Howard Lake Waverly Winsted High School

Home of the Lakers

2026-2027 Student Handbook

Approved: 8/10/2026

PO BOX 708
8700 County Road 6 SW
Howard Lake, MN 55349
320-543-4600 High School Office
320-543-4646 District Office
hlww.k12.mn.us/hs

Registration Guide	Activities Guide	Board Policies

Welcome to HLWW High School

Learners **A**ccountable **K**ind **E**mpowered **R**esilient

Welcome Lakers!

I am excited for the year ahead and all that we will accomplish together. On behalf of the HLWW High School staff, I want you to know that our school is a special place where you can grow in academics, arts, and athletics. We believe every student deserves an excellent education and should be treated with respect and care—just as we would treat our own children. Building positive relationships between students, staff, and our community is one of our core values, and we will continue to use those connections to build on our successes.

To make the most of your time at HLWW High School, remember to:

- Set clear short- and long-term goals.
- Make your schoolwork a priority and take ownership of your progress.
- Get involved in academic and extracurricular opportunities.
- Begin and end each day with a positive attitude.
- Manage your time wisely.
- Build strong, respectful relationships with teachers and classmates.

Our staff will do everything we can to help you succeed academically and personally. When you graduate, we want you to leave with pride in your accomplishments and in being part of the Laker family.

On behalf of the entire Howard Lake–Waverly–Winsted High School staff, welcome to the 2025–2026 school year. Let's work together to make it our best year yet.

Go Lakers!

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie Kuehn, Principal



Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School

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If you or someone you know needs support now, **call or text 988** or **chat 988lifeline.org**

PART I – INFORMATION

All students are responsible for carrying out the procedures concerning registration and scheduling which are outlined in the Student Handbook and the Registration Guide.

Arrival and Dismissal Hours

Students are requested to not enter the building before 7:00 A.M. unless they have special permission, or they are taking a "0" Period class. Students not involved in a planned activity must leave the building shortly after 3:00 P.M. Students who violate this will be viewed as loitering and be given the appropriate consequence.

Calendar

The school calendar is adopted annually by the school board. A copy of the school calendar can be on the school district's website at https://hlww.k12.mn.us/calendar

E-Learning Day Plan

In the event of an E-Learning Day students are required to check in live with their advisor for attendance during the advisory period. Students will follow their class period schedule throughout the day. Teachers will assign work using Google Classroom. Teachers will have the ability to teach live, post videos or other links to support the students' learning. Teachers will be available to assist students during the students' assigned periods.
Middle/High School E-Learning Day Schedule:

Advisory	9:55 AM-	10:10 AM
Period 1	10:14 AM-	10:49:00 AM
Period 2	10:53 AM-	11:28:00 AM
Period 3	11:32 AM-	12:07:00 PM
Lunch	12:07 PM-	12:39:00 PM
Period 4	12:43 PM-	1:18:00 PM
Period 5	1:22 PM –	1:57:00 PM
Period 6	2:01 PM –	2:36:00 PM
Period 7	2:40 PM –	3:15:00 PM

Complaints-

Students, parents/guardians, employees, or other persons may report concerns or complaints to the school district. Complaints may be either written or oral. People are encouraged, but not required, to file a written complaint at the building level where appropriate. The appropriate administrator will respond in writing to the complaining party regarding the school district's response to the complaint.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students

The age of majority for most purposes in Minnesota is 18 years of age. All students, regardless of age, are governed by the rules for students provided in school district policy and this handbook.

Employment Background Checks

The school district will seek criminal history background checks for all applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district. The school district also will seek criminal history background checks for all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether compensation is paid. These positions include, but are not limited to, all athletic coaches, extracurricular academic coaches, assistants, and advisors. The school district may elect to seek criminal history background checks for other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees.

Equal Access to School Facilities

The school district has created a limited open forum for secondary students to conduct non curriculum-related meetings during non instructional time. The school district will not discriminate against or deny equal access or a fair opportunity on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. These limited open forum meetings will be voluntary and student initiated; will not be sponsored by school employees or agents; employees or agents of the school will be present at religious meetings only in a non participatory capacity; the meetings will not interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and nonschool persons will not direct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups. All meetings under this provision must follow the procedures established by the school district. The form can be found at https://hlww.k12.mn.us/district/policies

Fees

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state, federal, and local funds at no charge to a student. Students are expected to provide their own pencils, pens, paper, erasers, notebooks, and other personal items. Students may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including (not an inclusive list):

- Admission fees or charges for extracurricular activities, where attendance is optional and where the admission fees or charges a student must pay to attend or participate in an extracurricular activity are the same for all students, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a public or a home school.
- Cost for materials for a class project that exceeds minimum requirements and is kept by the student.
- Security deposits for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Items of personal use or products that a student has an option to purchase such as student publications, class rings, annuals, and graduation announcements.
- Field trips considered supplementary to the district's educational program.
- Admission fees or costs to attend or participate in optional extracurricular activities and programs.
- Voluntarily purchased student health and accident insurance.
- Use of musical instruments owned or rented by the school district.
- A school district-sponsored driver or motorcycle education training course.
- Transportation to and from school for students living within two miles of school.
- Transportation of students to and from optional extracurricular activities or post-secondary instruction conducted at locations other than school.

Students will be charged for textbooks, workbooks, and library books that are lost or destroyed.

Food in the Classrooms

Students are permitted and encouraged to have water bottles in their lockers and drink water as needed. Students may not take uneaten food from the lunchroom to their lockers during breakfast or lunch.

In school, students are permitted to consume pop/juice with the following limitations:

- Beverages kept in lockers should be in a **sealable plastic container.**
- The pop privilege is dependent upon responsible student use.
- **No pop or food is allowed in the classroom without teacher permission.**

All baked goods and treats served in the public schools must be prepared in the building or commercially baked. Any cakes or treats brought to school in celebration of a birthday or event must follow these guidelines. This policy was established to maintain health standards as they relate to communicable diseases and the safety of students with food allergies. Any food not meeting these standards will be taken away.

Fundraising

All fundraising activities conducted by student groups and organizations and/or parent groups must be approved in advance by the building principal. Participation in non approved fundraising activities is a violation of school district policy. Solicitations of students or employees by students for nonschool-related activities will not be allowed during the school day.

Graduation Ceremony

Student participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Students who have completed the requirements for graduation are allowed to participate in graduation exercises, unless participation is denied for appropriate reasons, which may include discipline. Graduation exercises are under the control and direction of the building principal.

Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies

Students may not be interviewed during the school day by persons other than a student's parents/guardians or school district officials, employees, and/or agents, except as provided by law and/or school policy.

Library and Media Center

The Media Center is a work area. Passes will be presented to the checkout desk when entering the library. All media center use will be under the guidance of a classroom teacher or supervised by the librarian. Students who check out books are expected to return their library books by the due date. All library materials are to be returned at least one week before the last day of school. The last day to check out materials will be one week before the day all library books are to be returned. Parents will be notified of overdue materials by email. Parents will be asked to pay replacement costs of materials that are not returned. Written requests for payment will be issued shortly after the due date of all library materials. Money will be refunded for materials that are subsequently found and returned. Students who do not return borrowed materials or pay for replacement ones will not be eligible to participate in activity or reward days until the fees are paid or other arrangements have been made.

Lunch

Lunch is to be eaten in designated areas only. Lunch time is:
12:46 – 1:16 for grades 9-12

Students may purchase lunch at school or bring a prepared lunch from home. Milk will be available for purchase to supplement lunches brought from home. Students may be eligible for free and reduced-price lunches and/or breakfasts. Free and reduced-price eligibility forms are available on the district website under food service. For more information regarding eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, contact Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@hlww.k12.mn.us

Closed Noon Hour-

There will be a closed noon hour in effect for students in grades 9 - 11. Students are not allowed to leave the commons area or the building. If it is necessary to leave the building, a leave school permit is required. Leaving the building at noon without a "Leave School Permit" is an unexcused absence. Students will not be allowed to go to their cars or the parking lot unless authorized by the school office or administration.

Open Campus Hours- Seniors Only

Seniors will be permitted to leave campus during their lunch if they have a 5th or 6th hour study hall and are academically and behaviorally eligible. All students must check in and out through the High School Office. Eligibility runs week to week based on the Monday morning grade pull. Those ineligible or who choose to stay in the building must report to their assigned study halls. To remain eligible, students must:

- Have a signed parent consent form
- Must return on time for their next scheduled class
- Must have registered their vehicle with the main office
- Must sign in and out through the High School Office
- Remain academically eligible- this follows the activities eligibility policy.
- Remain behaviorally eligible- this includes:
    - Must be compliant with all school rules and the student handbook
    - No behavior referrals or cell phone violations
    - Must have good attendance
    - Must not be on the "No Pass List"
    - Must not have skipped check out/check in through the High School Office
    - Must not have more than 3 tardies in any given class

Loss of Privilege

- Failure to meet the eligibility requirements or follow procedures may result in loss of Open Hours privileges for the remainder of the week or longer, depending on the severity or frequency of the violations.

Lockers

Students are assigned a locker for storing books and supplies. Each student is responsible for seeing that his/her locker is always kept locked and in order. School combination locks are provided and will be returned at the end of the school year. Lost or damaged locks will cost $7.00 to be replaced. Students are not to share lockers unless given permission by the principal due to a lack of available lockers for all students. Any interior decorating of lockers is to be in good taste or the decorations will be removed. **Students may use magnets, painters tape or other non-marking materials. Any use of transparent tape is prohibited. Students will be responsible for cleaning and restoring the locker to its original condition.** Exterior decorating of lockers and hallways is not allowed without permission from the principal. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Lockers are the property of the school and school officials reserve the right to search a locker at any time.

Nondiscrimination

The school district is committed to inclusive education and providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or age in its programs and activities. The school board has designated Jennifer Borrell as the district's human rights officer to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination. She may be contacted at jborrell@hlww.k12.mn.us or at 320-543-4646.

Notice of Violent Behavior by Students

The school district will give notice to teachers and other appropriate school district staff before students with a history of violent behavior are placed in their classrooms. Prior to giving this notice, district officials will inform the student's parent or guardian that the notice will be given. The student's parents/guardians have the right to review and challenge their child's records, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior.

Parent and Teacher Conferences

Parent and teacher conferences will be held two times per year. For more information, contact the building principal.

Parent Volunteers

Parents/guardians are welcome in the schools and are encouraged to volunteer in their children's classrooms. To volunteer in the school district, parents/guardians must complete the Volunteer and Background Check Sign-up Form found on the district's website. Parents/guardians who visit the school should sign in at the office before entering a classroom. For more information, contact Sandy Stallmo at sstallmo@hlww.k12.mn.us or 320-543-4600.

Pledge of Allegiance

Students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America once per week during advisory time. Any person who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reason may elect not to do so. Students must respect another person's right to make that choice. Students will also receive instruction in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect for the flag.

Therapy Dogs

To support student well-being, our school occasionally invites certified therapy dogs on campus. These dogs, accompanied by trained handlers, provide comfort and emotional support in a safe, supervised environment. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you prefer your student not to interact with therapy dogs, please notify the school office.

Bathroom Conduct

Students are expected to use bathroom facilities for their intended purpose. Students are not allowed to be in stalls together or use the bathroom to gather for socialization.The use of cell phones in this space is strictly prohibited. Any misconduct in the restroom may result in school consequences and/or police citations.

Schedule

2025-2026 HS Bell Schedule		
High School 7 Period Schedule		
Period 1	7:55 AM	8:42 AM
Period 2	8:46 AM	9:33 AM
Laker Break	9:37 AM	9:45 AM
Period 3	9:49 AM	10:36 AM
Period 4	10:40 AM	11:27 AM
Advisory	11:31 AM	11:51 AM
Period 5	11:55 AM	12:42 PM
Lunch	12:46 PM	1:16 PM
Period 6	1:20 PM	2:08 PM
Period 7	2:12 PM	3:00 PM
High School Late Start		
Period 1	9:55 AM	10:32 AM
Period 2	10:36 AM	11:11 AM
Period 3	11:15 AM	11:50 AM
Period 4	11:54 AM	12:29 PM
Lunch	12:33 PM	1:03 PM
Period 5	1:07 PM	1:42 PM
Period 6	1:46 PM	2:21 PM
Period 7	2:25 PM	3:00 PM

School Activities

The school district provides opportunities for students to pursue special interests that contribute to their physical, mental, and emotional health. Formal instruction is the school district's priority.

Students who participate in school-sponsored activities are expected to responsibly represent the school and community. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline apply to school activities.

All spectators at school-sponsored activities are expected to behave appropriately. Students and employees may be subject to discipline. Parents/guardians and other spectators may be subject to sanctions for inappropriate, illegal, or unsportsmanlike behavior at these activities or events.

The Howard Lake Waverly Winsted School District is a member of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL). Students who participate in MSHSL activities must abide by the MSHSL rules. The district will enforce all MSHSL rules during the school year and in the summer as applicable.

Employees who conduct MSHSL activities will cover applicable rules, penalties, and opportunities with students and parents/guardians prior to the start of an activity. For more information about the MSHSL rules and student eligibility requirements, contact Joe Puncochar or refer to jpuncochar@hlww.k12.mn.us or 320-543-4600.
There is a $125.00 athletic/activity participation fee per activity and a maximum of $250.00 if a student is involved in three or more activities. There is also a family cap of $650.00. No student is denied participation due to inability to pay. Fee information is available from the Activities Director, Joe Puncochar, at the high school.

