

GRADES PK - 6

STUDENT-PARENT

HANDBOOK

2023-2024



ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

Ayer Elementary
8471 Forest Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255
513-474-3811

Maddux Elementary
943 Rosetree Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
513-231-0780

Mercer Elementary
2600 Bartels Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
513-232-7000

Sherwood Elementary
7080 Grantham Way
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
513-231-7565

Summit Elementary
8400 Northport Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255
513-474-2270

Wilson Elementary
2465 Little Dry Run
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
513-231-3240

www.foresthills.edu
www.facebook.com/ForestHillsSchoolDistrict
Twitter: @FHSchools
Instagram: ForestHillsSchoolDistrict

VISION: Striving to ensure success for all students.
PURPOSE: Empower each student to achieve personal success every day.

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NOTE:	<i>This Student-Parent Handbook is based in part on policies adopted by the Forest Hills School District Board of Education. Policies are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to this handbook since it was produced in July 2020. Any questions should be directed to a school administrator. For all current policies adopted by the Board of Education, please reference Board policy. Forms referenced in this handbook are available in the school office.</i>
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HANDBOOK STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide Forest Hills School District students and parents with specific information concerning major policies, procedures, and regulations. While every effort is made to present the information accurately, the information contained in this handbook is continually updated. Questions regarding this handbook should be directed to the school principal.

FHSD VISION

Striving to ensure success for all students.

FHSD PURPOSE

Empower each student to achieve personal success every day.

BELIEFS

The vision, purpose and priorities of Forest Hills School District are guided by the following Belief Statements*.

We believe that learning...

- Occurs in different ways, depending on abilities, readiness, and interests.
- Takes place through research, questioning, exploring, experimenting, and problem-solving.
- Requires inclusion of reading, writing, numeracy, and digital literacies in all content areas.
- Occurs by acquiring skills and knowledge, and application of what is learned to other contexts.
- Requires active and social collaboration and interaction.
- Takes place when learners are secure, valued, and able to take risks.
- Is engaging, meaningful, purposeful, and challenging.
- Includes reflection and requires learners to be responsible for their learning.

** district beliefs as of this publication's print date*

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Forest Hills School District provides an equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the district's Compliance Officer: Betsy Ryan, Director of Special Education, at betsyryan@foresthills.edu or 513-231-3600. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures in this handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. Betsy Ryan can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunities.

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DISTRICT PK-6 DIRECTORY

BOARD OF EDUCATION * 7946 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Linda Hausfeld	231-3600
Sara Jonas	231-3600
Bob Bibb	231-3600
Dr. Leslie Rasmussen	231-3600
Katie Stewart	231-3600

CENTRAL OFFICE * 7946 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Superintendent	Larry Hook	231-3600, ext. 2944
Treasurer	Alana Cropper	231-3600, ext. 2963
Assistant Superintendent	Kim Tinsley	231-3600, ext. 2953
Coordinator of Communications	Josh Bazan	231-3600, ext. 2966
Director of Special Education	Betsy Ryan	231-3600, ext. 2948
Director of Technology	Steve Meece	231-3600, ext. 2957
Director of Business Operations	John Eckert	231-3600, ext. 2947
Director of Human Resources	Rob Fellows	231-3600, ext. 2964
Director of K-6	Bob Buck	231-3600, ext. 2956
Coordinator, Special Education PreK-6	Jason Price	231-3600, ext. 2965
PreK Case Coordinator	Jody Brandon	231-3600, ext. 2253
Director of 7-12	Shane Hartley	231-3600, ext. 2989
Director of Student Services - Wellness		231-3600, ext. 2961

AYER ELEMENTARY * 8471 Forest Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Principal	Heather Hoelle	474-3811 ext. 2101
Assistant Principal	Ericka Thompson	474-3811 ext. 2103
Administrative Assistant	Ashley Tibbe	474-3811 ext. 2100
Attendance Line		588-6211

FOOD SERVICES * 7550 Forest Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Supervisor	Tia Straus	231-3215
Administrative Assistant	Karla Butler	231-3215

MADDUX ELEMENTARY * 943 Rosetree Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

Principal	Joy O'Brien	231-0780 ext. 2601
Assistant Principal		231-0780 ext. 2610
Administrative Assistant	Kathy Chapman	231-0780 ext. 2600
Attendance Line		852-9019

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MERCER ELEMENTARY * 2600 Bartels Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

Principal	Jodi Davidson	232-7000 ext. 2302
Assistant Principal	Kimberly Beard	232-7000 ext. 2307
Administrative Assistant	Nanette Wegman	232-7000 ext. 2303
Attendance Line		588-8805

REGISTRATION * 7946 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Registrar	Debbie Conover	231-3600, ext. 2960
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SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY * 7080 Grantham Way, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

Principal	Dan Hamilton	231-7565 ext. 2501
Assistant Principal	Matthew Patterson	231-7565 ext. 2509
Administrative Assistant	Mary Mitchell	231-7565 ext. 2500
Attendance Line		852-9084

SUMMIT ELEMENTARY * 8400 Northport Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Principal	Michele Sulfsted	474-2270 ext. 2408
Assistant Principal	Matt Heredia	474-2270 ext. 2403
Administrative Assistant	Kathleen Cipollone	474-2270 ext. 2400
Attendance Line		852-9566

TRANSPORTATION * 3652 Round Bottom Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

Supervisor	Richard Porter	231-3335, ext. 2980
Administrative Assistant	Christy Frank	231-3335, ext. 2981
Administrative Assistant	Sara Goettke	231-3335, ext. 2988

WILSON ELEMENTARY * 2465 Little Dry Run, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

Principal	Erin Storer	231-3240 ext. 2701
Assistant Principal	Brian Lyons	231-3240 ext. 2708
Administrative Assistant	Lynn Augenstein	231-3240 ext. 2700
Attendance Line		852-9565

SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL DAY

AM Kindergarten:	9:15 a.m.-12 p.m.
AM Preschool Sherwood:	8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
PM Kindergarten:	1 p.m.-3:45 p.m.
PM Preschool Sherwood:	12:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m.
Grades All Day Kindergarten-6:	9:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Head Start - Mercer	8:30 a.m.-3:55 p.m.

K-6 children should arrive no earlier than 9:00 a.m. The school cannot be responsible for students who arrive before 9:00 a.m.

YMCA Before & After School Program

The before and after school program is operated by the local YMCA. Parents who are interested in this program should call the M.E. Lyons YMCA at 474-1400. In the event that school is closed, delayed, or dismissed early, the program will also be closed.

