive at least partial credit for a completed assignment. Grade reductions on account of the student's suspension are permitted; however, no student may receive a failing grade on a completed assignment solely on account of his/her suspension.

- C. "Expulsion" shall be the exclusion of a student from the schools of this District for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty (80) school days or the number of school days remaining in a semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place or for one (1) year as specifically provided in this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code. Only the Superintendent may expel a student. The procedures for expulsion are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Board Policy 5611 "Due Process Rights".

When making a determination whether or not a student will be expelled or permanently excluded under this policy, the Superintendent shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

1. Firearm or Knife

Unless a student is permanently excluded from school, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for bringing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled,

or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or to any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except that the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Similarly, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for possessing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or at any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. The expulsion may extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. The Superintendent shall refer any student expelled for bringing a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)) or weapon to school to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system serving the District.

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 (1/4) ounce, mine, or other similar device.

A knife capable of causing serious bodily injury is defined as any weapon or cutting instrument consisting of a blade fastened to a handle; a razor blade; or any similar device (including sharp, metal martial arts weapons such as ninja throwing stars) that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, modify or reduce such expulsion in writing, to a period of less than one(1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. Applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);
- b. The degree of culpability given the age of the student and its relevance to the misconduct and/or punishment and/or evidence regarding the probable danger posed to the health and safety of others, including evidence of the student's intent and awareness regarding possession of the firearm or knife; capable of causing serious bodily injury; and/or
- c. The academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

2. Violent Conduct

If a student commits an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act:

- a. would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult;
and
- b. results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6)

the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);

or

- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

3. Bomb Threats

If a student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat, the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

- a. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, upon recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs;

or

- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

- D. "Permanent exclusion" shall mean the student is banned forever from attending a public school in the State of Ohio. (See Policy 5610.01)

If a student is expelled for more than twenty (20) school days or for any period of time that extends into the next school year, the Superintendent shall provide the student and his/her parents with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of those public or private agencies in the community which offer programs or services that help to rectify the student's behaviors and attitudes that contributed to the incident(s) that caused the expulsion.

Suspension or Expulsion of Students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through 3

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, except as permitted by law, suspension or expulsion proceedings shall not be initiated against a student in any of grades Pre-kindergarten through three unless the student has committed the following acts:

- A. The student brings a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or to any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, or possesses a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or at any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board.

- B. The student commits an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity, and the act: 1) would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult; and 2) results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6).
- C. The student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.
- D. The student engages in behavior of such a nature that suspension or expulsion is necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, the student's fellow classmates, the classroom staff and teachers, or other school employees.

Prior to suspending or expelling a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3, the Principal shall, whenever possible, consult with a mental health professional under contract. If the events leading up to the student's suspension or expulsion from school indicate that the student is in need of additional mental health services, the student's Principal or the District's mental health professional shall assist the student's parent or guardian with locating providers or obtaining such services, including referral to an independent mental health professional, provided such assistance does not result in a financial burden to the District or the student's school.

If a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3 is suspended or expelled, the student shall be afforded the same notice and hearing, procedural, and educational opportunities as set forth in Board policy and the law. The suspension or expulsion of a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3 shall not limit the Board's responsibilities with respect to the provision of special education and related services to such students in accordance with Board policy and the law. Further, the Board shall not be limited in its authority to issue an in-school suspension to a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3, provided that the in-school suspension is served in a supervised learning environment.

If the Superintendent 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. Any such suspension must comply with due process and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide for options to suspension/expulsion of a student from school which may include alternative educational options.

The Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion must be imposed for the same duration it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

After offering an opportunity for a hearing, the Superintendent, at the Superintendent's discretion, may deny admittance to a student who has been suspended or expelled from another public school within or outside the State, for the period of unexpired time of the suspension or expulsion. This provision also applies to a student who is the subject of a power of attorney designating the child's grandparent as the attorney-in-fact or caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the child's grandparent and is seeking admittance into the schools of this District in accordance with Policy 5111.

When a student is expelled from this District, the Superintendent shall send written notice to any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under Postsecondary Enrollment Options at the time the expulsion is imposed. The written notice shall indicate the date the expulsion is scheduled to expire.

If the expulsion is extended, the Superintendent shall notify the college of the extension.

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

A copy of this policy is to be posted in a central location in each school and made available to students and parents upon request. Key provisions of the policy should also be included in the parent-student handbook.

Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring

The Board of Education authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment at various school sites throughout the District and on school buses. The video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment shall be used to protect Board property and assets from theft and vandalism, through deterrence and video documentation. The system

is not designed nor intended to protect individuals from being victims of violent or property crimes, nor to detect other potentially illegal and undesirable activities that may occur, although information may be used as evidence in such cases.