HLWW ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Student eligibility is based on academic success as well as a commitment of the participants to follow the high school league behavior rules. To be eligible to participate **students must receive passing grades in all classes and must be making satisfactory progress towards an on-time graduation.** 4 official grade checks will be done per year, quarter one, quarter two, quarter three, and quarter four.

I. Academic Eligibility for Students in Grades 9-12

A. Any student receiving one or more failing grades at the end of the quarter is ineligible for a minimum of one week. In that week the student cannot participate in contests. The student is expected to attend practices and events unless directed otherwise by their coach/advisor.

B. After the initial first week, grades are checked weekly placing the emphasis on sustaining academic improvement. If the student is not passing for the week, he/she becomes ineligible for that week until an “all passing” slip is submitted.

i. At the end of the first week the student will submit an "eligibility slip" and every week thereafter, until the end of the marking period verifying eligibility. Eligibility slips are due by the end of lunch the last day of the academic week in order to be able to compete/perform the following week. Eligibility slips will be turned in to the activities director.

ii. Students that submit slips with passing grades from all teachers are allowed to play the next week (beginning Saturday through Friday).

iii. Students still failing, continue to be ineligible. Students who do not submit slips on time are also ineligible.

iv. Students can move from eligible to ineligible on a weekly basis between grading periods depending upon their weekly grade progress.

C. Students will start each school year based on their last quarter grades. There is a carryover of failing grades from one school year to the next. If a student does credit recovery (Summer School) they can avoid week to week eligibility for the start of the fall season. However, their penalty of 1 event will still be served at the beginning of the season. If they do not complete credit recovery, they will start the year on week to week eligibility.

D. Coaches/Advisors have the right to establish academic eligibility policies for their activity that exceed the above policy.

Note: Cross Country & Volleyball can have MSHSL competitions starting at the end of the 1st week. Football can't have a MSHSL game until the end of the 3rd week.

School Closing Procedures

School may be cancelled when the superintendent believes severe weather or other circumstances threaten the safety of students and employees. The superintendent will decide as early in the day as possible about closing school or school buildings. School closing announcements will be broadcast over WCCO-AM 830 and major local television stations. Parents are encouraged to visit the school district website and watch for information of school closings, late starts, and early dismissals.

Searches

In the interest of student safety and to ensure that schools are drug free, district authorities may conduct searches. Students violate school policy when they carry contraband on their person or in their personal possessions or store contraband in desks, lockers, or vehicles parked on school property. "Contraband" means any unauthorized item, the possession of which is prohibited by school district policy and/or law. If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item(s) and, when appropriate, give the item(s) to legal officials for ultimate disposition. Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's "Student Discipline" policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, expulsion, and, when appropriate, the student may be referred to legal officials.

Lockers and Personal Possessions Within a Locker

Under Minnesota law, school lockers are school district property. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for students' convenience. School officials may inspect the interior of lockers for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Students' personal possessions within a school locker may be searched only when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school officials will provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched, unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

Desks

School desks are school district property. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of desks provided for students' convenience. School officials may inspect the interior of desks for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Personal Possessions and Student's Person

The personal possessions of a student and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

Vehicles on Campus

Patrols and Inspections

School officials may conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and other school district locations and routine inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

Search of the Interior of a Student's Motor Vehicle

The interior of a student's motor vehicle, including the glove and trunk compartments, in a school district location may be searched when school officials have a reasonable

suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness. Such searches may be conducted without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant. A student will be subject to loss of parking privileges and to discipline if the student refuses to open a locked motor vehicle or its compartments under the student's control upon a school official's request.

Student Publications and Materials

The school district's policy is to protect students' free speech rights while, at the same time, preserving the district's obligation to provide a learning environment that is free of disruption. All school publications are under the supervision of the building principal and/or sponsor. Non School-sponsored publications may not be distributed without prior approval.

Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises

The school district recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes distributing nonschool-sponsored material, subject to school district regulations and procedures, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner. For detailed information, see the complete "Distribution of Non School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees" policy (*Appendix 2*).

School-Sponsored Student Publications

The school district may exercise editorial control over the style and content of student expression in school-sponsored publications and activities. Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to ensure compliance with the law and school district policies. Students producing official school publications and participating in school activities will be under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the school principal. "Official school publications" means school newspapers, yearbooks, or material produced in communications, journalism, or other writing classes as part of the curriculum. Expression in an official school publication or school-sponsored activity is prohibited when the material:

- Is obscene to minors;
- Is libelous or slanderous;
- Advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted for minors by law;
- Encourages students to commit illegal acts or violate school regulations or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of school or school activities;
- Expresses or advocates sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence or prejudice;

- Is distributed or displayed in violation of time, place, and manner regulations.

Expression in an official school publication or school-sponsored activity is subject to school district editorial control over the style and content when the school district's actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns. Official school publications may be distributed at reasonable times and locations.

Student Records

Student records are classified as public, private, or confidential. State and federal laws protect student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents/guardians and eligible students with certain rights. For the purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is one who is 18 or older or who is enrolled in an institution of post-secondary education. For more information on the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students regarding student records, see "Student Records" (*Appendix 3*). A complete copy of the school district's "Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records" policy may be obtained at on the districts website.

Student Surveys

Occasionally, the school district utilizes surveys to obtain student opinions and information about students. For complete information on the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students about conducting surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations, see "Student Surveys" (*Appendix 4*). A complete copy of the school district's "Student Surveys" policy may be obtained on the school district's website.

Transportation of Public School Students

The school district will provide transportation, at the expense of the school district, for all resident students.Transportation will be provided on all regularly scheduled school days or make-up days. Transportation will not be provided during the summer school break, except in certain circumstances. The school district will not provide transportation for students whose transportation privileges have been revoked or have been voluntarily surrendered by the students' parent or guardian.

Extracurricular Transportation

The school district may provide transportation for students to and from extracurricular activities. To the extent the school district provides extracurricular transportation, the district may charge a fee for transportation of students to and from extracurricular activities and optional field trips at locations other than school.
The HLWW school bus garage is located at 8700 County Road 6 SW, Howard Lake. The phone number for the bus garage is 320-543-4650. Students riding the bus will be picked up and let off only at their regular stops. Anyone wishing to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop must bring a note from home, have it signed by the principal, and presented to the bus driver.

1. Every bus rider must abide by these rules or lose the privilege to ride the bus.
2. All riders shall remain in the seats assigned to them.
3. Keep your head, hands, and arms inside the bus.
4. Scuffling, fighting, and obscene language are forbidden.
5. Bus riders will not litter the bus with food or other debris.
6. Bus driver will report any misconduct to the principal.
7. Bus driver is in complete charge while on the bus.
8. Parents will be notified if the misconduct continues. The bus rider may be denied the privilege of riding for the school year.
9. Damage to the bus other than regular usage will be paid for by the rider.
10. Be at the loading pace at the scheduled time. The driver will not wait.
11. Follow the recommended procedure when crossing the roadway.
12. Inform the driver, if possible, when the rider will be absent.
13. Cooperate with the **BUS DRIVER AT ALL TIMES.**
14. Wait in FRONT of the bus, never behind.
15. The school bus is part of the school zone, all other school rules and policies apply.

School Bus Discipline

1. Students exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be written up on a bus discipline report.
2. The first bus discipline report for minor offenses will be a warning.
3. The second bus discipline report may result in a two day bus suspension or other school discipline.
4. Subsequent bus discipline reports may result in longer bus suspensions (i.e. third bus report will result in a 3 day bus suspension).
5. After the fourth bus discipline report for minor/major offenses, a parent/student/administrator/bus driver committee (3 bus drivers) will need to meet at 8:15 a.m. to discuss and set a behavioral expectations plan for further bus riding.

6. Students who have been suspended from bus service and are participating in extracurricular activities that utilize a bus to get to an event or a practice must arrange transportation with
their parents and/or guardians and receive an approval for such transportation from the High School Office.

Video and Audio Recording

School Buses

All school buses used by the school district may be equipped for the placement and operation of a video camera. The school district will post a notice in a conspicuous location informing students that their conversations or actions may be recorded. The school district may use a video recording of the actions of student passengers as evidence in any disciplinary action arising from the students' misconduct on the bus.

Places Other Than Buses

The school district buildings and grounds may be equipped with video cameras. Video surveillance may occur in any school district building or on any school district property with the exception of locker rooms or restrooms.

PART II — ACADEMICS

Alternative Educational Opportunities

Some students may be at risk of not continuing or completing their educational programs. The school district provides alternative learning options for students at risk of not succeeding in school. Alternative educational opportunities may include special tutoring, modified curriculum and instruction, instruction through electronic media, special education services, homebound instruction, and enrollment in an alternative learning center, among others.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are prohibited. Students who cheat or commit plagiarism on any test or assignment will be given a failing grade for that test or assignment and will be disciplined in accordance with the school district's "Student Discipline" policy (*Appendix 5*).

Acceptable Use of AI Tools and ChatGPT Policy

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to ChatGPT, is permitted at school only under guidelines that support ethical use, academic honesty, and alignment with learning goals.

Purpose

AI tools can support learning when used responsibly. They may be used to enhance understanding, generate ideas, or support assignments when explicitly allowed by a teacher. However, using AI to complete work dishonestly is considered a violation of academic integrity.

Acceptable Use

- Students may use AI tools **only when a teacher gives permission** and for purposes that directly support educational objectives.
- AI may be used to:
    - Brainstorm ideas or explore concepts.
    - Check grammar, spelling, or writing mechanics.
    - Support revision of drafts with teacher guidance.

- Research topics under teacher direction (not as a replacement for source material or citations).

Unacceptable Use

- Submitting AI-generated content as one's own original work is **considered plagiarism**.
- Using AI to complete assignments, essays, or tests **without teacher permission** is **cheating**.
- Copying or pasting full AI-generated responses into an assignment without citation or teacher consent is prohibited.
- Using AI to bypass the learning process or produce responses in place of personal effort violates academic expectations.

Consequences

Any misuse of AI tools, including cheating or plagiarism, will result in:

- A **failing grade** for the assignment.
- **Disciplinary action** consistent with the school district's "Student Discipline" policy (Appendix 5).
- **Loss of access** to school-provided AI tools if applicable.

Student Responsibility

Students are expected to:

- Ask questions if unsure about when or how AI can be used.
- Be honest about the role of AI in completing their work.
- Understand that ethical use of technology is part of becoming a responsible digital citizen.

Early Graduation

Students may be considered for early graduation after meeting the conditions provided in school district policy.

Extended School Year Opportunities

The school district provides extended school year opportunities to a student who is the subject of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) if the student's IEP team determines the services are necessary during a break in instruction in order to provide a free and appropriate public education. For more information on extended school year opportunities for students with an IEP, contact the district office.

Field Trips

Field trips may be offered to supplement student learning in which students voluntarily participate and, if so, students who participate may be charged. Students will not be required to pay for instructional trips that take place during the school day, relate directly to a course of study, and require student participation.

Grades

GRADING POLICIES/PROCEDURES

GRADING

1. **Semesters:** Each school year is divided into two (2) eighteen-week periods. At the end of each Quarter notices will be sent to parents if the student is failing or is working considerable below his or her ability level. Teachers will issue a grade for the course at the end of the semester. Successful completion of the semester course will result in the student earning the appropriate credit for the class. Failure of the semester will result in zero credits granted to the student for that class.
2. **Class Syllabus:** Teachers will hand out a class syllabus at the beginning of each Semester explaining class procedures, expectations, and grading policy.
3. **Report cards:** These can be found online at the end of each nine-week period. If you would like a hardcopy of the grades mailed home, please contact the counseling secretary.

A. Contents:
1. Grade for each class
2. Attendance for each class
3. Appropriate comment for each class is available

B. Type of Grades:
1. A - For outstanding work
2. B - For above-average work
3. C - For average work
4. D - For poor but passing work
5. F - Fail
6. I – Incomplete

4. **Incompletes:** An incomplete should be made up by the student before the end of the second week of the next marking period. Extended absences may demand more

make-up time. Failure to make up an Incomplete by the end of the 2nd week will result in an F grade for the class.

5. **Grading:** Grading in grades 9-12 will be as follows:

a. The final grade will be the end of the semester grade including final exam grade.

b. A student receiving an "F" in a required course will be required to repeat that semester and receive a passing grade to gain credit in the course.

c. In AP classes only, weighted grades will be used. A 4.5 GPA scale will be used to assist in calculating a student's GPA.

6. **Finals**

a. Finals will be given during the last week of the semester (Finals Week), typically the last 2 days of the week.

HONOR ROLL (SEMESTER)

For Students to attain the A Honor Roll at Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, they must have at least an average of 3.667; to make the B Honor Roll they must have at least an average of 3.000. Averages are computed by adding the numerical values of each letter grade and dividing by the total number of classes for which a student is receiving a letter grade. You must earn a 3.00 or above for the semester to be invited to the Honors Breakfast and earn points for an Academic Letter.

GPA Conversion Chart

Grade	Standard Grade GPA		Weighted Grade GPA*		
A	4.0	4.5	C	2.0	2.5
A-	3.667	4.2	C-	1.667	2.2
B+	3.333	3.8	D+	1.333	1.8
B	3.0	3.5	D	1.0	1.5
B-	2.667	3.2	D-	.667	1.2
C+	2.333	2.8	F	.000	0.00

***Weighted grades in AP Classes only**

ACADEMIC LETTERING

Students at Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted will be recognized for Academic excellence by receiving an academic letter. There are two avenues to letter academically at HLWWHS.