Screenings - Hearing & Vision

Forest Hills follows the Ohio Department of Health mandated vision and hearing screening schedule:

- Preschool, kindergarten, first grade, third grade, and fifth grade are screened for vision and hearing.
- New students to the district in any grade are screened for vision and hearing.

Vision and hearing screenings are done to help facilitate the early detection of health impairments. The screenings are not examinations. If a student does not pass the screening, a referral will be sent home with the recommendation that the parent/guardian make an appointment with a medical professional who will examine the child and determine if any treatment is required. If there are concerns regarding a child's hearing or vision, a screening can be performed if requested by a teacher, parent, or other school personnel. If a parent/guardian does not want their child's vision and/or hearing screened, please send a note to the building Nurse or Health Aide prior to the screenings. A waiver must be on file for each year the student is required to be screened.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The school's rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and to obey all school rules.

In order to keep parents informed of their child's progress in school, parents will receive information on a regular basis and whenever concerns arise. Many times it will be the responsibility of the student to deliver the information. The school, however, may use the U.S. mail or hand delivery, when appropriate. Parents have the option of receiving communication from the school via email and/or facsimile by filling out the appropriate form available in the school's administrative office. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

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STUDENT WELL-BEING

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, violent intruder drills, and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify a staff person immediately. State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the school office. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with medical documentation, to the school office.

INJURY AND ILLNESS

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the nurse's office. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the school's emergency procedures and make contact with the student's parents. A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the nurse's office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

ENROLLING

The Board of Education establishes the following residency policy for determining eligibility to attend the schools of this District.

The Board shall provide tuition-free education for the benefit of children at least five (5) but under twenty-two (22) years of age whose parents reside in the District and such others as may be eligible pursuant to Federal and/or State law and the policies of the Board, including disabled preschool children who are at least three (3) years of age but not of compulsory school age and who are not currently enrolled in kindergarten regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. The Board shall meaningfully communicate material information about enrollment requirements and procedures with parents, including parents who have limited proficiency in English. Access to information regarding enrollment requirements and procedures shall be available on the District's web site.

In addition, the Board shall provide tuition-free education for the benefit of a child whose grandparent(s) resides in the District and who is the subject of a:

- A. power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or
- B. caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress.

In accordance with State law, the grandparent shall be considered the “parent” of the child who is the subject of the power of attorney (Form 5111 F7) or caretaker authorization affidavit (Form 5111 F8). The child may attend the schools of this District (Form 5111 F9) unless the power of attorney or caretaker authorization form was created for the sole purpose of enrolling the child in the District so that the child may participate in the academic or interscholastic programs of this District or another reason exists to exclude the child under State law. Additionally, the child may attend the schools of the District until the power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit terminates upon the occurrence of one (1) of the following events:

- A. the child ceases to reside with the grandparent(s);
- B. the document is terminated by court order; or
- C. either the child who is the subject of the document or the grandparent dies.

Additionally, the power of attorney terminates if it is revoked in writing by the person who created it and that person gives written notice of the revocation to the grandparent and the juvenile court with which the power of attorney was filed. Further, the caretaker authorization affidavit terminates if the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child acts to negate, reverse, or otherwise disapprove of an action or decision of the grandparent(s) who signed the affidavit with respect to the child, and the grandparent either voluntarily returns the child to the physical custody of the parent, guardian or custodian or fails to file a complaint to seek custody within fourteen (14) days after delivery of the written notice of negation, revocation or other disapproval. It is the responsibility of the grandparent(s) to notify the District within one (1) week of the termination of the power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

The Board reserves the right to verify each student's residency and other conditions of eligibility for tuition-free education as well as the validity of the claim of any student to an education in the District. In addition, if a student has recently been discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, such students will not be admitted until the records required to be released by DYS to the Superintendent have been received (see AG 5111 for listing of required records). Within twenty-four (24) hours of admission into the District, the Superintendent shall request a copy of the student’s school records from the school the student most recently attended.

Nonresident Eligibility for Tuition-Free Education

A student shall be entitled to attend school in this District free of any tuition obligation under the following circumstances:

- A. A child whose parent has signed a contract to buy or build a house in this District and provides proper sworn statements shall be enrolled without payment of tuition for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. The parent shall provide:
 - 1. a sworn statement explaining the situation, the location of the house being purchased or built, and stating the parent's intention to reside there upon its completion; and

2. a statement from the builder that the house is being built for the parent and its location or a statement from a real estate broker or bank officer confirming that the parent has a contract to purchase, that the parent is waiting upon a closing date, and that the house is at the location identified in the parent's sworn statement.

Such child shall also be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, if released by formal action of the district of current residency and the OHSAA.

- B. Children under a shared-parenting plan establishing both parents as "residential parents" when the child is residing with the parent, if one (1) parent resides in the District. If a student resides in another school district but attends school in this District (where one (1) parent resides), it is the obligation of the parents to provide transportation for that student from the home of the nonresident parent. Where a court has vested legal custody with only one (1) parent, the child is entitled to attend school tuition-free only in the district in which the custodial parent resides.
- C. A child under the age of eighteen (18) years of age who is married and resides in the District.
- D. Students between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-two (22) who support themselves by their own labor, live apart from their parents, reside in the District, and have not successfully completed the District's high school program or their I.E.P.
- E. Students who are considered by Federal law to be illegal aliens, children or youth in foster care, and/or homeless students who are required to be admitted by Federal law and in accordance with State guidelines.
- F. A child with a medical condition that may require emergency medical attention providing a parent is employed in the District and submits the proper certification required by the Board, including a medical statement from the child's physician.
- G. A child, living with a resident other than a parent and whose parent is in the armed services outside the State of Ohio, providing the child's parent submits the appropriate affidavit stating that the parent is in the armed forces outside the State of Ohio, intends to reside in the District upon return to the State, and provides the name and address of the person with whom the child will reside. The child may attend school in the District tuition-free for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months. If the parent does not intend to reside in the District, the child may attend school as a tuition student only.
- H. A student who is living with a parent under the care of a shelter program for victims of domestic violence located in the District.
- I. A nonresident child who has been or is currently being placed for adoption with a resident of this District, unless the adoption has been terminated or another district is required to educate the child.

Optional Tuition Free Education

The Board may admit students tuition-free under the following circumstances:

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- A. Foreign-exchange students participating in a bona fide foreign-exchange program or residents of foreign nations who request admission as foreign-exchange students or the student is a non-Ohio, U.S. resident admitted under an exchange program operated by a student exchange organization.
- B. Twelfth grade students whose parents move out of the District after the commencement of classes shall be allowed to attend school tuition-free for the remainder of the current school year.