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

The Superintendent is responsible for determining where to install and operate fixed-location video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment in the District. The determination of where and when to use video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment will be made in a nondiscriminatory manner. Video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment may be placed in common areas in school buildings (e.g., school hallways, entryways, the front office where students, employees and visitors are permitted to freely come and go, gymnasiums, cafeterias, libraries), the school parking lots and other outside areas, and in school buses. Except in extraordinary circumstances and with the written authorization of the Superintendent, video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment shall not be used in areas where person have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, private offices (unless there is express consent given by the office occupant), or conference/meeting rooms), or in individual classrooms during instructional times.

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

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

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

The Board will not use video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment to obtain information for the purpose of routine staff appraisal/evaluation or monitoring.

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

The Board shall maintain video surveillance/electronic monitoring recordings for a limited period. Any request to view a recording under this policy must be made within seven (7) days of the event/incident. Unless a formal complaint is being investigated, recordings shall be destroyed after thirty (30) days. If, however, action is taken by the Board/administration, as a result of a formal complaint or incident, recordings shall be kept for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the action taken.

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

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

STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION

In accordance with Board Policy 5722 and Policy 9700, students have the right, protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to exercise freedom of speech. This includes the right to distribute or display, at reasonable times and places, unauthorized written material, petitions, buttons, badges, or other insignia, except expression that:

- A. is defamatory, libelous, obscene or harmful to juveniles;
- B. is pervasively indecent or vulgar;
- C. promotes activities, products or services that are unlawful (illegal) as to minors as defined by State or Federal law;
- D. constitutes insulting or "fighting words", the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character, or statements that violate the Board's policies, regarding bullying,
- E. harassment and/or discrimination as set forth in Policy 2260, Policy 2260.01, Policy 5517 and Policy 5517.01);
- F. infringes upon the privacy or rights of others;
- G. violates copyright law;
- H. is reasonably likely to cause substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities or the educational process.

Distribution or display of material in any of the above categories is prohibited on school premises or at any school-related event.

Procedures

Any student wishing to distribute or display unauthorized material must first submit for approval a copy of the material to the principal twenty-four (24) hours in advance of desired distribution/display time, together with the following information:

- A. name of the student or organization
- B. date(s) and time(s) of day of intended display or distribution
- C. location where material will be displayed or distributed
- D. the grade(s) of students to whom the display or distribution is intended

The principal should either approve the material or indicate how it violates the guidelines listed above or the time, place, and manner restrictions listed below. If permission to distribute or display the material is denied, the student shall have the opportunity to make necessary revisions and/or deletions

Permission to distribute or display material does not imply approval of its contents by either the School, the administration of the School, or the Board.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, he/she may submit a written request for appeal to the Assistant Superintendent for Operations.

The student submitting the request shall have the right to appear and present the reasons, supported by relevant witnesses and material, as to why distribution/display of the written material is appropriate.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, he/she may submit a written request for appeal to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee will render a decision within forty-eight (48) hours. The student may appeal the decision to the Board of Education by notifying the Superintendent in writing. The Board or a committee of the Board will meet within five (5) days to review the Superintendent's decision. If the committee of the Board makes a recommendation to the Board, the Board shall review the recommendation at its next regularly-scheduled meeting and issue a decision prior to the close of that meeting. If the Superintendent or Board fails to make a decision in the time required, the student may resume display distribution and continue to display/distribute the information until a decision is made.

Time, Place, and Manner of Distribution or Display

The distribution or display of written material shall be limited to a reasonable time, place and manner as follows:

- A. no material may be distributed or displayed during the time of at the place of a school activity if it is likely to cause a substantial disruption of that activity.
- B. no material may be distributed or displayed if it blocks the safe flow of traffic within corridors and entrance ways of the school

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Obscene to minors" is defined as:

- a. the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the written material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors;
 - b. The material depicts or describes conduct that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct should be presented to minors.
 - c. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- B. "Minor" means any person under eighteen (18) years of age.

Disciplinary Action

Distribution or display by any student of non-school-sponsored material prohibited by these guidelines will be halted and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the procedures contained in AG 5600/AG 5610.

Any other party violating this guideline will be requested to leave the school property immediately and, if necessary, the police will be called.

A version of this administrative guideline is to be published in student handbooks at the secondary level.

RELIGIOUS/PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Decisions of the United States Supreme Court have made it clear that it is not the province of a public school to advance or inhibit religious beliefs or practices. Under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, this remains the inviolate province of the individual and the church of his/her choice. The rights of any minority, no matter how small, must be protected. No matter how well intended, either official or unofficial sponsorship of religiously-oriented activities by the school are offensive to some and tend to supplant activities which should be the exclusive province of individual religious groups, churches, private organizations, or the family.