1. Cumulative Yearlong Grade Point Average

- Students that earn a set cumulative grade point average over the course of a single year can earn an academic letter. The required G.P.A. is as follows for each grade level:

9th Grade: 3.85
10th Grade: 3.80

11th Grade: 3.75
12th Grade: 3.70

2. Point Accumulation

- Each Semester of Honor Roll attainment is worth one (1) point towards lettering. To be awarded a letter a student must accumulate five (5) points. If a student who starts as a ninth grader and makes the Honor Roll every Semester (a semester is first and second quarter or third and fourth quarter), he or she could be awarded a letter by the end of the first semester of his/her junior year; this is five (5) consecutive semesters of making the Honor Roll. For every following semester of making the Honor Roll, a student will receive a bar to go under the emblem.

NCAA/MIAC GUIDELINES

Students who plan to participate in college level athletics should be aware of academic and test score requirements for eligibility. Check with your Guidance Counselor to confirm that you will meet eligibility. The NCAA also requires a Clearinghouse form, to be filed early during the senior year – (Suggested Completion Date: September 30th)

STUDENT REGISTRATION/SCHEDULE CHANGES

Registration will normally be conducted in early February for the next school year. Students are asked to consult parents, counselors, homeroom advisors and/or teachers to make appropriate and responsible choices about their education.

The high school master schedule and staffing is determined by the registration process. For this reason, requests for schedule changes after registration become difficult to accommodate.

Students must make any class changes by established date prior to the start of the semester.
Requests will be reviewed by the guidance department and administration. Scheduling of students in required courses will be of highest priority.

The administration reserves the right to make changes in schedules when it is determined to be in the best interest of the overall school program. Course availability is subject to minimum course enrollment.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled throughout the school year. Most fall around the mid-way point of each quarter. Parents/guardians are encouraged to connect with teachers by calling the school (320-543-4600) or by emailing the teachers through the school website.

POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (PSEO)

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn both high school and college credit while still in high

school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college-level, nonsectarian courses at eligible participating postsecondary institutions. Most PSEO courses are offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th graders may take one career/technical PSEO course. If they earn at least a grade C in that class, they may take additional PSEO courses.

There is no charge to PSEO students for tuition, books or fees for items that are required to participate in a course. Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09. If a school district determines a pupil is not on track to graduate, she/he may continue to participate in PSEO. Funds are available to help pay transportation expenses for qualifying students to participate in PSEO courses on college campuses. Schools must provide information to all students in grades 8-11 and their families by March 1, every year. Students must notify their school by May 30 if they want to participate in PSEO for the following school year. For current information about the PSEO program, visit the Minnesota Department of Education's Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) webpage.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN REQUIREMENTS

Each year, senior students with the highest academic achievements (valedictorian) and the 2nd highest academic achievements (salutatorian), as determined by the cumulative Grade Point Average earned from Grades 9 - 12, are recognized and honored at the graduation ceremonies for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence. These students have traditionally challenged themselves academically by electing to pursue the most rigorous course offerings available. Therefore, any student who wishes to earn the title of "Valedictorian" or "Salutatorian", will be required to have taken a combination of a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) courses or College in the Schools (CIS) courses during their high school years.

Graduation Honor Status:

There are 3 levels of graduation honors.
Summa Cum Laude: GPA of 3.9 and above Magna Cum Laude: GPA of 3.76 to 3.89 Cum Laude: GPA of 3.5 to 3.75

Graduation Requirements

Students must meet all course credit requirements and graduation standards, as established by the state and the school board, in order to graduate from Howard Lake Waverly Winsted High School. All students must also pass the state-identified proficiency tests, Minnesota comprehensive assessments, alternate assessments, and/or other applicable tests. Students will have the first opportunity to take a test in

basic requirements in grade 10. Parents may opt out of the statewide assessments for their student(s) by completing the form in *Appendix 12* and returning it to the school district office.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM (ALP):

Howard Lake Waverly Winsted School District offers another option for those students who are "At Risk" of graduating on-time. The State of Minnesota has set forth a series of specific criteria that must be met to enroll. For more information about enrollment into the ALP program, please see the high school counselor to see if you or your student qualifies. Students enrolled in the ALP program still fall under attendance and State and district graduation requirements as found at the beginning of this handbook. When graduation requirements as set forth by the HLWW School District are met, the student is then eligible to graduate and "walk" with the students during the graduation ceremony that year. Students enrolled in the ALP program are considered "students" of HLWW #2687 and will be subject to all requirements and opportunities as all HLWW students.

Course Credits Required

To receive a diploma, students must successfully complete at least 24 credits and comply with the following high school level course requirements:

High School Level Courses Required for Graduation		
Subject Area	**Credits**	**Explanation**
Language Arts	4	Must be sufficient to satisfy all academic standards in the English language arts.
Mathematics	3	Algebra I is required by the end of eighth grade. Algebra II or its equivalent is also required. A computer science, career and technical education, or Project Lead the Way course may fulfill a mathematics credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards.
Science	3	Must include at least one credit of biology, one credit of chemistry or physics, and one elective credit of science. The combination of credits must be sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and all other academic standards in science. An agricultural science, a career and technical education, or a Project Lead the Way course may fulfill a science credit if the course meets the applicable state academic standards. An agricultural science or a career and technical education course cannot fulfill the biology requirement.

Social Studies	4	Must include at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies. A one-half credit of economics taught in an agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics.
Arts	1	Must be sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts. A career and technical education course may fulfill an arts credit.
Elective Courses	7	

Minnesota Academic Standards

All students must satisfactorily complete the following required Minnesota Graduation Standards:

Minnesota Academic Standards, English Language Arts K-12
Minnesota Academic Standards, Mathematics K-12
Minnesota Academic Standards, Science K-12
Minnesota Academic Standards, Social Studies K-12
Minnesota Academic Standards, Physical Education K-12
Minnesota Academic Standards or Local Standards, Arts K-12

School District Required and Elective Standards

All students must satisfactorily complete the following school district required and elective standards:

- Health (K-12);
- School District Standards, Career and Technical Education (K-12); and
- School District Standards, World Languages (K-12).

Students with an individualized education program, Section 504 accommodation plan, or limited English proficiency needs may be eligible for testing accommodations, modifications, and/or exemption. For additional information, see the building principal or counselors.

Homework

Homework assignments are made by the teachers. The amount of homework varies by teacher and subject area. The school district asks parents/guardians to encourage their child(ren) to complete homework thoroughly and promptly.

Promotion and Retention

All students are expected to achieve an acceptable level of proficiency. Students who achieve at an acceptable level will be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of the school year. Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents/guardians feel that it is in the best interest of the student. The superintendent's decision will be final. The district has a variety of services to help students succeed in school.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

Ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students may apply to enroll in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and other advanced enrichment programs. General information about the PSEO program will be provided to all eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students by March 1. Qualifying credits granted to a student through a PSEO course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or requirement will be counted toward the graduation and credit requirements of the state academic standards. Interested students must fill out an application form and submit it to the counseling office by May 30 for enrollment the following school year. The application form must be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian. Students wishing to take a PSEO course should contact the counseling office. PSEO courses are not weighted.

Summer School

The school district may provide summer school learning opportunities. For more information, contact the counseling office.

Flexible Learning Year Program

The school district offers to its students a flexible learning year program that provides instruction throughout the year on an extended year calendar, extended school day calendar, or both. A student's participation in the program is optional. If a student

participates in the program, the student may accelerate attainment of grade level requirements or graduation requirements. Students interested in participating in the flexible learning year program should contact their school counselor.

Parent Right to Know

If a parent requests it, the school district will provide information regarding the professional qualifications of his/her child's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

1. whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

2. whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional licensing status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;

3. the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree;

4. whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, the school district will provide parents with information as to the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments. The school district will provide notice to parents if their child has been assigned to, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

PART III — RULES AND DISCIPLINE

Attendance

Regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability. For detailed information, see the "Student Attendance" policy (*Appendix 6*).

Excused Absences

- Personal Illness – Once a student reaches seven absences due to illness in a year, parents may be notified that any additional absences will not be excused unless a school nurse verifies the illness or documentation from a doctor is provided.
- Illness in the immediate family
- Death in the immediate family
- Legal obligations
- Religious Holidays
- Family Vacations
- Prior notification of absences
- School events/sports
- Suspensions
-

In order to qualify for an excused absence the parent/guardian must notify the school by either contacting the high school office at 320-543-4600 sstallmo@hlww.k12.mn.us or sending a written note the next day. **Please give the following information: name of student, grade, and length of and reason for absence.** Homework is in your child's Google Classroom.

Parents of students who accumulate a total of 10 absences will receive a letter to inform them of the number of absences that their student has. Students who accumulate 10 excused or unexcused absences may be asked to obtain a doctor's note for any future absences to be considered excused. If this is required and doctor's note does not accompany the future absence, the absence will be considered unexcused and will be subject to the unexcused absence policy of HLWW High School and County Court truancy laws.

Unexcused Absences

- An absence not recognized as an excused absence will be considered unexcused.
- Any absence without a written or verbal explanation by the parent/guardian will be considered unexcused.
- Examples of unexcused absences are: out-of-town company, shopping, taking care of younger siblings or family member, hair appointments, family trips, behind

the wheel/drivers ed without prior approval, or any duty/errand which can be done outside of the normal school day.

When a student has been absent for three unexcused absences or class periods, a letter will be sent home and students may be referred to county intervention services. Seven unexcused absences or class periods will be referred to Wright or McLeod County Court for habitual truancy.

Tardies

Students are expected to come to school on time. Frequent late arrivals establish a pattern that is not acceptable. A student will be marked tardy if he/she arrives after the start of the school day or the start of a class. If the arrival is 10 minutes after the start of the class period the student will be considered absent for that class for truancy purposes. Three unexcused tardies will equal 1 unexcused absence for truancy purposes. Students will be required to serve after school detention after their fourth consecutive tardy in a class. Failure to serve the detention by the end of the semester can result in their semester grade being downgraded by the number of tardies not made up. Tardies shall be excused when a note or telephone call is received by the next day from the parent/guardian explaining how the tardy was unavoidable.

- Examples of unexcused tardies are: oversleeping or being late to class for socializing in the hallway or lunchroom.
- Examples of excused tardies are: medical appointments or the bus the student is arriving on is late due to road conditions.
- Students who receive four or more tardies will be expected to make up the time missed either before school, after school.
- If tardies are not made up by the end of the semester, their grade will be downgraded by the number of tardies not made up.

Regular classroom attendance will help students develop successful life skills including punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility. The shared learning experiences that take place daily in the schools are a purposeful and important part of the educational process.

Bullying Prohibition

The school district is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Acts of bullying, in any form, by either an individual student or a group of students, are prohibited on school district property, at school-related functions or activities, on school transportation, and by misuse of technology. For detailed information, see the school district's "Bullying Prohibition" policy (*Appendix 7*).

Buses – Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The school district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, including nonpublic and charter school students. The school district will not provide transportation for students whose transportation privileges have been revoked.

The school district is committed to transporting students in a safe and orderly manner. To accomplish this, student riders are expected to follow school district rules for waiting at a school bus stop and for riding on a school bus.

While waiting for the bus or after being dropped off at a school bus stop, all students must comply with the following rules:

+

- Get to the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- Respect the property of others while waiting at the bus stop.
- Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- Use appropriate language.
- Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

While riding a school bus, all riders must comply with the following rules:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Remain seated facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- Keep arms, legs, and belongings to yourself and out of the aisle.
- No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- Do not throw any object.
- No eating, drinking, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
- Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- Do not damage the school bus.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under administrative discipline procedures. All school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district's transportation safety director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

School Bus Discipline

1. Students exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be written up on a bus discipline report.
2. The first bus discipline report for minor offenses will be a warning.
3. The second bus discipline report may result in a two day bus suspension or other school discipline.
4. Subsequent bus discipline reports may result in longer bus suspensions (i.e. third bus report will result in a 3 day bus suspension).
5. After the fourth bus discipline report for minor/major offenses, a parent/student/administrator/bus driver committee (3 bus drivers) will need to meet at 8:15 a.m. to discuss and set a behavioral expectations plan for further bus riding.

6. Students who have been suspended from bus service and are participating in extracurricular activities that utilize a bus to get to an event or a practice must arrange transportation with
their parents and/or guardians and receive an approval for such transportation from the High School Office.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices

Students also are prohibited from using a cell phone or other electronic communication device to engage in conduct prohibited by school district policies including, but not limited to, cheating, bullying, harassment, and gang activity. If the school district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school rule or law by use of a cell phone or other electronic communication device, the school district may search the device. The search of the device will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search. Students who use an electronic communication device during the school day and/or in violation of school district policies may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school district's discipline policy. In addition, a student's cell phone or electronic communication device may be confiscated by the school district and, if applicable, provided to law enforcement. Cell phones or other electronic communication devices that are confiscated and retained by the school district will be returned in accordance with school building procedures.

Student phones and other electronic devices including smart watches are to be silenced and kept in their lockers from 7:55 until 3:00. Students will not be allowed to possess these devices in the classroom unless directed to do so by the teacher. Students are allowed to possess their devices during the lunch period. During the 4-minute passing time students may check their devices and respond to parent messages. If a student needs to contact their parent/guardian during the school day, they can request a pass

from a teacher to use their device or the office phone. If parents /guardians need to communicate with their child prior to 3:00, they may contact the High School office.

- The first violation, students will return their device to their locker. Parents will be emailed with each violation
- The second violation, the student will return their device to their locker. This rule applies to students in the classroom or in the hallways using phones during class times. This applies to all students, including those in the building for PSEO courses. Parents will be emailed with each violation.
- The third violation will result in loss of phone and after school detention.
- The fourth violation will result in loss of phone and a day of ISP (Individual Student Plan).
- The fifth and additional violations will result in loss of phone, ATS (Alternative to Suspension), or a referral to wRight Choice, another ATS program. Violations will reset each semester.
- Any refusals will result in a day of ISP.