Students Suspended or Expelled from Other District

After offering an opportunity for a hearing, the Superintendent, at his/her discretion, may deny admission to a student who has been suspended or expelled from another public school within or outside the State, for the period of unexpired time of the suspension or expulsion. If the expulsion is from an out-of-state public school, the lesser of the period of such expulsion or the period of expulsion which would have been applied had the student committed the offense in this District will be imposed. When the suspension or expulsion from the other district has expired, the student is to be admitted providing all other eligibility requirements have been met. This provision also applies to a student who is the subject of power of attorney designating the child's grandparent as the attorney-in-fact or caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the child's grandparent.

Mandatory Admission/Payment of Tuition

The Board shall admit students who reside in the District but his/her parents do not reside in the District and tuition payments shall be assessed pursuant to State law if:

- A. the student is in the legal or permanent custody of a governmental agency or a person other than his/her natural or adoptive parents;
- B. the student resides in a home as defined by State law;
- C. the student requires special education;
- D. the child resides in the District and the child's parent is in a residential facility, correctional facility, or juvenile placement and the other parent, if living and not in such a facility or placement, is not known to reside in this State.

If the District admits a student to the District who is not otherwise entitled to attend or whose attendance tuition is not an obligation of another district, the Board shall collect tuition from the student's parents.

Tuition rates shall be determined as required by Ohio Statutes.

Safe at Home/Address Confidentiality

If a parent (or adult student), presents information to the District certifying that the parent (or adult student), his/her child, or a member of the parent's household is a participant in the Safe at Home/Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State, the Board shall use the address designated by

the Secretary of State to serve as the student's address for enrollment purposes. The District shall place a copy of any certification provided by the parent in the enrollment files.

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SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the Building Administration. Students may be denied course enrollment due to lack of available space or the need for the student to pass prerequisite courses. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation must be approved with a pass or schedule change.

EARLY DISMISSAL

It is necessary that a student be in attendance throughout the school day in order to benefit fully from the educational program of the District.

The Board of Education recognizes, however, that from time-to-time compelling circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day.

As an agency responsible for the education of the children of this District, the Board shall require that the school be notified in advance of such absences by written, personal, or telephone request of the student's parent, which shall state the reason for the tardiness or early dismissal. Justifiable reasons shall be determined by the principal.

If one (1) parent has been awarded custody of the student by the courts, the parent of custody shall provide the school with a copy of the custody order and inform the school in writing of any limitations in the rights of the noncustodial parent. Absent such notice, the school will presume that the student may be released into the care of either parent.

No student who has a medical disability which may be incapacitating may be released without a person to accompany him/her.

No student shall be released to anyone who is not authorized such custody by the parents.

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL

The Board of Education affirms that, while statute requires attendance of each student from six (6) years of age, or five (5) years of age if enrolled in kindergarten, and not formally withdrawn, until eighteen (18) years of age, it is in the best interests of both students and the community that they complete the educational program that will equip them with skills and increase their chances for a successful and fulfilling life beyond the schools. A child enrolled in kindergarten is deemed to be of compulsory school age unless the child's parent or guardian, at

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the parent or guardian's discretion and in consultation with the child's teacher and principal, formally withdraws the child from kindergarten.

The Board directs that whenever a student wishes to withdraw, an effort should be made to determine the underlying reason for such action and the resources of the District should be used to assist the student in reaching his/her career goals. No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent and in compliance with State law.

Whenever a student under the age of eighteen (18) withdraws from school without moving out of State, transferring to another approved school, being granted an age and schooling certificate, or enrolling in and attending an approved program, the Superintendent shall notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the Judge of the Juvenile Court.

Such notification is to be given within two (2) weeks after the Superintendent confirms the student is not properly enrolled in and attending another approved school or program or has moved out of State.

The Superintendent shall ensure, through administrative guidelines, that proper procedures are established so that such notification complies with the provisions of R.C. 3321.13 (B)(1).

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for withdrawal from school.

In accordance with Policy 5610, the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. Any resulting expulsion shall be imposed for the same duration it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Kindergarten students must be immunized against Hepatitis B and chickenpox. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the school Nurse/Health Aide.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

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

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USE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

The Board of Education shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. With the exception of diabetes care covered under Policy 5336, the administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or if the child is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.

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

Before any medication (i.e., a drug) or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require a written statement from a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs ("prescriber") accompanied by the written authorization of the parent (see Form 5330 F1, Form 5330 F1a, and Form 5330 F1b). These documents shall be kept on file in the health office, and made available to the persons designated by this policy as authorized to administer medication or treatment. A copy of the parent's written request and authorization and the prescriber's written statement must be given to the person authorized to administer drugs to the student for whom the authorization and statement have been received. No student is allowed to provide or sell any type of over-the-counter medication to another student. Violations of this rule will be considered violations of Policy 5530 - Drug Prevention and of the Student Code of Conduct/Discipline Code.

Only medication in its original container; labeled with the date, if a prescription; the student's name; and exact dosage will be administered. The Superintendent shall determine a location in each building where the medications to be administered under this policy shall be stored, which shall be a locked storage place, unless the medications require refrigeration in which case they shall be stored in a refrigerator in a place not commonly used by students and unless the medication to be administered is diabetes medication, which must be kept in an easily accessible location pursuant to Policy 5336.

Parents, authorized in writing by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, may administer medication or treatment, with the exception of diabetes care covered under Policy 5336 but only in the presence of an authorized school employee.

However, students shall be permitted to carry and use, as necessary, an asthma inhaler, provided the student has prior written permission from his/her parent and physician and has submitted Form 5330 F3, Authorization for the Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers/Other Emergency Medication(s), to the principal and any school nurse assigned to the building.

Additionally, students shall be permitted to carry and use, as necessary, an epinephrine auto injector to treat anaphylaxis, provided the student has prior written approval from the prescriber of the medication and his/her parent/guardian, if the student is a minor, and has submitted written approval (Form 5330 F4, Authorization for the Possession and Use of Epinephrine Autoinjector (epi-pen)) to the principal and any school nurse assigned to

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the building. The parent/guardian or the student shall provide a back-up dose of the medication to the principal or school nurse. This permission shall extend to any activity, event, or program sponsored by the school or in which the school participates. In the event epinephrine is administered by the student or a school employee at school or at any of the covered events, a school employee shall immediately request assistance from an emergency medical service provider (911). Students with diabetes authorized to attend to their diabetes care and management may do so in accordance with Policy 5336.