District staff members shall not use prayer, religious readings, or religious symbols as a devotional exercise or in an act of worship or celebration. The District shall not act as a disseminating agent for any person or outside agency for any religious or anti-religious document, book, or article. Distribution of such materials on District property by any party shall be in accordance with Policy 7510 and AG 7510A - Use of District Facilities and Policy 9700 and AG 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

The Board of Education acknowledges that it is prohibited from adopting any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs.

Any student enrolled in the District may choose to engage in religious expression before, during, or after school hours in the same manner and to the same extent that a student is permitted to engage in secular activities or expression. However, no student will be required to participate in any religious expression or activities.

Observance of religious holidays through devotional exercises or acts of worship is also prohibited. Acknowledgement of, explanation of, and teaching about religious holidays of various religions is encouraged. Celebration activities involving nonreligious decorations and use of secular works are permitted, but it is the responsibility of all faculty members to ensure that such activities are strictly voluntary, do not place an atmosphere of social compulsion or ostracism on minority groups or individuals, and do not interfere with the regular school program.

The Board shall not conduct or sanction a baccalaureate service in conjunction with graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall not include religious invocations, benedictions, or formal prayer at any school-sponsored event.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, a moment of silence may be provided each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. However, under no circumstances shall students be compelled to participate.

The flag of the United States shall be raised above each school and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions, weather permitting. The flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day.

The mottoes of the United States of America ("In God We Trust") and the State of Ohio ("With God, All Things Are Possible") shall be displayed in an appropriate manner in a classroom, auditorium, or cafeteria of a school building of the District, if copies of the mottoes or money to purchase copies of the mottoes are donated to the District. The donated or purchased copies of the mottoes shall meet the applicable design requirements as provided by statute.

Professional staff members are authorized to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance at an appropriate time each school day. However, no student shall be compelled/required to participate in the recitation of the Pledge. Additionally, the Board

prohibits the intimidation of any student by other students or staff for the purposes of coercing participation. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines that require any staff member who conducts this activity does it at an appropriate time, in an appropriate manner, and with due regard to the need to protect the rights and the privacy of a nonparticipating student. Wording of the Pledge of Allegiance as set forth in the United States Code shall not be altered.

TITLE I

Title I is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance for our nation's schools. Title I funds enhance educational programs at our school and encourage parental involvement.

The goal of Title I is to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments.

In order to meet this goal, home and school partnerships are essential. Parents, students, and teachers work together so that all of our children succeed in school.

Alliance City School parents may request policies regarding student participation in state mandated assessments as well as information on each assessment. Please see your building principal for this information and/or BOE Policy #po2623.

Information on mandated State Assessments can also be found at the following website web address:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing>.

VACATIONS

Parents are encouraged not to take their child out of the school for family vacations as this is an interruption in their academic instruction. Whenever a proposed absence-for-vacation for five (5) or more days is requested, parents must submit the request to the Director of Student Services. For less than five (5) days, the request is submitted to the principal. The length of absence should be made clear, and those involved should have an opportunity to express their views on the potential effects of the absence. Parents will be notified by a letter from the principal or the Director of Student Services either approving or denying the parent request.

Approval or denial is defined as follows:

Unexcused Absence (No Grade Penalty): Permission is granted for the student to be absent during the stated time.

1. The student will be responsible for notifying all teachers of the absence.
2. The student is responsible for all assignments that will be missed.
3. Arrangements were made prior to leaving.
4. The absence will be counted as an unexcused absence, but will not be a factor in determining the course grade unless the make-up work is incomplete.

Unexcused Absence (No Penalty with a Condition): The same conditions as stated above except the approval letter will contain that the parent accepts the responsibility for the effect that the student's absence could have on the student's grades.

Unexcused Absence: Permission was not granted by the principal or Director of Student Services for the student to be absent. The student will not be permitted to make up missed assignments.

ZERO TOLERANCE

No form of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, including excessive truancy, will be tolerated.

SECTION V ~ TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide transportation for those students whose distance from their school makes this service necessary within the limitations established by State law. Such laws and rules shall govern any question not covered by this policy.

Children living beyond the following walking limits shall be entitled to bus transportation:

- A. Pre-K and Kindergarten at Noon greater than three (3) blocks
- B. Pre-K and Kindergarten in Morning, or afternoon greater than three (3) blocks
- C. Grades 1 through 8 one (1) mile
- D. Grades 9 through 12 one and one-half (1.5) miles

Riding a school bus is a privilege. The school bus is part of each child's school environment. It is the student's duty and obligation to obey all bus rules and expectations for safety reasons. Any questions or concerns about bus transportation should be directed to the Transportation Supervisor at 330-829-0348.