In order to possess these devices at school the student and their parent/guardian must sign the Internet Use Agreement. Students bring these devices "at their own risk". The School will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices. No student shall use a device to take photographs or video of students or staff without their prior consent while in school or on the school grounds, including the school bus. The use of any electronic device in restrooms and locker rooms is strictly prohibited.

Discipline

Misbehavior by one student can disrupt the learning process for many other students. In addition, students must learn to practice good safety habits, value academic honesty, respect the rights of others, and obey the law. For detailed information on the Student Code of Conduct and consequences for violations, see the "Student Discipline" policy (*Appendix 5*).

At HLWW High School student discipline will be educational and progressive in nature. For less serious violations the following progression of discipline will take place: 2 After school detentions 1 ISP (Individual Student Plan) 1 WC (wRight Choice- Alternative to Suspension) OSS (Out of School Suspension) Serious violations will be ISP, WC/ATS or OSS.

Individual Student Plan (ISP)

Individual Student Plan supports students who may need more intensive help by developing and meeting each student's unique needs, while supporting school success. It also identifies services the student will need to be successful. Students will be in an

alternative setting away from their peers. They will have access to instructional materials and teachers as needed to complete their work. Students will have an alternative daily schedule, and learning experiences.

HLWW ATS Program

2 day program where students will focus on academics, behavioral interventions, and community service. They will complete lessons consistent with the behavior referral. The focus of this program is restorative in nature and is intended to support behavior change.

wRight Choice (ATS)

This program is utilized as an alternative to suspension. Students attend wRight Choice where they are provided assistance with their work, as well as skill building within Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Restorative practices as needed.

Students in ISP, and ATS, are not eligible to practice or participate in activities or athletics on the days served.

Student discipline will be educational and progressive in nature. For less serious violations the following progression of discipline will take place:
Teacher referral or meeting with the behavior interventionist (replaces lunch detention due to ban)

2 After school detentions
1 ISP (Individual Student Plan)
2 HLWW ATS program day
1 WC (Alternative to Suspension- wRight Choice)
OSS (Out of School Suspension)
Serious violations will be ISP, WC, or OSS

Detention

Detention is used as a consequence for a variety of school infractions and will most often be as signed by the principal, although teachers may also assign detention. Notice will be given at least one day in advance so any necessary transportation arrangements can be made. Students will report to the room and bring schoolwork. Anyone reporting late or without schoolwork may be sent home, not given any credit for his/her time, and/or given additional detention.
Students may be excused from detention in emergency or unavoidable situations such as doctor appointments. Parents or students are asked to contact the principal prior to the time of detention if situations arise making attendance impossible. Generally, since detentions are prearranged, there are no excuses (jobs, athletics, etc.) for missing detention. Student attendance for detention is required; skipping detention is considered truancy.

Alternative Placement

The school administration has the authority to determine educational placement/programs for students. A student's schedule can be changed due to scheduling difficulties or class overloading. Students who continually disrupt or fail to make reasonable academic progress may be assigned to an ALC or the HLWW Area Learning Program. Normally, this placement change would occur only after numerous interventions addressing concerns have failed.

Suspension/Expulsion

Occasionally it becomes necessary to suspend or expel a student from school. In this event, all procedures will be governed by MSA, more commonly known as the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Under the provisions of this law, students may be suspended or expelled from school for any of the following:

A. Willful violation of any reasonable school board regulation.

B. Willful conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the rights of others of an education.

C. Willful conduct which endangers the student, or other students or school property.

Any student suspended out of school is ineligible for participation in or attendance at any school activities or events during the time of suspension. Parents are notified prior to any student being suspended out of school. Suspended students will not be sent home to an empty house. Students who receive out-of-school suspensions will not be readmitted without a student-parent- principal "readmission hearing" with the Activities Director/Principal Designee and/or Principal.

Dress and Appearance

Students are encouraged to be dressed appropriately for school activities and in keeping with community standards.

Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Clothing appropriate for the weather.
- Clothing that does not create a health or safety hazard.
- Clothing appropriate for the activity (i.e., physical education or the classroom).
- Clothing or grooming that does not interfere with the educational process.
- Clothing consistent with community standards.

Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Apparel/items not intended to be used for clothing
- Clothing that does not cover the undergarments
- "Short shorts," skimpy tank tops, tops that expose the midriff, and other clothing that is not in keeping with community standards.
- Clothing bearing a message that is lewd, vulgar, or obscene.
- Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors.

- Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in school district policy.
- Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.

If the administration believes a student's appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, the student will be directed to make modifications or will be sent home for the day. A parent or guardian will be notified.

Drug-Free School and Workplace

The possession and use of alcohol, controlled substances, and toxic substances are prohibited at school or in any other school location before, during, or after school hours. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances also is prohibited. The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who violates this policy.

District policy is not violated when a person brings a controlled substance that has a currently accepted medical treatment use onto a school location for personal use if the person has a physician's prescription for the substance except marijuana is not allowed on school property even if prescribed. Students who have prescriptions must comply with the school district's "Student Medication" policy. The school district will provide an instructional program in every elementary and secondary school on chemical abuse and the prevention of chemical dependency.

Harassment and Violence Prohibition

The school district strives to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability. Detailed information on the school district's "Harassment and Violence Prohibition" policy is included in this handbook (*Appendix 8*).

Hazing Prohibition

Hazing is prohibited. No student will plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing. Students who violate this rule will be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the school district's "Student Discipline" policy. Please see the school district's "Hazing Prohibition" policy (*Appendix 9*).

Internet Acceptable Use

All school district students have conditional access to the school district's computer system, including Internet access, for limited educational purposes, including use of the system for classroom activities, educational research, and professional and career development. Use of the school district's system is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable use of the school district's computer system or the Internet may result in one or more of the following consequences: suspension or cancellation of use or access privileges; payments for damages and repairs; discipline under other appropriate school district policies, including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, or exclusion; or civil or criminal liability under other applicable laws.
A copy of the school district's "Internet Acceptable Use" policy is available on the district's website.

Students will receive a copy of the school district's "Internet Acceptable Use" policy and are expected to understand and agree to abide by the policy as a condition of use of the school district's computer system. All students who wish to use the school district's computer system must sign the Internet Use Agreement form annually.

Parking on School District Property

Students

The school district allows limited use and parking of motor vehicles by students in school district locations subject to the following rules:

- Parking a motor vehicle on school property during the school day is a privilege;
- Parking is permitted in designated areas only, by permit. For information, contact Sandy Stallmo in the High School office.
- Students are not permitted to use motor vehicles during the school day in any school district locations unless an emergency occurs and permission has been granted to the student by the High School office.
- Students are permitted to use motor vehicles on the high school campus(es) only before and after the school day;
- Unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property may be towed at the expense of the owner or operator.

The school district may conduct routine patrols of school district properties and inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. Interiors of students' vehicles in school district locations may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule. If a search yields contraband, school officials may seize the item and may turn it over to legal authorities when appropriate. A student who violates this policy may be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and/or discipline according to the school district's "Student Discipline" policy (*Appendix 5*).

Visitors

Visitors are permitted to park in designated school district visitor parking areas. Unattended vehicles left in other locations on school district property may be towed at the owner's expense.

Tobacco-Free Schools; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction

School district students and staff have the right to learn and work in an environment that is tobacco free. School policy is violated by any individual's use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carrying or using activated electronic delivery devices in a public school, on school grounds, in any school-owned vehicles, or at any school events or activities. Students may not possess any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in a public school, on school grounds, in any school-owned vehicles, or at any school events or activities. Any student who violates this policy is subject to school district discipline. For detailed information on the school district's "Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction" policy, see *Appendix 10*. Contact the principal if you have questions or wish to report violations.

Vandalism

Vandalism of any district property is prohibited. Violators will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials.

Weapons Prohibition

No person will possess, use, or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in school district policy. A "weapon" means any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily

harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; airguns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nunchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon. A weapon also includes look-alike weapons. Appropriate discipline and action will be taken against any person who violates this policy. The school district does not allow the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students. Discipline of students will include, at a minimum: immediate out-of-school suspension; confiscation of the weapon; immediate notification of police; parent or guardian notification; and recommendation to the superintendent of dismissal for a period of time not to exceed one year. The building principal shall, as soon as practicable, refer to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system, as appropriate, a student who brings a firearm to school unlawfully. A student who brings a firearm to school will be expelled for at least one year, subject to school district discretion on a case-by-case basis. For a copy of the “School Weapons” policy, see the district’s website.

PART IV — HEALTH AND SAFETY

Accidents

All student injuries that occur at school, at school-sponsored activities, or on school transportation should be reported to the main office**.** Parents/guardians of an injured student will be notified as soon as possible. If the student requires immediate medical attention, the principal or other district leader will call 911 or seek emergency medical treatment and then contact the parent(s).

Asbestos Management Plan

The school district has developed an asbestos management plan. A copy of this plan is available on the district's website.

Crisis Management

The school district has developed a "Crisis Management" policy. Each school building has its own building-specific crisis management plan. Students and parents will be provided with information as to district- and school-specific plans.

The "Crisis Management" policy addresses a range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The school district has developed general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, campus evacuation, sheltering, and communication procedures. The school district will conduct lock-down drills, fire drills, and a tornado drill. Building plans include classroom and building evacuation procedures.

Health Information

"Students need to be healthy to be educated and educated to be healthy" - unknown

Health services information can be found on the school website: www.hlww.k12.mn.us under Departments>Health Services. You can download forms and get information on a variety of student health concerns and resources.

Visiting the Health Office

Students may visit the health office at any time during the school day to visit health office staff. The health office assistant is trained and supervised under the district Licensed School Nurse. The health office assistant will care for minor health concerns, allow the student to rest, advise the student to return to class, or call the parent, if appropriate. The health office assistant will contact the district nurse if further

assessment and intervention is necessary. If the student is not feeling well enough to remain in school, the health office assistant will contact the student's parent/guardian. Students who become ill or are injured during the school day are not allowed to leave the building without permission from the parent or guardian through the school health office. Parents are expected to have a plan in place to pick up their student(s) in a reasonable amount of time. In the event of an emergency, health office staff will contact emergency medical services first, followed by the student's parent/guardian.

Keeping Your Student Home from School

Please consider these Minnesota Department of Health guidelines when deciding if your child is healthy enough to attend school.

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school. Please do not give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen to reduce a fever and then send them to school.
- Vomiting/Diarrhea. Please keep your child at home for 24 hours following the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- Undiagnosed rash. If your child's healthcare provider determines that the rash is not contagious, they may return to school immediately. If contagious, please follow your healthcare provider's instructions.

Health Conditions

Students attending school with chronic health concerns will have an individualized health plan (IHP) on file. The IHP outlines a description of the health concerns, interventions and expected outcomes for the child to remain in school. The plan is updated annually by the licensed school nurse. The district licensed school nurse will meet with parents/guardians in person or by phone to discuss a plan of care. The parent/guardian will provide updated doctor's orders for the school year or will provide written consent for health office staff to request pertinent information from the prescribing provider(s). Updated doctor's orders should be submitted to the health office in August. Orders must be updated annually and as needed if changes are made. Submitting updated orders before the school year allows time for the licensed school nurse, health office assistants and other applicable school faculty to receive training and or make plans for your student.

Students with health concerns, such as severe allergies, seizures, diabetes or asthma, will have an emergency action plan (EAP) on file. The EAP will outline doctor's orders in the event of an emergency, prescribed emergency medications, parent/guardian contact information and the prescribing provider's contact information. Emergency action plans will be shared with the appropriate designated school faculty in the event an emergency occurs in the classroom or on an off-campus field trip.

Medication Administration in School

We promote safe medication handling and administration. Please review Policy # 516 on our website: hlww.k12.mn.us under “District” for all details related to medication administration and management in our schools. Parents/guardians must transport all controlled substances and prescription medications, not including epinephrine pens or rescue inhalers.

Health office staff may administer prescription medication to your child during the school day. A parent/guardian must complete and return a prescription medication permission form before health office staff will initiate medication administration. This must be completed annually for recurring medications. All medications must be non-expired, labeled with your child’s name and stored in the original packaging. Parents and guardians are asked to pick up any unused or expired medications at the end of the school year. Medications will be disposed of per Policy 516 if they are not collected at the end of the school year.

Only high school and middle school students may carry prescribed rescue inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors if the parent/guardian signs the prescription medication permission form and provides an emergency action plan signed by the prescribing physician. The licensed school nurse will complete an assessment with the student required by Minnesota state statute 121A.221. The school nurse will determine the student’s ability to appropriately recognize the need for the inhaler, proper administration of the inhaler and education regarding the maintenance of asthma.

If you choose to have medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen or moisturizing lotions available at school for your child, parents/guardians must complete the over-the-counter medication permission form and return it to the health office. This must be completed annually for recurring medications. The dosage may not be more than the manufacturer’s label states. A physician signature is required if the dosage is higher than the “as directed” amount. Middle school students are not permitted to self-carry over the counter pain relief medication. Supplements not approved for children by the Food and Drug Administration are not allowed in school or on trips facilitated by the district.

Health Screenings

Health office staff, under supervision of the Licensed School Nurse, will conduct health screenings for your child. Frequency of annual screenings is based on grade level as well as student needs & Minnesota Department of Health recommendations. Screenings may include:

- Hearing
- Vision

The licensed school nurse will contact parents/guardians to discuss abnormal results and provide referral for additional medical follow-up.