Students shall be permitted to possess and self-administer over-the-counter topical sunscreen products while on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

With the exception of diabetes care covered under [Policy 5336](#), only employees of the Board who are licensed health professionals or who have completed a drug administration training program conducted by a licensed health professional and are designated by the Board may administer prescription drugs to students in school.

With the exception of diabetes care covered under [Policy 5336](#), provided they have completed the requisite training, the following staff are authorized to administer medication and treatment to students:

- A. principal/assistant principal
- B. teacher
- C. school nurse/health aide
- D. building secretary
- E. paraprofessional
- F. others as designated by student's IEP and/or 504 plan

No employee will be required to administer a drug to a student if the employee objects, on the basis of religious convictions, to administering the drug.

With the exception of diabetes care covered under [Policy 5336](#), the Board shall permit the administration by a licensed nurse or other authorized staff member of any medication requiring intravenous or intramuscular injection or the insertion of a device into the body when both the medication and the procedure are prescribed by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs and the nurse/staff member has completed any and all necessary training.

Students who may require administration of an emergency medication must have a medication permission form signed by the physician and that medication will be stored in the health office and administered in accord with this policy and [Policy 5336](#).

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS

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No staff member will dispense non prescribed, over-the-counter medication to any student without a medication permission form signed by both parent and physician. The medication is to be brought to the health office in the original container by the parent. Medical permission forms are available from the health office and the district website, www.foresthills.edu.

If a student is found using or possessing medication, the student will be brought to the school office while the student's parents are contacted. The medication will be confiscated. Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the school's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice. Specific communicable diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the local and state Health Departments. Any removal will be limited to the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

CONTROL OF NON CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The school district has an obligation to protect staff and students from non casual-contact communicable diseases. When a non casual-contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The school will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion. Non casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health. As required by Federal law, parents may be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The Board of Education seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precautions to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

In order to reduce the risk of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens, the Superintendent shall implement guidelines which will:

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- A. identify potential situations where students may be exposed to blood and other infectious materials;
- B. require proper training for staff in universal precautions to protect against staff or student exposure to blood-borne pathogens;
- C. establish appropriate procedures for the reporting, evaluation, and follow-up to any and all incidents of student exposure;
- D. provide for record-keeping of all of the above.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education is committed to providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities identified in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws, rules, and regulations. This includes students who are confined to community corrections facilities or juvenile detention centers. The District shall provide students with disabilities the services to which they are entitled pursuant to their individualized education programs (IEPs) and in accordance with the Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities, including Child Find and Evaluation requirements. Students with disabilities who are in adult county jails shall continue to receive FAPE during incarceration subject to their continued eligibility for services and subject to exceptions related to security and safety.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities ("Ohio Operating Standards"), the Board of Education adopts the model policies and procedures promulgated by the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Exceptional Children (ODE-OEC), which is incorporated by reference into this policy. While the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures ("Model Policies") issued by the ODE-OEC are comprehensive, the document does not include every requirement set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEIA"), the regulations implementing the IDEIA, the Operating Standards, the Ohio Revised Code, and/or the Ohio Administrative Code. As such, the Board affirms its obligation to follow these laws and regulations, regardless of whether their provisions are restated in the Model Policies.

Copies of Model Policies and Procedures are available at the office of the Board of Education.

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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

enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information contact the Director of Student Services - Wellness in the Forest Hills School District, at 231-3600.

Reference Board [Policy 5111.01](#)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of educational stability for children and youth in foster care. Further, the Board recognizes these children and youth as a vulnerable subgroup of students in need of safeguards and supports in order to facilitate a successful transition through elementary and secondary education and into college and/or careers. To that end, the District will collaborate with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), other schools and school districts, and the appropriate custodial agencies (child welfare agencies and/or local Title IV-E courts) to provide educational stability for children and youth in foster care.

PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS

The school district maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Each year, the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents of the district's intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received.

The Board designates school-assigned email accounts as "directory information" for the limited purpose of facilitating students' registration for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes and for inclusion in internal email address books. School-assigned email accounts shall not be released as directory information beyond this/these limited purpose(s) and to any person or entity but the specific online educational service provider and internal users of the district's Education Technology.

Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes.

Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Superintendent's annual public notice.

In accordance with federal and state law, the Board shall release the names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or an institution of higher education who requests such information. A secondary school student or parent of the student may

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request in writing that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released. The Superintendent is authorized to charge mailing fees for providing this information to a recruiting officer.

Whenever consent of the parent(s)/eligible student is required for the inspection and/or release of a student's health or education records or for the release of "directory information," either parent may provide such consent unless agreed to otherwise in writing by both parents or specifically stated by court order. If the student is under the guardianship of an institution, the Superintendent shall appoint a person who has no conflicting interest to provide such written consent.

The Board shall not permit 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).

STUDENT RECORDS [8330](#)

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the Board of Education must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. Simultaneously, the Board recognizes the need to safeguard students' privacy and restrict access to students' personally identifiable information.

Student "personally identifiable information" ("PII") includes, but is not limited to: the student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or information requested by a person who the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

The Board is responsible for the records of all students who attend or have attended schools in this District. Only records mandated by the State or Federal government and/or necessary and relevant to the function of the School District or specifically permitted by this Board will be compiled by Board employees.

In all cases, permitted, narrative information in student records shall be objectively-based on the personal observation or knowledge of the originator.

Student records shall be available only to students and their parents, eligible students, designated school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law.

The term "parents" includes legal guardians or other persons standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child). The term "eligible student" refers to a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or a student of any age who is enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

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Both parents shall have equal access to student records unless stipulated otherwise by court order or law. In the case of eligible students, parents may be allowed access to the records without the student's consent, provided the student is considered a dependent under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code.

A school official is a person employed by the Board as an administrator, supervisor, teacher/instructor (including substitutes), or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); and a person serving on the Board. The Board further designates the following individuals and entities as "school officials" for the purpose of FERPA:

- A. persons or companies with whom the Board has contracted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, insurance representative, or medical consultant), and
- B. contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the Board has outsourced a service or function otherwise performed by the Board employees (e.g. a therapist, authorized information technology (IT) staff, and approved online educational service providers)

The above-identified outside parties must (a) perform institutional services or functions for which the Board would otherwise use its employees, (b) be under the direct control of the Board with respect to the use and maintenance of education records, and (c) be subject to the requirements of 34 C.F.R. 99.33(a) governing the use and redisclosure of PII from education records.