Alliance City Schools strives to make the school bus ride to and from school a safe experience for all students. Student safety is our #1 priority. Parents/Guardians need to be aware of the following procedures if their child misses the bus, please see below:

- If the bus is late, the following may be the reason; road conditions, weather, traffic, waiting on a student not ready, trains, blocked roads, trash trucks, road work, and emergency vehicles.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the bus garage at 330-829-0348 and the student's assigned school building. This will help the bus driver to only make necessary stops.

Alliance City School District Bylaws & Policies: 8630 - Student Removal/Suspension From Transportation

The Board of Education holds that busing is a privilege, not a right, which may be removed from any student who violates the rules of the District, or who conducts himself/herself in a manner which is considered dangerous to persons or property or a threat to the safe operation of the school bus.

The school bus driver shall be responsible for discipline of students while they are being transported to or from school. When a problem in student conduct requires stringent discipline, the driver shall report it in writing to the principal. A student may be suspended from bus transportation by the Principal for disciplinary reasons up to a maximum of ten (10) days, in which case the parents are responsible for the student's transportation.

School Bus Violations For Which A Student Will Be Disciplined

1. Smoking, tobacco products, and lighters and matches
2. Fighting
3. Possession of any alcoholic beverage or drug and/or medication
4. Throwing object(s) inside or outside bus
5. Physical or verbal abuse of driver
6. Physical or verbal abuse of another student or rider
7. Body parts hanging outside window or door
8. Possession of weapons or explosives, including fireworks
9. Vandalism to the bus, bus equipment or possessions of driver or another rider
10. Use of chewing tobacco or snuff
11. Expectoration (spitting)
12. Consumption of food, beverages or chewing gum
13. Use of obscene language or visual forms of vulgarity

14. Refusal to remain seated until the driver gives permission to leave
15. Refusal to comply to the instructions of the driver
16. Any misconduct, visually acknowledged and in the judgment of the bus driver may threaten the safety and well being of persons or property at a bus stop
17. Unauthorized use of the emergency exit door
18. Leaving or boarding bus at location other than assigned stop (unless parental and administrative authorization have been given)
19. Possession of glass contains, animals, insects, laser devices, and light pointers
20. Prohibited items: Sport equipment, e.g. skateboard, baseball bat, football, basketball, etc. Instruments other than band instruments that can sit on the rider's lap.

Consequences

School bus violation will result in school-based discipline, as determined by the building principal or his/her designee. Consequences will be age and grade appropriate. A student who poses a danger to others or themselves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding the bus as outlined in the student handbook. If absence is due to a student being suspended and lost the privilege of riding the bus the absence will be Unexcused. Parents are required to arrange transportation to and from school for the length of the bus suspension.

School Bus Safety Expectations

We have **AVIATOR PRIDE** because we:

1. Talk quietly and remain seated.
2. Keep our hands, feet, and all materials to ourselves and inside the bus.
3. Are respectful of others.
4. Keep all food and drink in our backpacks.

*School Bus Safety Expectations will be posted on each bus and reviewed by the bus driver.

School Bus Safety Responsibilities

Parent:

1. Students will ride their assigned bus both to and from school unless a written request asking permission to be let off at some other stop is presented to the bus driver and signed by the parent/guardian. Parents will assume the responsibility of the child when such a request is made and granted. Students will not be permitted to ride a bus other than their regular bus unless the Principal approves a request from the parent/guardian for the change.
2. Parents/guardians are responsible for the safety of students while going to and from pick points and for meeting the bus on schedule. Be ready at least five (5) minutes before the bus is to arrive.
3. Buses operate on a time schedule as outlined by the Transportation Supervisor
4. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for any vandalism or damage to a bus by their children.
5. Students shall be waiting at the curbside of the street to board the bus when it stops in the morning.
6. No unauthorized passengers shall be transported on a school bus.

Student:

1. Smoking, drinking, drugs, eating, gum, chewing, and littering are not permitted on the buses by students, adults, and chaperones.
2. Noise on a bus shall be kept to a minimum at all times to assure safety of operation.
3. Absolute quiet must be maintained at railroad crossings or other danger areas.
4. Nothing shall be thrown out of the bus nor anything held so it extends out of the window.
5. All parts of the student's bodies shall be kept inside the school bus at all times.
6. Students may sit three to a seat at AELS, Rockhill and Parkway Elementary Schools. Students may sit two to a seat at AMS and AHS.
7. Seats will be assigned by the driver to maintain order and for evacuation purposes.
8. While students are riding on the bus, animals, firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other dangerous materials or objects that may interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle shall not be transported.
9. Wait away from the road.

10. Stay out of the Danger Zone, which is ten (10) steps around the bus on all sides.
11. Only cross the road in front of the bus, never behind the bus.
12. Use handrails to get on and off the bus.

VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the Principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.