Student Health Records

The health office will maintain an ongoing health record for each student enrolled. Health records will be maintained electronically in the district's student administration system. Paper copies of health records, such as shared immunization records, doctor's notes, hearing and vision screening, etc. will be maintained in a confidential file. Only authorized staff will have access to student health records. Health office staff may share individual health plans or emergency action plans with the applicable designated school faculty to promote student safety.

Immunizations

Minnesota law requires children enrolled in school to be immunized against certain diseases or file a legal exemption. Non-medical exemptions must be notarized. Medical exemptions require a signature from your child's healthcare provider. Please be sure your child's immunization information is up to date prior to the start of the school year. An immunization record or record of exemption must be on file prior to the start of the school year. For more information, please visit www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize.

Immunization requirements to enter 7th Grade

- 3 Hepatitis B
- 5 DTaP, DT, Td (Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis)
- 4 Polio
- 2 MMR (Measles, mumps, rubella)
- 2 Varicella (Chickenpox)
- *The above vaccines are traditionally administered by the time your child starts Kindergarten.
- 1 Tdap at age 11-12 (Booster shot)
- 1 Meningococcal
-

If you have any questions pertaining to your student's health, please call your child's school health office or contact the district nurse at 763-290-3889 or morgan.johnson@hlww.k12.mn.us

Visitors in District Buildings

Parents/guardians and community members are welcome to visit the schools. To ensure the safety of those in the school and to avoid disruption to the learning environment, all visitors must report directly to the High School office upon entering the building, with the exception of events open to the public. All visitors will be required to sign in at the High School office and to wear a "visitors badge" while in the building during the school day. Visitors must have the approval of the principal before visiting a classroom during instructional time. An individual or group may be denied permission to visit a school or school property, or such permission may be revoked, if the visitor does not comply with school district procedures or if the visit is not in the best interests of the students, employee, or the school district. Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school without prior permission from the principal.

APPENDIXES

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2. Distribution of Non School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the exercise of students' and employees' free speech rights, taking into consideration the educational objectives and responsibilities of the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The school district recognizes that students and employees have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes the right to distribute, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.

B. To protect First Amendment rights, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the educational objectives and responsibilities of the school district, the school board adopts the following regulations and procedures regarding distribution of nonschool-sponsored material on school property and at school activities.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Distribute" or "Distribution" means circulation or dissemination of material by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies, posting or displaying material, or placing material in internal staff or student mailboxes.

B. "Nonschool-sponsored material" or "unofficial material" includes all materials or objects intended for distribution, except school newspapers, employee newsletters, literary magazines, yearbooks, and other publications funded and/or sponsored or authorized by the school. Examples of nonschool-sponsored materials include, but are not limited to, leaflets, brochures, buttons, badges, flyers, petitions, posters, and underground newspapers whether written by students or employees or others, and tangible objects.

C. "Obscene to minors" means:

1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the

prurient interest of minors of the age to whom distribution is requested;

2. The material depicts or describes, in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct should be presented to minors of the age to whom distribution is requested, sexual conduct such as intimate sexual acts (normal or perverted), masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

3. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

D. "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen (18).

E. "Material and substantial disruption" of a normal school activity means:

1. Where the normal school activity is an educational program of the district for which student attendance is compulsory, "material and substantial disruption" is defined as any disruption which interferes with or impedes the implementation of that program.

2. Where the normal school activity is voluntary in nature (including, without limitation, school athletic events, school plays and concerts, and lunch periods) "material and substantial disruption" is defined as student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, conduct inappropriate to the event, participation in a school boycott, demonstration, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out, or other related forms of activity.

In order for expression to be considered disruptive, there must exist specific facts upon which the likelihood of disruption can be forecast, including past experience in the school, current events influencing student activities and behavior, and instances of actual or threatened disruption relating to the written material in question.

F. "School activities" means any activity sponsored by the school including, but not limited to, classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and other theatrical productions, and in-school lunch periods.

G. "Libelous" is a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual that tends to harm the individual's reputation or to lower that individual in the esteem of the community.

IV. GUIDELINES

A. Students and employees of the school district have the right to distribute, at reasonable times and places as set forth in this policy, and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.

B. Requests for distribution of nonschool-sponsored material will be reviewed by the administration on a case-by-case basis. However, distribution of the materials listed below is always prohibited. Material is prohibited that:

1. is obscene to minors;

2. is libelous or slanderous;

3. is pervasively indecent or vulgar or contains any indecent or vulgar language or representations, with a determination made as to the appropriateness of the material for the age level of students to which it is intended;

4. advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted to minors by law;

5. advocates violence or other illegal conduct;

6. constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religious, or ethnic origin);

7. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or the manner of distribution, it will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school regulations.

C. Distribution by students and employees of nonschool-sponsored materials on school district property are subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions set forth below. In making decisions regarding the

time, place, and manner of distribution, the administration will consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

1. whether the material is educationally related;

2. the extent to which distribution is likely to cause disruption of or interference with the school district's educational objectives, discipline, or school activities;

3. whether the materials can be distributed from the office or other isolated location so as to minimize disruption of traffic flow in hallways;

4. the quantity or size of materials to be distributed;

5. whether distribution would require assignment of school district staff, use of school district equipment, or other resources;

6. whether distribution would require that nonschool persons be present on the school grounds;

7. whether the materials are a solicitation for goods or services not requested by the recipients.

V. TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

A. No non school-sponsored material shall be distributed during and at the place of a normal school activity if it is reasonably likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of that activity.

B. Distribution of nonschool-sponsored material is prohibited when it blocks the safe flow of traffic within corridors and entrance ways of the school, and school parking lots. Distribution shall not impede entrance to or exit from school premises in any way.

C. No one shall coerce a student or staff member to accept any publication.

D. The time, place, and manner of distribution will be solely within the discretion of the administration, consistent with the provisions of this policy.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. Any student or employee wishing to distribute (as defined in this policy) nonschool-sponsored material must first submit for approval a copy of the material to the principal at least 24 hours in advance of desired distribution time, together with the following information:

1. Name and phone number of the person submitting the request and, if a student, the room number of his or her first-period class.

2. Date(s) and time(s) of day intended for distribution.

3. Location where material will be distributed.

4. If intended for students, the grade(s) of students to whom the distribution is intended.

B. Within one school day, the principal will review the request and render a decision. In the event that permission to distribute the material is denied or limited, the person submitting the request should be informed in writing of the reasons for the denial or limitation.

C. If the person submitting the request does not receive a response within one school day, the person shall contact the office to verify that the lack of response was not due to an inability to locate the person.

D. If the person is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, the person may submit a written request for appeal to the superintendent. If the person does not receive a response within three (3) school days (not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) of submitting the appeal, the person shall contact the office of the Superintendent to verify that the lack of response is not due to an inability to locate the person.

E. Permission or denial of permission to distribute material does not imply approval or disapproval of its contents by either the school, the administration of the school, the school board, or the individual reviewing the material submitted.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. Distribution by any student of nonschool-sponsored material prohibited herein or in violation of the provisions of time, place, and manner of distribution as described above will be halted and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy.

B. Distribution by any employee of nonschool-sponsored material prohibited herein or in violation of the provisions of time, place, and manner of distribution as described above will be halted and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, in accordance with any individual contract, collective bargaining agreement, school district policies and procedures, and/or governing statute.

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

3. Student Records

The school district gives notice to parents/guardians and eligible students of their rights regarding student records.

Parents/guardians and eligible students have the following rights:

1. That a parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the request for access is received by the school district. A parent or eligible student should submit to the school district a written request to inspect education records which identify as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect. The parent or eligible student will be notified of the time and place where the records may be inspected;

2. That the parent or eligible student has a right to seek amendment of the student's education records to ensure that those records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. A parent or eligible student may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. The request shall be in writing, identify the item the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the privacy rights of the student, shall state the reason for this belief, and shall specify the correction the parent or eligible student wishes the school district to make. The request shall be signed by the parent or eligible student. If the school district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing;

3. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosures without consent;

4. That the school district may disclose education records to other school officials within the school district if the school district has determined they have legitimate educational interests. For purposes of such disclosure, a "school official" is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or other employee; a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school district has consulted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, public information officer or data practices compliance official); or a

parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or any individual assisting a school official in the performance of his or her tasks. A school official has a "legitimate educational interest" if the individual needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and includes, but is not limited to, an interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student and student health and welfare and the ability to respond to a request for educational data;

5. That the school district forwards education records on request to a school or post-secondary education institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, as long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment, including information about disciplinary action taken as a result of any incident in which the student possessed or used a dangerous weapon, suspension and expulsion information pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 7917, part of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and any disposition order which adjudicates the student as delinquent for committing an illegal act on school district property and certain other illegal acts;

5. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and the rules promulgated thereunder, the name and address of the office that administers the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act is:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

1. It classifies records as public, private, or confidential.

2. It establishes procedures and regulations to permit parents/guardians or students to inspect and review a student's education records. These procedures include the method of determining fees for copies, a listing of the locations of these education records, and the identity of the individuals in charge of the records.

3. It establishes procedures and regulations to allow parents/guardians or students to request the amendment of a student's education records to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.

4. It establishes procedures and regulations for access to and disclosure of education records.

5. It establishes procedures and regulations for safeguarding the privacy of education records and for obtaining prior written consent of the parent or student when required prior to disclosure.

Copies of the school board policy and accompanying procedures and regulations are available to parents/guardians and students upon written request to the Superintendent.

Pursuant to applicable law, Howard Lake Waverly Winsted Schools gives notice to parents/guardians of students currently in attendance in the school district, and eligible students currently in attendance in the school district, of their rights regarding "directory information."

"Directory information" includes the following information relating to a student: the student's name; address; telephone number; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors, and awards received; the most recent educational agency or institution attended by the student; and other similar information. "Directory information" also includes the name, address, and telephone number of the student's parent(s). "Directory information" does not include a student's social security number or a student's identification number (ID) if the ID may be used to access education records without use of one or more factors that authenticate the student's identity such as a personal identification number, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. It also does not include identifying information on a student's religion, race, color, social position, or nationality.

1. The directory information listed above shall be public information which the school district may disclose from the education records of a student or information regarding a parent.

2. Should the parent of a student or the student so desire, any or all of the listed information will not be disclosed without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent except to school officials as provided under federal law.

3. In order to make any or all of the directory information listed above "private" (i.e., subject to consent prior to disclosure), the parent or eligible student must make a written request to the building principal within thirty (30) days after the date of the last publication of this notice. This written request must include the following information:

    - Name of student and parent, as appropriate;

- Home address;
- School presently attended by student;
- Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable;
- Specific category or categories of directory information which is not to be made public without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent.

Pursuant to applicable law, Howard Lake Waverly Winsted Schools gives notice to parents/guardians of secondary students and eligible secondary students of their rights regarding release of information to military recruiting officers. The school district must release the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12 to military recruiting officers within sixty (60) days after the date of the request. Data released to military recruiting officers under this provision may be used only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military and cannot be further disseminated to any other person except personnel of the recruiting services of the armed forces.

Should the parent of a student or the eligible student so desire, any or all of the listed information will not be disclosed to military recruiting officers without prior consent.

In order to refuse the release of this information without prior consent, the parent or eligible student must make a written request to the responsible authority, *[designate title of individual, i.e., building principal],* by *[insert date]* each year. This written request must include the following information:

- **Name of student and parent, as appropriate;**
- **Home address;**
- **Student's grade level;**
- **School presently attended by student;**
- **Parent's legal relationship to student, if applicable;**
- **Specific category or categories of information which are not to be released to military recruiters without prior consent;**
- **Specific category or categories of directory information which are not to be released to the public, including military recruiters.**

4. Student Surveys

Independent School District No. ___ gives notice to parents of students currently in attendance in the school district, eligible students currently in attendance in the school district, and students currently in attendance in the school district of their rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations.

1. Parents, eligible students, and students are hereby informed that they have the following rights:

   a. All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, shall be available for inspection by parents or guardians of students.

   b. No student shall be required, as part of any program funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, without the prior consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or in the case of an unemancipated minor, without the prior written consent of the parent, to submit to a survey that reveals information concerning:

      (1) political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;

      (2) mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;

      (3) sex behavior or attitudes;

      (4) illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

      (5) critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;

      (6) legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;

      (7) religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; or

      (8) income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

   c. A parent, on behalf of a student or an eligible student, has the right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt the student out of participating in:

      (1) Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing

or for selling that information, or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose.

(2) The administration of any third-party survey (non-Department of Education funded) containing one or more of the items contained in Paragraph 1.b., above.

(3) Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical examination or screening permitted or required under state law.

d. This notice does not preempt applicable state law that may require parental notification.

e. The school district has developed and adopted a policy, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

f. The school district will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes.

g. The school district will directly notify parents and eligible students, at least annually at the start of each school year or, if scheduled thereafter, parents will be provided with reasonable notice of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

(1) Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.

(2) Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

(3) Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

[See consent/opt-out for specific activities attached hereto.]

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

The following is a schedule of activities requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out for the upcoming school year. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 or older or an emancipated minor under state law).

Date:
Grades: [see sample activity notices attached]
Activity:
Summary:

Consent or Opt-out: [or both depending on situation]

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to ***[insert school official and address here]***. ***[Insert title or name of school official here]*** will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review a survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

5. Student Discipline

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes that individual responsibility and mutual respect are essential components of the educational process. The school board further recognizes that nurturing the maturity of each student is of primary importance and is closely linked with the balance that must be maintained between authority and self-discipline as the individual progresses from a child's dependence on authority to the more mature behavior of self-control.