Finally, a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks (including volunteers) is also considered a "school official" for purposes of FERPA provided s/he meets the above-referenced criteria applicable to other outside parties.

"Legitimate educational interest" is defined as a "direct or delegated responsibility for helping the student achieve one (1) or more of the educational goals of the District" or if the record is necessary in order for the school official to perform an administrative, supervisory, or instructional task or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family. The Board directs that reasonable and appropriate methods (including but not limited to physical and/or technological access controls) are utilized to control access to student records and to make certain that school officials obtain access to only those education records in which they have legitimate educational interest.

The Board authorizes the administration to:

- A. forward student records, including disciplinary records with respect to suspensions and expulsions, upon request to a private or public school or school district in which a student of this District is enrolled, seeks or intends to enroll, or is instructed to enroll, on a full-time or part-time basis, upon condition that:
 1. a reasonable attempt is made to notify the student's parent or eligible student of the transfer (unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible student; or the Board's annual notification includes a notice that the Board will forward education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer);
 2. the parent or eligible student, upon request, receives a copy of the record; and
 3. the parent or eligible student, upon request, has an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the record;

- B. forward student records, including disciplinary records with respect to suspensions and expulsions, upon request to a juvenile detention facility in which the student has been placed, or a juvenile court that has taken jurisdiction of the student;
- C. forward student records, including disciplinary records with respect to suspensions and expulsions, upon request to a public school or school district in which a student in foster care is enrolled. Such records shall be transferred within one (1) school day of the enrolling school's request;
- D. provide "personally-identifiable" information to appropriate parties, including parents of an eligible student, whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, if there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, considering the totality of the circumstances;
- E. report a crime committed by a child to appropriate authorities, and, with respect to reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability, to transmit copies of the student's special education and disciplinary records to the authorities for their consideration;
- F. release de-identified records and information in accordance with Federal regulations;
- G. disclose personally identifiable information from education records, without consent, to organizations conducting studies "for, or on behalf of" the District for purposes of developing, validating or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction;
- H. Information disclosed under this exception must be protected so that students and parents cannot be personally identified by anyone other than a representative of the organization conducting the study, and must be destroyed when no longer needed for the study. In order to release information under this provision, the District will enter into a written agreement with the recipient organization that specifies the purpose of the study. Further, the following personally identifiable information will not be disclosed to any entity: a student or his/her family member's social security number(s); religion; political party affiliation; voting history; or biometric information.
- I. While the disclosure of personally identifiable information (other than social security numbers, religion, political party affiliation, voting record, or biometric information) is allowed under this exception, it is recommended that de-identified information be used whenever possible. This reduces the risk of unauthorized disclosure.
- J. disclose personally identifiable information from education records without consent, to authorized representatives of the Comptroller General, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Education, as well as State and local educational authorities;
- K. The disclosed records must be used to audit or evaluate a Federal or State supported education program, or to enforce or comply with Federal requirements related to those education programs. A written agreement between the parties is required under this exception.
- L. The District will verify that the authorized representative complies with FERPA regulations.
- M. request each person or party requesting access to a student's record to abide by Federal regulations and State laws concerning the disclosure of information.

The Board will comply with a legitimate request for access to a student's records within a reasonable period of time but not more than forty-five (45) days after receiving the request or within such shorter period as may be applicable to students with disabilities. Upon the request of the viewer, a record shall be reproduced, unless said record is copyrighted, or otherwise restricted, and the viewer may be charged a fee equivalent to the cost of handling and reproduction. Based upon reasonable requests, viewers of education records will receive explanation and interpretation of the records.

The Board shall maintain a record of each request for access and each disclosure of personally identifiable information. Such disclosure records will indicate the student, person viewing the record, their legitimate interest in the information, information disclosed, date of disclosure, and date parental/eligible student consent was obtained (if required).

Only "directory information" regarding a student shall be released to any person or party, other than the student or his/her parent, without the written consent of the parent, or, if the student is an eligible student, without the written consent of the student, except to those persons or parties stipulated by the Board's policy and administrative guidelines and/or those specified in the law.

INSPECTION OF INFORMATION COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

The parent of a student or an eligible student has the right to inspect upon request any instrument used in the collection of personal information before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student. Personal information for this section is defined as individually identifiable information including a student or parent's first and last name, a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), a telephone number, or a Social Security identification number. In order to review the instrument, the parent or eligible student must submit a written request to the building principal at least three (3) business days before the scheduled date of the activity. The instrument will be provided to the parent or eligible student within three (3) business days of the principal receiving the request.

The Superintendent shall directly notify the parent(s) of a student and eligible students, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when such activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled.

This section does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

- A. college or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment
- B. book clubs, magazine, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products
- C. curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary and secondary schools
- D. tests and assessments used by elementary and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments
- E. the sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities
- F. student recognition programs

The Superintendent is directed to prepare administrative guidelines so that students and parents are adequately informed each year regarding their rights to:

- A. inspect and review the student's education records;
- B. request amendments if the parent believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the student's privacy rights;

- C. consent to disclosures of personally-identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to those disclosures allowed by the law;
- D. challenge Board noncompliance with a parent's request to amend the records through a hearing;
- E. file a complaint with the United States Department of Education;
- F. obtain a copy of the Board's policy and administrative guidelines on student records.

The Superintendent shall also develop procedural guidelines for:

- A. the proper storage and retention of records including a list of the type and location of records;
- B. informing Board employees of the Federal and State laws concerning student records.

The Board authorizes the use of the microfilm process or electromagnetic processes of reproduction for the recording, filing, maintaining, and preserving of records.

No liability shall attach to any member, officer, or employee of this Board as a consequence of permitting access or furnishing student records in accordance with this policy and regulations.

Any entity receiving personally identifiable information pursuant to a study, audit, evaluation or enforcement/compliance activity must comply with all FERPA regulations. Further, such an entity must enter into a written contract with the Board of Education delineating its responsibilities in safeguarding the disclosed information. Specifically, the entity must demonstrate the existence of a sound data security plan or data stewardship program, and must also provide assurances that the personally identifiable information will not be disclosed without prior authorization from the Board. Further, the entity conducting the study, audit, evaluation or enforcement/compliance activity is required to destroy the disclosed information once it is no longer needed or when the timeframe for the activity has ended, as specified in its written agreement with the Board of Education.