All students are entitled to learn and develop in a setting which promotes respect of self, others, and property. Proper positive discipline can only result from an environment which provides options and stresses student self-direction, decision-making, and responsibility. Schools can function effectively only with internal discipline based on mutual understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that maintains a climate in which learning can take place. Overall decorum affects student attitudes and influences student behavior. Proper student conduct is necessary to facilitate the education process and to create an atmosphere conducive to high student achievement.

Although this policy emphasizes the development of self-discipline, it is recognized that there are instances when it will be necessary to administer disciplinary measures. The position of the school district is that a fair and equitable district-wide student discipline policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience. This discipline policy is adopted in accordance with and subject to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 121A.55, the school board, with the participation of school district administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, and such other individuals

and organizations as appropriate, has developed this policy which governs student conduct and applies to all students of the school district.

III. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

A. The School Board. The school board holds all school personnel responsible for the maintenance of order within the school district and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.

B. Superintendent. The superintendent shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy, hold all school personnel, students, and parents responsible for conforming to this policy, and support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The superintendent shall also establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents. Any guidelines or directives established to implement this policy shall be submitted to the school board for approval and shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

C. Principal. The school principal is given the responsibility and authority to formulate building rules and regulations necessary to enforce this policy, subject to final school board approval. The principal shall give direction and support to all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The principal shall consult with parents of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy. The principal shall also involve other professional employees in the disposition of behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents. A principal, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

D. Teachers. All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the Code of Student Conduct. In exercising the teacher's lawful authority, a teacher may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

E. Other School District Personnel. All school district personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities relating to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the superintendent. A school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of a school district, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

F. Parents or Legal Guardians. Parents and guardians shall be held responsible for the behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with school authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.

G. Students. All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying the Code of Student Conduct and this policy.

H. Community Members. Members of the community are expected to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere in which rights and duties are effectively acknowledged and fulfilled.

IV. STUDENT RIGHTS

All students have the right to an education and the right to learn.

V. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All students have the responsibility:

A. For their behavior and for knowing and obeying all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures;

B. To attend school daily, except when excused, and to be on time to all classes and other school functions;

C. To pursue and attempt to complete the courses of study prescribed by the state and local school authorities;

D. To make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school;

E. To assist the school staff in maintaining a safe school for all students;

F. To be aware of all school rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accord with them;

G. To assume that until a rule or policy is waived, altered, or repealed, it is in full force and effect;

H. To be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws;

I. To volunteer information in disciplinary cases should they have any knowledge relating to such cases and to cooperate with school staff as appropriate;

J. To respect and maintain the school's property and the property of others;

K. To dress and groom in a manner which meets standards of safety and health and common standards of decency and which is consistent with applicable school district policy;

L. To avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and refrain from indecent or obscene language;

M. To conduct themselves in an appropriate physical or verbal manner; and

N. To recognize and respect the rights of others.

VI. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

A. The following are examples of unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action by the school district. These examples are not intended to be an exclusive list. Any student who engages in any of these activities shall be disciplined in accordance with this policy. This policy applies to all school buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds; school-sponsored activities or trips; school bus stops; school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes; the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events; and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these

locations and events. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees.

1. Violations against property including, but not limited to, damage to or destruction of school property or the property of others, failure to compensate for damage or destruction of such property, arson, breaking and entering, theft, robbery, possession of stolen property, extortion, trespassing, unauthorized usage, or vandalism;

2. The use of profanity or obscene language, or the possession of obscene materials;

3. Gambling, including, but not limited to, playing a game of chance for stakes;

4. Violation of the school district's Hazing Prohibition Policy;

5. Attendance problems including, but not limited to, truancy, absenteeism, tardiness, skipping classes, or leaving school grounds without permission;

6. Violation of the school district's Student Attendance Policy;

7. Opposition to authority using physical force or violence;

8. Using, possessing, or distributing tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco paraphernalia in violation of the school district's Tobacco-Free Environment Policy;

9. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances or look-alike substances;

10. Using, possessing, distributing, intending to distribute, making a request to another person for (solicitation), or being under the influence of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances (except as prescribed by a physician), or look-alike substances (these prohibitions include medical marijuana or medical cannabis, even when prescribed by a physician, and one student sharing prescription medication with another student);

11. Using, possessing, or distributing items or articles that are illegal or harmful to persons or property including, but not limited to, drug paraphernalia;

12. Using, possessing, or distributing weapons, or look-alike weapons or other dangerous objects;

13. Violation of the school district's Weapons Policy;

14. Violation of the school district's Violence Prevention Policy;

15. Possession of ammunition including, but not limited to, bullets or other projectiles designed to be used in or as a weapon;

16. Possession, use, or distribution of explosives or any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose or intended use of which is to function as an explosive;

17. Possession, use, or distribution of fireworks or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation;

18. Using an ignition device, including a butane or disposable lighter or matches, inside an educational building and under circumstances where there is a risk of fire, except where the device is used in a manner authorized by the school;

19. Violation of any local, state, or federal law as appropriate;

20. Acts disruptive of the educational process, including, but not limited to, disobedience, disruptive or disrespectful behavior, defiance of authority, cheating, insolence, insubordination, failure to identify oneself, improper activation of fire alarms, or bomb threats;

21. Violation of the school district's Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy;

22. Possession of nuisance devices or objects which cause distractions and may facilitate cheating including, but not limited to, pagers, radios, and phones, including picture phones;

23. Violation of school bus or transportation rules or the school district's Student Transportation Safety Policy;

24. Violation of parking or school traffic rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property;

25. Violation of directives or guidelines relating to lockers or improperly gaining access to a school locker;

26. Violation of the school district's Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person Policy;

27. Violation of the school district's Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches Policy;

28. Possession or distribution of slanderous, libelous, or pornographic materials;

29. Violation of the school district' Bullying Prohibition Policy;

30. Student attire or personal grooming which creates a danger to health or safety or creates a disruption to the educational process, including clothing which bears a message which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors, or clothing containing objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang membership;

31. Criminal activity;

32. Falsification of any records, documents, notes, or signatures;

33. Tampering with, changing, or altering records or documents of the school district by any method including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means;

34. Scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a school assignment or test, plagiarism, or collusion, including the use of picture phones or other technology to accomplish this end;

35. Impertinent or disrespectful words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, related to teachers or other school district personnel;

36. Violation of the school district's Harassment and Violence Policy;

37. Actions, including fighting or any other assaultive behavior, which causes or could cause injury to the student or other persons or which otherwise endangers the health, safety, or welfare of teachers, students, other school district personnel, or other persons;

38. Committing an act which inflicts great bodily harm upon another person, even though accidental or a result of poor judgment;

39. Violations against persons, including, but not limited to, assault or threatened assault, fighting, harassment, interference or obstruction, attack with a weapon, or look-alike weapon, sexual assault, illegal or inappropriate sexual conduct, or indecent exposure;

40. Verbal assaults or verbally abusive behavior including, but not limited to, use of words, symbols, acronyms, or language, whether oral or written, that are discriminatory, abusive, obscene, threatening, intimidating, degrading to other people, or threatening to school property;

41. Physical or verbal threats including, but not limited to, the staging or reporting of dangerous or hazardous situations that do not exist;

42. Inappropriate, abusive, threatening, or demeaning actions based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation;

43. Violation of the school district's Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees Policy;

44. Violation of the school district's one-to-one device rules and regulations;

45. Violation of school rules, regulations, policies, or procedures, including, but not limited to, those policies specifically enumerated in this policy;

46. Other acts, as determined by the school district, which are disruptive of the educational process or dangerous or detrimental

to the student or other students, school district personnel or surrounding persons, or which violate the rights of others or which damage or endanger the property of the school, or which otherwise interferes with or obstruct the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION OPTIONS

The general policy of the school district is to utilize progressive discipline to the extent reasonable and appropriate based upon the specific facts and circumstances of student misconduct. The specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case is solely within the discretion of the school district. At a minimum, violation of school district rules, regulations, policies, or procedures will result in discussion of the violation and a verbal warning. The school district shall, however, impose more severe disciplinary sanctions for any violation, including exclusion or expulsion, if warranted by the student's misconduct, as determined by the school district. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

A. Student conference with teacher, principal, counselor, or other school district personnel, and verbal warning;

B. Confiscation by school district personnel and/or by law enforcement of any item, article, object, or thing, prohibited by, or used in the violation of, any school district policy, rule, regulation, procedure, or state or federal law. If confiscated by the school district, the confiscated item, article, object, or thing will be released only to the parent/guardian following the completion of any investigation or disciplinary action instituted or taken related to the violation.

C. Parent contact;

D. Parent conference;

E. Removal from class;

F. Individual Student Plan (ISP); wRight Choice (ATS)

G. Suspension from extracurricular activities;

H. Detention or restriction of privileges;

I. Loss of school privileges;

J. In-school monitoring or revised class schedule;

K. Referral to in-school support services;

L. Referral to community resources or outside agency services;

M. Financial restitution;

N. Referral to police, other law enforcement agencies, or other appropriate authorities;

O. A request for a petition to be filed in district court for juvenile delinquency adjudication;

P. Out-of-school suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;

Q. Preparation of an admission or readmission plan;

R. Saturday school;

S. Expulsion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act;

T. Exclusion under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and/or

U. Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school district.

VIII. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS

A. The teacher of record shall have the general control and government of the classroom. Teachers have the responsibility of attempting to modify disruptive student behavior by such means as conferring with the student, using positive reinforcement, assigning detention or other consequences, or contacting the student's parents. When such measures fail, or when the teacher determines it is otherwise appropriate based upon the student's conduct, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from class pursuant to the procedures established by this discipline policy. "Removal from class" and "removal" mean any actions taken by a teacher, principal, or other school district employee to prohibit a student from attending a class or activity period for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days, pursuant to this discipline policy.

Grounds for removal from class shall include any of the following:

1. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, including conduct that interferes with a teacher's ability to teach or communicate effectively with students in a class or with the ability of other students to learn;

2. Willful conduct that endangers surrounding persons, including school district employees, the student or other students, or the property of the school;

3. Willful violation of any school rules, regulations, policies or procedures, including the Code of Student Conduct in this policy; or

4. Other conduct, which in the discretion of the teacher or administration, requires removal of the student from class.

Such removal shall be for at least one (1) activity period or class period of instruction for a given course of study and shall not exceed five (5) such periods.

A student must be removed from class immediately if the student engages in assault or violent behavior. "Assault" is an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death; or the intentional infliction of, or attempt to inflict, bodily harm upon another. The removal shall be for a period of time deemed appropriate by the principal, in consultation with the teacher.

B. If a student is removed from class more than ten (10) times in a school year, the school district shall notify the parent or guardian of the student's tenth removal from class and make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the problem that is causing the student to be removed from class.

IX. DISMISSAL

A. "Dismissal" means the denial of the current educational program to any student, including exclusion, expulsion and suspension. Dismissal does not include removal from class.

The school district shall not deny due process or equal protection of the law to any student involved in a dismissal proceeding which may result in suspension, exclusion or expulsion.

The school district shall not dismiss any student without attempting to provide alternative educational services before dismissal proceedings, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property.

B. Violations leading to suspension, based upon severity, may also be grounds for actions leading to expulsion, and/or exclusion. A student may be dismissed on any of the following grounds:

1. Willful violation of any reasonable school board regulation, including those found in this policy;

2. Willful conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education, or the ability of school personnel to perform their duties, or school sponsored extracurricular activities; or

3. Willful conduct that endangers the student or other students, or surrounding persons, including school district employees, or property of the school.

C. Suspension Procedures

1. "Suspension" means an action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the School Board, prohibiting a student from attending school for a period of no more than ten (10) school days; provided, however, if a suspension is longer than five (5) school days, the suspending administrator shall provide the superintendent with a reason for the longer term of suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal for one (1) school day or less where a student with a disability does not receive regular or special education instruction during that dismissal period.

2. If a student's total days of removal from school exceed ten (10) cumulative days in a school year, the school district shall make reasonable attempts to convene a meeting with the student and the student's parent or guardian before subsequently removing the student from school and, with the permission of the parent or guardian, arrange for a mental health screening for the student at the parent or guardian's expense. The purpose of this meeting is to attempt to determine the pupil's need for assessment or other

services or whether the parent or guardian should have the student assessed or diagnosed to determine whether the student needs treatment for a mental health disorder.

3. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission which must not be used to extend the current suspension. A readmission plan must not obligate a parent or guardian to provide psychotropic drugs to their student as a condition of readmission. School administration must not use the refusal of a parent or guardian to consent to the administration of psychotropic drugs to their student or to consent to a psychiatric evaluation, screening, or examination of the student as a ground, by itself, to prohibit the student from attending class or participating in a school-related activity, or as a basis of a charge of child abuse, child neglect, or medical or educational neglect. The school administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same student for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property or where the school district is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the school administration may extend the suspension to a total of fifteen (15) days.

4. A child with a disability may be suspended. When a child with a disability has been suspended for more than five (5) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative school days in the same year, and that suspension does not involve a recommendation for expulsion or exclusion or other change in placement under federal law, relevant members of the child's IEP team, including at least one of the child's teachers, shall meet and determine the extent to which the child needs services in order to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals in the child's IEP. That meeting must occur as soon as possible, but no more than ten (10) days after the sixth (6^{th}) consecutive day of suspension or the tenth (10^{th}) cumulative day of suspension has elapsed.

5. The school administration shall implement alternative educational services when the suspension exceeds five (5) days. Alternative educational services may include, but are not limited to, special tutoring, modified curriculum, modified instruction, other modifications or adaptations, instruction through electronic media,

special education services as indicated by appropriate assessments, homebound instruction, supervised homework, or enrollment in another district or in an alternative learning center under Minn. Stat. § 123A.05 selected to allow the pupil to progress toward meeting graduation standards under Minn. Stat. § 120B.02, although in a different setting.

6. The school administration shall not suspend a student from school without an informal administrative conference with the student. The informal administrative conference shall take place before the suspension, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, in which case the conference shall take place as soon as practicable following the suspension. At the informal administrative conference, a school administrator shall notify the student of the grounds for the suspension, provide an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and the student may present the student's version of the facts. A separate administrative conference is required for each period of suspension.

7. After school administration notifies a student of the grounds for suspension, school administration may, instead of imposing the suspension, do one or more of the following:

   a. strongly encourage a parent or guardian of the student to attend school with the student for one day;

   b. assign the student to attend school on Saturday as supervised by the principal or the principal's designee; and

   c. petition the juvenile court that the student is in need of services under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260C.

8. A written notice containing the grounds for suspension, a brief statement of the facts, a description of the testimony, a readmission plan, and a copy of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56, shall be personally served upon the student at or before the time the suspension is to take effect, and upon the student's parent or guardian by mail within forty-eight (48) hours of the conference. (See attached sample Notice of Suspension.)

9. The school administration shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the suspension by telephone as soon as possible following suspension.

10. In the event a student is suspended without an informal administrative conference on the grounds that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to surrounding persons or property, the written notice shall be served upon the student and the student's parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of the suspension. Service by mail shall be complete upon mailing.

11. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the student may be suspended pending the school board's decision in an expulsion or exclusion proceeding, provided that alternative educational services are implemented to the extent that suspension exceeds five (5) days.

D. Expulsion and Exclusion Procedures

1. "Expulsion" means a school board action to prohibit an enrolled student from further attendance for up to twelve (12) months from the date the student is expelled. The authority to expel rests with the school board.

2. "Exclusion" means an action taken by the school board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a student for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year. The authority to exclude rests with the school board.

3. All expulsion and exclusion proceedings will be held pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§121A.40-121A.56.

4. No expulsion or exclusion shall be imposed without a hearing, unless the right to a hearing is waived in writing by the student and parent or guardian.

5. The student and parent or guardian shall be provided written notice of the school district's intent to initiate expulsion or exclusion proceedings. This notice shall be served upon the student and his or her parent or guardian personally or by mail, and shall contain a complete statement of the facts; a list of the witnesses and a description of their testimony; state the date, time and place of

hearing; be accompanied by a copy of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56; describe alternative educational services accorded the student in an attempt to avoid the expulsion proceedings; and inform the student and parent or guardian of their right to: (1) have a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel at the hearing; (2) examine the student's records before the hearing; (3) present evidence; and (4) confront and cross-examine witnesses. The school district shall advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

6. The hearing shall be scheduled within ten (10) days of the service of the written notice unless an extension, not to exceed five (5) days, is requested for good cause by the school district, student, parent, or guardian.

7. All hearings shall be held at a time and place reasonably convenient to the student, parent, or guardian and shall be closed, unless the student, parent, or guardian requests an open hearing.

8. The school district shall record the hearing proceedings at district expense, and a party may obtain a transcript at its own expense.

9. The student shall have a right to a representative of the student's own choosing, including legal counsel, at the student's sole expense. The school district shall advise the student's parent or guardian that free or low-cost legal assistance may be available and that a legal assistance resource list is available from MDE. The school board may appoint an attorney to represent the school district in any proceeding.

10. If the student designates a representative other than the parent or guardian, the representative must have a written authorization from the student and the parent or guardian providing them with access to and/or copies of the student's records.

11. All expulsion or exclusion hearings shall take place before and be conducted by an independent hearing officer designated by the school district. The hearing shall be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. Testimony shall be given under oath and the hearing officer shall have the power to issue subpoenas and administer oaths.

12. At a reasonable time prior to the hearing, the student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative shall be given access to all school district records pertaining to the student, including any tests or reports upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based.

13. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to compel the presence of any school district employee or agent or any other person who may have evidence upon which the proposed dismissal action may be based, and to confront and cross-examine any witnesses testifying for the school district.

14. The student, parent or guardian, or authorized representative, shall have the right to present evidence and testimony, including expert psychological or educational testimony.

15. The student cannot be compelled to testify in the dismissal proceedings.

16. The hearing officer shall prepare findings and a recommendation based solely upon substantial evidence presented at the hearing, which must be made to the school board and served upon the parties within two (2) days after the close of the hearing.

17. The school board shall base its decision upon the findings and recommendation of the hearing officer and shall render its decision at a meeting held within five (5) days after receiving the findings and recommendation. The school board may provide the parties with the opportunity to present exceptions and comments to the hearing officer's findings and recommendation provided that neither party presents any evidence not admitted at the hearing. The decision by the school board must be based on the record, must be in writing, and must state the controlling facts on which the decision is made in sufficient detail to apprise the parties and the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) of the basis and reason for the decision.

18. A party to an expulsion or exclusion decision made by the school board may appeal the decision to the Commissioner within twenty-one (21) calendar days of school board action pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 121A.49. The decision of the school board shall be implemented during the appeal to the Commissioner.

19. The school district shall report any suspension, expulsion or exclusion action taken to the appropriate public service agency, when the student is under the supervision of such agency.

20. The school district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each expulsion or exclusion within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the action to the Commissioner. This report must include a statement of alternative educational services given the student and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status. The dismissal report must include state student identification numbers of affected students.

21. Whenever a student fails to return to school within ten (10) school days of the termination of dismissal, a school administrator shall inform the student and his/her parent or guardian by mail of the student's right to attend and to be reinstated in the school district.

X. ADMISSION OR READMISSION PLAN

A school administrator shall prepare and enforce an admission or readmission plan for any student who is excluded or expelled from school. The plan may include measures to improve the student's behavior, including completing a character education program consistent with Minn. Stat. § 120B.232, Subd. 1, and require parental involvement in the admission or readmission process, and may indicate the consequences to the student of not improving the student's behavior. The readmission plan must not obligate parents to provide a sympathomimetic medication for their child as a condition of readmission.

XI. NOTIFICATION OF POLICY VIOLATIONS

Notification of any violation of this policy and resulting disciplinary action shall be as provided herein, or as otherwise provided by the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act or other applicable law. The teacher, principal or other school district official may provide additional notification as deemed appropriate.

In addition, the school district must report, through the MDE electronic reporting system, each physical assault of a school district employee by a student within thirty (30) days of the assault. This report must include a statement of alternative educational services or other sanction, intervention, or resolution given to the student in response to the assault and the reason for, the effective date, and the duration of the exclusion or expulsion or other sanction,

intervention, or resolution. The report must also include the student's age, grade, gender, race, and special education status.

XII. STUDENT DISCIPLINE RECORDS

The policy of the school district is that complete and accurate student discipline records be maintained. The collection, dissemination, and maintenance of student discipline records shall be consistent with applicable school district policies and federal and state law, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13.

XIII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who are currently identified as eligible under the IDEA or Section 504 will be subject to the provisions of this policy unless the student's IEP or 504 plan specifies a necessary modification.

Before initiating an expulsion or exclusion of a student with a disability, relevant members of the child's IEP team and the child's parent shall, consistent with federal law, conduct a manifestation determination and determine whether the child's behavior was (i) caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability and (ii) whether the child's conduct was a direct result of a failure to implement the child's IEP. If the student's educational program is appropriate and the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school district will proceed with discipline – up to and including expulsion – as if the student did not have a disability, unless the student's educational program provides otherwise. If the team determines that the behavior subject to discipline is a manifestation of the student's disability, the team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such student provided that the school district had not conducted such assessment prior to the manifestation determination before the behavior that resulted in a change of placement. Where a behavioral intervention plan previously has been developed, the team will review the behavioral intervention plan and modify it as necessary to address the behavior.

When a student who has an IEP is excluded or expelled for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school district shall continue to provide special education and related services during the period of expulsion or exclusion.

XIV. OPEN ENROLLED STUDENTS

The school district may terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student enrolled under an Enrollment Option Program (Minn. Stat. § 124D.03) or

Enrollment in Nonresident District (Minn. Stat. § 124D.08) at the end of a school year if the student meets the definition of a habitual truant, the student has been provided appropriate services for truancy (Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A), and the student's case has been referred to juvenile court. The school district may also terminate the enrollment of a nonresident student over the age of seventeen (17) enrolled under an Enrollment Options Program if the student is absent without lawful excuse for one or more periods on fifteen (15) school days and has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

XV. DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY

The school district will notify students and parents of the existence and contents of this policy in such manner as it deems appropriate. Copies of this discipline policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year and to all new students and parents upon enrollment. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.

XVI. REVIEW OF POLICY

The principal and representatives of parents, students and staff in each school building shall confer at least annually to review this discipline policy, determine if the policy is working as intended, and to assess whether the discipline policy has been enforced. Any recommended changes shall be submitted to the superintendent for consideration by the school board, which shall conduct an annual review of this policy.

6. Student Attendance

I. PURPOSE

A. The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.

B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher, and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Responsibilities

1. Student's Responsibility

It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

3. Teacher's Responsibility

It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain accurate attendance records in each assigned class and study hall. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. It is also the teacher's responsibility to provide any student who has been absent with any missed assignments upon request. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work

cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

4. Administrator's Responsibility

a. It is the administrator's responsibility to require students to attend all assigned classes and study halls. It is also the administrator's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students, to maintain accurate records on student attendance, and to prepare a list of the previous day's absences stating the status of each. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.

b. In accordance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law, Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, the students of the school district are REQUIRED to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the school board from attendance because the student has already completed state and school district standards required to graduate from high school, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

B. Attendance Procedures

Attendance procedures shall be presented to the school board for review and approval. When approved by the school board, the attendance procedures will be included as an addendum to this policy.

1. Excused Absences

a. To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian may be asked to verify, in writing, the reason for the student's absence from school. A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the student cannot attend school is a valid excuse.

b. Reasonable efforts will be made by the school district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance. The school district will provide annual notice to students of the school

district's policy relating to a student's absence for religious observance.

The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:

(1) Illness.

(2) Serious illness in the student's immediate family.

(3) A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.

(4) Medical, dental, or orthodontic treatment, or a counseling appointment.

(5) Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.

(6) Religious instruction not to exceed three hours in any week.

(7) Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.

(8) Official school field trip or other school-sponsored outing.

(9) Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work.

(10) Family emergencies.

(11) Active duty in any military branch of the United States.

(12) A student's condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis.

c. <u>Consequences of Excused Absences</u>

(1) Students whose absences are excused are required to make up all assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.

(2) Work missed because of absence must be made up within ____ days from the date of the student's return to school. Any work not completed within this period shall result in "no credit" for the missed assignment. However, the building principal or the classroom teacher may extend the time allowed for completion of make-up work in the case of an extended illness or other extenuating circumstances.

2. Unexcused Absences

a. The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

(1) Truancy. An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the school district.

(2) Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the school district's attendance procedures.

(3) Work at home.

(4) Work at a business, except under a school-sponsored work release program.

(5) Vacations with family.

(6) Personal trips to schools or colleges.

(7) Absences resulting from cumulated unexcused tardies (____ tardies equal one unexcused absence).

(8) Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy.

b. Consequences of Unexcused Absences

(1) Absences resulting from official suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56.

(2) Days during which a student is suspended from school shall not be counted in a student's total cumulated unexcused absences.

(3) In cases of recurring unexcused absences, the administration may also request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.

(4) Students with unexcused absences shall be subject to discipline in the following manner:

(a) From the first through the _____ cumulated unexcused absence in a [quarter or semester] the student will not be allowed to make up work missed due to such absence.

(b) After the _____ cumulated unexcused absence in a [quarter or semester], a student's parent or guardian will be notified by certified mail that his or her child is nearing a total of _____ unexcused absences and that, after the _____ unexcused absence, the student's grade shall be reduced by one increment for each unexcused absence thereafter.

(c) After such notification, the student or his or her parent or guardian may, within a reasonable time, request a conference with school officials regarding the student's absences and the prescribed discipline. The notification will state that the school strongly urges the student's parent or guardian to request such a conference.

(d) After _____ cumulative unexcused absences in a [quarter or semester] the teacher will reduce the student's letter grade by one increment for each unexcused absence thereafter (i.e. A to A-). However, prior to reducing the student's

grade, an administrative conference must be held among the principal, student and parent.

(e) After _____ cumulated unexcused absences in a [quarter or semester], the administration may impose the loss of academic credit in the class or classes from which the student has been absent. However, prior to loss of credit, an administrative conference must be held among the principal, student, and parent.

(f) If the result of a grade reduction or loss of credit has the effect of an expulsion, the school district will follow the procedures set forth in the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56.

C. Tardiness

1. Definition: Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.

2. Procedures for Reporting Tardiness

a. Students tardy at the start of school must report to the school office for an admission slip.

b. Tardiness between periods will be handled by the teacher.

3. Excused Tardiness

Valid excuses for tardiness are:

a. Illness.

b. Serious illness in the student's immediate family.

c. A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.

d. Medical, dental, orthodontic, or mental health treatment.

e. Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.

f. Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.

g. Any tardiness for which the student has been excused in writing by an administrator or faculty member.

4. Unexcused Tardiness

a. An unexcused tardiness is failing to be in an assigned area at the designated time class period commences without a valid excuse.

b. Consequences of tardiness may include detention after ____ unexcused tardies. In addition ____ unexcused tardies are equivalent to one unexcused absence.