SAFE AT HOME/ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

If a parent (or adult student), presents information to the District certifying that the parent (or adult student), his/her child, or a member of the parent's household is a participant in the Safe at Home/Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State, the Board shall refrain from including the student's actual/confidential residential address in any student records or files (including electronic records and files) or disclosing the student's actual/confidential residential address when releasing student records. Since student records are available to non-custodial parents, designated school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, and other individuals or organizations as permitted by law (including the public in some situations), the Board shall only list the address designated by the Secretary of State to serve as the student's address in any student records or files, including electronic records and files. Further, the Board shall use the student's designated address for any and all communications and correspondence between the Board and the parent(s) of the student (or adult student). The student's actual/confidential residential address shall be maintained in a separate confidential file that is not accessible to the public or any employees without a legitimate purpose.

Although the student's actual/confidential address will not be available for release as directory information, the parent (or adult student) may also request that the student's name and telephone number be withheld from any release of directory information. Additionally, if applicable, the student's parent's school, institution of higher

education, business, or place of employment (as specified on an application to be a program participant or on a notice of change of name or address) shall be maintained in a confidential manner.

If a non-custodial parent presents a subpoena or court order stating that s/he should be provided with copies or access to a student's records, the District will redact the student's confidential address and telephone number from the student's records before complying with the order or subpoena. The District will also notify the custodial/residential parent of the release of student records in accordance with the order or subpoena.

The intentional disclosure of a student's actual/confidential residential address is prohibited. Any violations could result in disciplinary action or criminal prosecution.

STUDENT FEES AND FINES

Students will be provided necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State law, the district charges specific fees for the activities and materials used in the course of instruction. Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship. Students can avoid late fines by promptly returning borrowed materials. Any waiver of fees shall be made pursuant to [Policy 6152.01](#).

STUDENT FUNDRAISING

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the Principal. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action. [Refer to 5830](#)

STUDENT VALUABLES

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

MEAL SERVICE

FHSD participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students. Ala carte items are available. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the school's cafeteria. Forest Hills also offers secure, online applications for Free and Reduced-Price Family Meals. By applying online, parents will receive an immediate response regarding qualification. Apply at <https://foresthills.sdms2.com> . Call Food Services with questions at 231-3215. Reference Board [Policy 8500](#)

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SAFETY AND SECURITY

Visitors

- All visitors must report to the office when they arrive at school.
- All visitors will be required to present a State issued ID in order to receive a visitor badge.
- All visitors are given and required to wear a building pass while they are in the building.
- Staff are expected to question people in the building whom they do not recognize and who are not wearing a building pass, and to question people who are "hanging around" the building after hours.
- Students and staff are expected to immediately report to a teacher or administrator any suspicious behavior or situation that makes them uncomfortable.
- As many unneeded outside doors as possible are locked during the school day.
- Portions of the building that will not be needed after the regular school days are closed off.
- All district employees are to wear photo-identification badges while in district schools and offices or on district property.

Volunteers

Forest Hills School District volunteers provide meaningful support that helps make an array of learning opportunities available to students. Parents, community members, alumni and others are able to engage and empower students directly through their talents, time and abilities. Schools regularly accept volunteer assistance for student and school programs and events such as carnivals, reading buddies, staff appreciation days, theater and band performances, 5K runs, After-Prom and Homecoming. Individuals who are interested in volunteering should contact the main office or the PTA/PTO of the school where they wish to volunteer.

The procedures and guidelines for visitors and volunteers at Forest Hills School District can be found below. *If you have volunteered in the past, please contact your school building to confirm your status and check whether your documentation is up-to-date. Remember, background checks are good for up to five years.*

VOLUNTEER / CHAPERONE / COACH (BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED):

- **Volunteer/Chaperone (Online Process via Raptor System)**
 - Any adult who will interact with any students other than their own child while assisting with school activities or working independently in a Forest Hills School District building. Example: room helper, reading to classes, making copies for teachers, organizing activities, assisting with productions, etc.
 - Any adult who will escort students on day field trips within or out of the Forest Hills School District.
 - **Volunteers and Chaperones must complete their background check using the Raptor System LINK.**
 - **Attention:** If you have been fingerprinted by the Forest Hills School District in the past five (5) years, you do not need to complete a Raptor Background Check. If you are

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unsure when you completed your last background check, please contact the school in which you wish to volunteer.

- **Overnight Field Trips (*Fingerprinting*)**
 - Any adult who will escort students on overnight field trips.
 - Adults who wish to be a Volunteer Chaperone for an overnight field trip(s) must report to the **Human Resource Office, located at 7946 Beechmont Avenue, to be fingerprinted. Bring your government-issued ID at this time. Fingerprinting is available on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- **Coach (*Fingerprinting - School Sponsored*)**
 - Any adult who will be volunteering their time working with a program that involves physical activity in which will require a pupil activity permit must report to the **Human Resources office, located at 7946 Beechmont Avenue, to be fingerprinted. Bring your government-issued ID at this time. Fingerprinting is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

VISITOR (*DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED UPON ENTERING THE BUILDING*)

- A person entering the building who will leave the office area to meet with a school official or attend an activity. This person will not work in a supervisory or instructional manner with students.
- All visitors are reminded that upon entering a district building, they will be asked to present a government-issued ID such as a driver's license, which will be scanned into the system to produce your visitor badge.

More information is also available in the [Board of Education volunteer policy](#)

VISITORS

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at school. Visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in with a state ID to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, they should call for an appointment prior to coming to the school in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time. Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the principal.

FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS

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

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

EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school district will notify local radio and television stations. Information concerning school closings or delays can also be found on the district website, www.foresthills.edu, [district Facebook page](#), and [district Twitter](#) account. Parents will be notified of school closings or delays via a pre-recorded telephone message delivered to the primary phone number on file.

PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS

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

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

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

LOST AND FOUND

Students who have lost items should check with the main office and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the end of each semester.

USE OF OFFICE TELEPHONES

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

USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A student may possess a cellular telephone or other electronic communication devices (PCD) (e.g., smart phones, watches, laser pointers and attachments, paging devices/beepers, and other devices designed to receive and send an electronic signal) in school, on school property, at after school activities, and at school-related functions. Students may not use cellular telephones or PCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored

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activity to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

When participating in school activities or when directed by the administrator or sponsor, cellular telephones and other PCDs shall be turned off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of PCDs on school premises/property.

Students may not use a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See [Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior](#). In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and (2) engage in "sexting" – i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

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

Possession of a cellular telephone or other PCD by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the cellular telephone or PCD. If the cellular telephone or PCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequence that is imposed. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity.

The student who possesses a cellular telephone or PCD is responsible for its care. The Board is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to cellular telephones or PCDs brought onto its property.

ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval. The school has central designated locations that may be used for posting notices after receiving permission.

Reference Board Policy [5722](#) / [9700](#)

Section II - Academics

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips. Attendance rules apply to all field trips. While the district encourages students to participate in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission for the student to attend. Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips.

GRADES

The district has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that indicate work in progress or incomplete work. Grades indicate the extent to which the student has acquired and demonstrated the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas when determining a grade and will inform the students at the beginning of the course. If a student is not sure how their grade will be determined, they should ask the teacher.

The school applies the following grading system:

K - 3 Standardized Grading

- 1 or (-) - performing below Standard
- 2 or (✓) - performing at Standard
- 3 or (+) - performing below Standard

4 - 6 Standardized Grading

- 1 - Not Meeting Standard - Area of Concern
- 2 - Approaching the Standard - Beginning to Develop
- 3 - Meeting Standard - Developing Appropriately
- 4 - Exceeding the Standard - Exhibiting high performance
- N/A - Not Assessed at this time

3rd - 6th Grades

- A - 90 - 100%
- B - 80 - 89%
- C - 70 - 79%
- D - 60 - 69%
- F - below 60%

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Behaviors that Affect Learning

C = Consistently meeting expectations

S = Sometimes meeting expectations

R = Rarely meeting expectations

GRADING PERIODS

Students will receive a digital report card at the end of each semester indicating their grades for each course of study and interim reports at the end of the first and third quarter for that portion of the academic term. When a student appears to be at risk of failure, reasonable efforts will be made to notify the parents so they can talk with the teacher about what actions can be taken to improve poor grades.

PROMOTION, ACCELERATION, AND RETENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth. It is the Board's intent that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with their own development. Such pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the instructional objectives established for each. The promotion and retention provisions of this policy shall be in compliance with the terms of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee ([Policy 2623.02](#)).

Promotion

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

- A. completed the course and State-mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- B. in the opinion of the professional staff, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- C. demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him/her to move ahead in the educational program of the next grade;
- D. demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Academic Acceleration

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

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Any student residing in the district may be referred by a staff member or a parent/guardian to the principal of his/her school for evaluation for possible accelerated placement. Students may refer themselves or a peer through a staff member who has knowledge of the referred child's abilities. Copies of referral forms for evaluation for whole-grade or individual subject acceleration will be available at each school building.

Students referred for accelerated placement will be evaluated in a prompt manner. District administrative staff will schedule the evaluations. Before a student is evaluated for accelerated placement, the principal (or his/her designee) shall obtain written permission from the student's parent/guardian. Evaluations related to referrals that occur during the school year will ordinarily be completed and a written report issued within 45 calendar days. Evaluations related to referrals that occur at the end of a school year or during the summer will be completed and a written report issued either before the end of the school year, if possible, or within 45 calendar days of the start of the next school year.

Retention

A student may be retained at his/her current grade level when s/he has:

- A. in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to demonstrate proficiency in the core subjects;
- B. in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to achieve the instructional objectives set forth at the current grade level that are requisite for success at the succeeding grade level.

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

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

- A. require the recommendation of the relevant staff members for promotion, placement, or retention;
- B. require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level;
- C. assure that efforts will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before s/he is retained;
- D. require that a student be retained if s/he is truant for ten percent (10%) or more of the required school days and has failed at least two (2) courses of study, unless the principal and the teachers of the failed subjects determine that the student is academically prepared to be promoted;
- E. assign to the principal the responsibility for determining the promotion, placement, or retention of each student;
- F. provide parents the opportunity to request the promotion, placement, or retention of their child;
- G. provide parents the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Superintendent about their child's promotion, placement, or retention.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Forest Hills School District provides alternative means by which a student can achieve the goals of the district, as well as his/her personal educational goals. Educational options are learning experiences or activities that are

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designed to extend, enhance, supplement, or serve as an alternative to classroom instruction. The Superintendent shall prepare a plan of educational options for use in meeting a variety of student needs. Such options will include the district's Credit Flexibility plan and may include, but not be limited to, distance learning, online coursework, tutorial programs, independent study, correspondence courses, educational travel, project portfolios, internships, mentorship programs, summer school, and early college entrance. Prior approval of the educational option application by the Superintendent shall be required before a student participates in one of the available educational options. Prior permission of a parent or guardian shall also be required before a student under age 18 participates in one of the available educational options. Participation in an educational option shall be in accordance with an instructional and performance plan which will be developed based on the individual student's needs. The instructional plan will include:

- A. instructional and performance objectives that align with district's curriculum requirements;
- B. a description of the criteria and method for assessing student performance;
- C. an outline of specific instructional activities, materials and learning environments.

Participation must be subject to the oversight of a credentialed teacher who will review the instructional plan which may include providing, supervising or reviewing instruction or learning experiences, and the evaluation of student performance.

Credit for approved educational options shall be assigned according to student performance relative to stated objectives of the approved instructional and performance plan and in accordance with district policy and established administrative guidelines.

The district shall communicate information and procedures related to credit flexibility and educational options available in the district to students, parents, and interested stakeholders. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

A.C. 3301-35-06(G) Revised 1/31/11

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Students who display significant achievements during the course of the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include, but are not limited to, academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship, and volunteerism. Recognition for such activities is initiated by the staff and coordinated by the Counseling Office.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for the assessment tests and graduation.

- Homework assignments should be appropriate to the grade level and the abilities of the students involved.
 - Suggested Homework Time for Various Grade Levels
 - K - 1 as requested through teacher correspondence
 - 2 - 3 15 - 30 minutes

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- 4 - 5 30 - 45
- 6 - 8 45 - 60
- 9 - 12 60 - 90

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student is absent, the student will be given the opportunity to make up for missed schoolwork. The student is reminded to check Progress Book and Schoology to verify missing work and assignments. Make-up work must be returned to the teacher, never to the teacher’s mailbox. Responsibility rests with the student for making arrangements with the teacher concerning make-up work. Make-up assignments, tests, and quizzes may differ from the original requirements.

Students are responsible for school work they know about on the day they return to school. The following make-up schedule is for work assigned during the student's absence:

Days absent	Days to make up work
1	2 days
2	3 days
3	4 days
4	5 days

In the case of an extended illness, special arrangements will be made by the teacher, with the approval of the principal.

When a student is out for a vacation and requests work, the work will be given upon returning to school and will have the same days of make-up time as above.