D. Participation in Extracurricular Activities and School-Sponsored On-the-Job Training Programs

1. This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled either during or outside the school day and any school-sponsored on-the-job training programs.

2. School-initiated absences will be accepted and participation permitted.

3. A student may not participate in any activity or program if he or she has an unexcused absence from any class during the day.

4. If a student is suspended from any class, he or she may not participate in any activity or program that day.

5. If a student is absent from school due to medical reasons, he or she must present a physician's statement or a statement from the student's parent or guardian clearing the student for participation that day. The note must be presented to the coach or advisor before the student participates in the activity or program.

III. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable efforts will be made by the school district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the building principal.

IV. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

1. The school district will provide annual notice to parents of the school district's policy relating to a student's absence from school for religious observance.

2. Copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.

V. REQUIRED REPORTING

A. Continuing Truant

Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or

2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

B. Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;

2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;

3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;

4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;

5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the child's enrolling or resident district;

6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;

7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260;

8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 260C.201; and

9. That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the child to school and attend classes with the child for one day.

C. Habitual Truant

1. A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

2. A school district attendance officer shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A.

7. Bullying Prohibition

I. PURPOSE

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like

other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with a student's ability to learn and/or a teacher's ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, the school district intends to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, and to remediate and discipline for those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation, and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying or other prohibited conduct that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student or other students, or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges. This policy also applies to an act of cyberbullying regardless of whether such act is committed on or off school district property and/or with or without the use of school district resources.

B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.

C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen or negate the prohibitions contained in this policy.

D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.

E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.

F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures, including the school district's discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506). The school district may take into account the following factors:

1. The developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved;

2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;

3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;

4. The relationship between the parties involved; and

5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. The school district shall employ research-based developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative and remedial measures and effective discipline for deterring violations of this policy, apply throughout the school district, and foster student, parent, and community participation.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events.

G. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying reported to the school district and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

A. "Bullying" means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:

1. an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or

2. materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

The term, "bullying," specifically includes cyberbullying as defined in this policy.

B. "Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.

C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

D. "Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct" means, but is not limited to, conduct that does the following:

1. Causes physical harm to a student or a student's property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;

2. Under Minnesota common law, violates a student's reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; or

3. Is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial

status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or the MHRA.

E. "On school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

F. "Prohibited conduct" means bullying or cyberbullying as defined in this policy or retaliation or reprisal for asserting, alleging, reporting, or providing information about such conduct or knowingly making a false report about bullying.

G. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct prohibited conduct, prevent prohibited conduct from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of prohibited conduct.

H. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURE

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or prohibited conduct under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available in the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

C. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct at the building level. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct directly to a school district human rights officer or the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters. The building report taker or a third party designated by the school district shall be responsible for the investigation. The building report taker shall provide information about available community resources to the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the perpetrator, and other affected individuals as appropriate.

D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

E. Reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of bullying and the record of any resulting investigation.

F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future

employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Within three days of the receipt of a complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the building report taker or a third party designated by the school district.

B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others, pending completion of an investigation of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, consistent with applicable law.

C. The alleged perpetrator of the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines that bullying or other prohibited conduct has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; the student discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506) and other applicable school district policies; and applicable regulations.

E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the

parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets of bullying or other prohibited conduct and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of bullying or other prohibited conduct who have been involved in a reported and confirmed bullying incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

F. In order to prevent or respond to bullying or other prohibited conduct committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, when determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, who provides information about bullying or prohibited conduct, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying or prohibited conduct. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy.

VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

A. The school district shall discuss this policy with school personnel and volunteers and provide appropriate training to school district personnel regarding this policy. The school district shall establish a training cycle for school personnel to occur during a period not to exceed every three school years. Newly employed school personnel must receive the training within the first year of their employment with the school district. The school district or a school administrator may accelerate the training cycle or provide additional training based on a particular need or circumstance. This policy shall be included in employee handbooks, training materials, and publications on school rules, procedures, and standards of conduct, which materials shall also be used to publicize this policy.

B. The school district shall require ongoing professional development, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 122A.60, to build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with students to identify, prevent, and appropriately address bullying and other prohibited conduct. Such professional development includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;

2. The complex dynamics affecting a perpetrator, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;

3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for perpetrating or being the target or victim of bullying or other prohibited conduct in school;

4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and

5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.

C. The school district annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying and other prohibited conduct.

D. The administration of the school district is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the target or victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to targets or victims of bullying.

E. The administration is encouraged to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and is directed to review programmatic instruction to determine if adjustments are necessary to help students identify and prevent or reduce bullying and other prohibited conduct, to value diversity in school and society, to develop and improve students' knowledge and skills for solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in civil discourse, and recognizing, responding to, and reporting bullying or other prohibited conduct, and to make effective prevention and intervention programs available to students.

The administration must establish strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.

The administration is encouraged, to the extent practicable, to take such actions as it may deem appropriate to accomplish the following:

1. Engage all students in creating a safe and supportive school environment;

2. Partner with parents and other community members to develop and implement prevention and intervention programs;

3. Engage all students and adults in integrating education, intervention, and other remedial responses into the school environment;

4. Train student bystanders to intervene in and report incidents of bullying and other prohibited conduct to the schools' primary contact person;

5. Teach students to advocate for themselves and others;

6. Prevent inappropriate referrals to special education of students who may engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct; and

7. Foster student collaborations that, in turn, foster a safe and supportive school climate.

F. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent or reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.

G. The school district shall inform affected students and their parents of rights they may have under state and federal data practices laws to obtain access to data related to an incident and their right to contest the accuracy or completeness of the data. The school district may accomplish this requirement by inclusion of all or applicable parts of its protection and privacy of pupil records policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515) in the student handbook.

VIII. NOTICE

A. The school district will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.

B. This policy or a summary thereof must be conspicuously posted in the administrative offices of the school district and the office of each school.

C. This policy must be given to each school employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.

D. Notice of the rights and responsibilities of students and their parents under this policy must be included in the student discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506) distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year.

E. This policy shall be available to all parents and other school community members in an electronic format in the language appearing on the school district's or a school's website.

F. The school district shall provide an electronic copy of its most recently amended policy to the Commissioner of Education.

IX. POLICY REVIEW

To the extent practicable, the school board shall, on a cycle consistent with other school district policies, review and revise this policy. The policy shall be made consistent with Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 and other applicable law. Revisions shall be made in consultation with students, parents, and community organizations.

8. Harassment and Violence Prohibition

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or disability (Protected Class).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class.

B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator or other school district personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's Protected Class. as defined by school district policy. (For purposes of this policy, school district personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)

C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator or other school district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel based on a person's Protected Class.

D. The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other school district personnel who is found to have violated school district policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Assault" is:

1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;

2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or

3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, or disability when the conduct:

1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;

2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or

3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

D. <u>Protected Classifications; Definitions</u>

1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual

a. a physicalsensory, or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;

b. has a record of such an impairment; or

c. is regarded as having such an impairment.

2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors being domiciled with:

a. their parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian; or

b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an individual who has not attained the age of majority.

3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discriminationon the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.

4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.

5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.

6. "Sexual orientation" means having or being perceived as having an emotional, physical, or sexual attachment to another person without regard to the sex of that person or having or being perceived as having an orientation for such attachment, or having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness. "Sexual orientation" does not include a physical or sexual attachment to children by an adult.

7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.

E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.

F. <u>Sexual Harassment; Definition</u>

1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment, or of obtaining an education; or

b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or

c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.

2. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:

a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;

b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;

c. unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;

d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;

e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or

f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression.

G. Sexual Violence; Definition

1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof that involves the touching of another's intimate parts, or

forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.

2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:

a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts;

b. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;

c. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or

d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence; Definition

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or a group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, an individual's Protected Class.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class by a student, teacher, administrator or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct that may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

D. In Each School Building. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.

G. In the District. The school board hereby designates _____ as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.[1]

H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.

I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.

L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.

N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.

O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

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[1] In some school districts the superintendent may be the human rights officer. If so, an alternative individual should be designated by the school board.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

V. INVESTIGATION

A. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.

B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.

D. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators or other school district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.

E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint

involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and applicable school district policies and regulations.

B. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the targets or victims and alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator or other school district personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate

treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or another state or federal agency, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E may be applicable.

B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence or abuse.

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.

B. This policy shall be given to each school district employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.

C. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.

D. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

E. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.

F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

9. Hazing Prohibition

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing.

B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.

C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.

E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.

F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate hazing or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of hazing may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of hazing may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

G. This policy applies to hazing that occurs during and after school hours, on or off school premises or property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.

H. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

I. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.

2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.

5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

C. "On school premises or school district property, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

D. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.

E. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

F. "Student organization" means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report hazing anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.

B. The school district encourages the reporting party to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any adult school district

personnel who receives a report of hazing prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

C. A teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, and other school employees shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute hazing or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.

F. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.

B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.

C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act and applicable school district policies and regulations.

E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in hazing.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged hazing, who provides information about hazing, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged hazing, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate

treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

A. This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's building and staff handbooks.

B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

10. Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is tobacco free.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel of the school district, or person smokes or uses tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls. In addition, this prohibition includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for work purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all school district property and all off-campus events sponsored by the school district.

B. A violation of this policy occurs when any elementary school, middle school, or secondary school student to possesses any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls and includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for school purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all school district property and all off-campus events sponsored by the school district.

C. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or person who is found to have violated this policy.

D. The school district will not solicit or accept any contributions or gifts of money, curricula, materials, or equipment from companies that directly manufacture and are identified with tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices. The school district will not promote or allow promotion of tobacco products or electronic delivery devices on school property or at school-sponsored events.

III. TOBACCO AND TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES DEFINED

A. "Electronic delivery device" means anyproduct containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. Electronic delivery devices includes but is not limited to devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipe, vape pens, modes, tank systems, or under any other product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery device includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery device excludes drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

B. "Heated tobacco product" means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.

C. "Tobacco" means cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product including, but not limited to, cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

D. "Tobacco-related devices" means cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or other devices intentionally designed or intended to be used in a manner which enables the chewing, sniffing, smoking, or inhalation of aerosol or vapors of tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco-related devices include components of tobacco-related devices which may be marketed or sold separately.

E. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. Smoking includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.

F. "Vaping" means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

A. A violation of this policy does not occur when an Indian adult lights tobacco on school district property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony. An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe as defined under Minnesota law.

B. A violation of this policy does not occur when an adult nonstudent possesses a tobacco or nicotine product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose. Nothing in this exception authorizes smoking or use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices on school property or at off-campus events sponsored by the school district.

V. ENFORCEMENT

A. All individuals on school premises shall adhere to this policy.

B. Students who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to school district discipline procedures.

C. School district administrators and other school personnel who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to school district discipline procedures.

D. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota or federal law, and school district policies.

E. Persons who violate this tobacco-free policy may be referred to the building administration or other school district supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program at which the violation occurred.

F. School administrators may call the local law enforcement agency to assist with enforcement of this policy. Smoking or use of any tobacco product in a public school is a violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and/or

the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 and is a petty misdemeanor. A court injunction may be instituted against a repeated violator.

G. No persons shall be discharged, refused to be hired, penalized, discriminated against, or in any manner retaliated against for exercising any right to a smoke-free environment provided by the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 or other law.

VI. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

A. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.

B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

11. School Meals Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy of the school district is to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

[Note: Payment systems and procedures will likely vary from school district to school district. The school district should include here the option it has selected in its policy.]

A. Students may submit cash or check payment to the cashier or pay online.

B. If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minn. Stat. § 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance.

C. A student with an outstanding meal charge debt will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received.

D. A student who has been determined to be eligible for free and reduced-price lunch always must be served with a reimbursable meal even if the student has an outstanding debt.

E. Once a meal has been placed on a student's tray or otherwise served to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meals balance.

F. When a student has a negative account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a snack item.

G. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless written permission is received from the parent or guardian.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low or fall below zero.

B. Families will be notified of an outstanding negative balance once the negative balance reaches $*[insert amount]* or *[insert number of meals]*. Families will be notified by *[insert the method used to notify families (e.g., automated calling system, email, letters sent home)]*.

C. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program, including, but not limited to, dumping meals, withdrawing a meal that has been served, announcing or listing students' names publicly, or affixing stickers, stamps, or pins.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free and reduced-price meals for their children.

B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.

C. Negative balances of more than $*[insert amount]*, not paid prior to *[enter time period (e.g., end of the month, end of the semester, end of the school year)]*, will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. In some instances, the school district does use a collection agency to collect unpaid school meal debts after reasonable efforts first have been made by the school district to collect the debt. Collection options may include, but are not limited to, use of collection agencies, claims in the conciliation court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

D. The school district may not enlist the assistance of non-school district employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.

E. The school district must not impose any other restriction prohibited under Minn. Stat. § 123B.37 due to unpaid student meal balances. The school district must not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or access to materials, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid student meal balance.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:

1. all households at or before the start of each school year;

2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and

3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.

B. The school district must post the policy on the school district's website, or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.

C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it must provide the vendor with its school meals policy. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with whom the school district enters into an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district's school meals policy.

12. Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student's achievement, but your student's participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student's school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota's implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered "proficient."
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

Academic Standards and Assessments

What are academic standards?

The Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)	ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners
• Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3–8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science. • Majority of students take the MCA. • MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.	• Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards. • Given annually to English learners in grades K–12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. • Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs. • Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.