When a student is absent during the last week of a semester/quarter, and the work is not made up before the semester/quarter grades are processed, the student will be given an incomplete grade. All incomplete grades must be removed within 10 school days after the end of the grading period unless special permission is secured from the principal.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The Board of Education provides Technology Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) to support the educational and professional needs of its students and staff. With respect to students, District Technology Resources afford them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board provides students with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District’s computer network and Internet system does not serve as a public access service or a public forum, and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District Technology Resources by principles consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the District's educational mission, and articulated expectations of student conduct as delineated in the Student Code of Conduct. This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct govern students' use of District Technology Resources and students' personal communication devices when they are connected to the District computer network, Internet connection, and/or online educational services/apps, or when used while the student is on Board-owned property or at a Board-sponsored activity ([Policy 5136](#)).

Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like). Because its Technology Resources are not unlimited, the Board has also instituted restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using District Technology Resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection).

First, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its Technology Resources, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures, that protect against (e.g. filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the District Technology

Resources, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent or Director of Technology may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or

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inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications,
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information,
- C. the consequence of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital Piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online, and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally-identifiable information regarding minors.

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school.

Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of District Technology Resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media, including in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District Technology Resources (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety agreement and to abide by the terms and conditions of the agreement, this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students are responsible for good behavior when using District Technology Resources - i.e. behavior comparable to that expected of students when they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its Technology Resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students will be assigned a school email account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members, peers, and individuals and/or organizations outside the

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District with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments. Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school-assigned email account when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes.

Students may only use District Technology Resources to access or use social media if it is done for educational purposes in accordance with their teacher’s approved plan for such use.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of the District Technology Resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Personally owned devices are the responsibility of the student. The district will be held harmless for replacement/repair unless an alternative determination is made by the Principal or Director of Technology. If the district suspects that inappropriate activity is taking place on a personally owned device, the district reserves the right to hold the computer and/or cell phone and a parent/guardian will be contacted.

Damage/Replacement Cost

All Chromebooks are covered by an accidental damage insurance policy. If a student damages a district device while it is in their care, the device will be sent for repair, where determination will be made about the damage. All unintentional damage will be covered by the insurance policy. Intentional damage will be billed according to the current repair rate for time and materials, and the parent will be billed directly. If the device cannot be repaired, the following charges will be incurred by the student:

Complete Device Replacement	Current market replacement cost
Charger	\$40
Protective case	\$25

STUDENT ASSESSMENT & ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES

The Board of Education shall assess student achievement and needs in all program areas in compliance with State law and the rules adopted by the State Board of Education. The purpose of such assessments will be to determine the progress of students and to assist them in attaining student performance objectives and the educational achievement goals of Forest Hills.

The Board shall administer the State-mandated tests (e.g., diagnostic assessments, and achievement tests) to students at the times designated by the State Board of Education. The district may, for medical reasons or other good cause, excuse a student from taking a state-mandated test on the date scheduled, but any such test shall be administered to such excused student not later than nine (9) days following the scheduled date within the mandated test window. The Board shall annually report, not later than June 30th, the number of students who have not taken one (1) or more of the State-mandated tests to the State Board of Education.

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The Board shall provide academic intervention services in pertinent subject areas to students who score below the proficient level on state assessments, or who do not demonstrate academic performance at their grade level based on the results of a diagnostic assessment.

At least annually, staff members will assess the academic achievement and learning needs of each student. Procedures for such assessments may include, but need not be limited to, teacher observation techniques, cumulative student records, student performance data collected through standard testing, and appropriate physical screening.

The Superintendent shall develop and present to the Board annually a program of testing that includes State-mandated tests (e.g., diagnostic assessments, and achievement tests).

"Achievement tests" means tests, aligned to academic content standards, designed to measure the skill in a specific content that is expected at the end of the designated grade.

"Diagnostic assessments" means the tests designed to measure student comprehension of academic content standards and mastery of related skills for the relevant subject area at each grade, kindergarten through ninth.

The Superintendent shall develop:

- A. procedures for the regular collection of student performance data;
- B. a plan for the design of intervention services to meet the instructional needs of individual students as determined by the results of diagnostic assessments; and
- C. procedures for using student performance data to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention services and, if necessary, to modify such services.

For any student who failed to demonstrate at least a score in the proficient range on an achievement test during the preceding school year, the Board shall provide appropriate intervention services in each such test areas, including intensive intervention required under R.C. 3313.608. This provision does not apply to any student receiving services pursuant to an individualized education program.

The Board shall require that:

- A. parents be informed of the testing program of the schools and of the special tests that are to be administered to their children;
- B. data regarding individual test scores be entered on the student's cumulative record, where it will be subject to the Board's student records policy;
- C. the aggregate results of each school-wide, program-wide, and district-wide test be made part of the public record.

Summer remediation services shall meet the following conditions:

- A. the remediation methods are based on reliable educational research
- B. testing will be conducted before and after students participate in the program to facilitate monitoring results of the remediation services
- C. the parents of participating student will be involved in programming decisions
- D. the services will be conducted in a school building or community center and not on an at-home basis

The Board shall keep records for each student including the following:

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- A. a student data verification code in accordance with R.C. 3301.0714(D)(2)
- B. which tests are required and which are not
- C. which tests, required or not required, are taken and which are not taken at each test administration period
- D. score for each test taken, required or not
- E. whether the student obtained the designated performance standard expected for each required test
- F. what if any tests must still be taken
- G. whether or not intervention must be provided, and
- H. for each test required for graduation, the date passed must be recorded on the student's transcript

When a student who has taken state-mandated tests in one (1) school leaves that school to enroll in another school, the school last attended shall provide, immediately upon request by a school official, all applicable records set forth above.

For each student required to be offered intervention services, the Board shall involve the student's parent or guardian and classroom teacher in developing the intervention strategy, and shall offer to the parent or guardian the opportunity to be involved in the intervention services.

During the school year following the year in which the tests prescribed by R.C. 3301.0710(A)(1) are administered to any student, the Board shall provide intervention services, commensurate with the student's test performance, including any intensive intervention required under R.C. 3313.608, in any skill in which the student failed to demonstrate at least a score of proficient on a State-mandated test, or whose diagnostic assessments show they are failing to make satisfactory progress toward attaining the academic standards for their grade level.

Except as authorized by State law, the Board shall not use any student's failure to attain a specified score on any State-mandated test as a factor in any decision to deny the student promotion to a higher grade level.

All identified students with disabilities in Forest Hills shall be considered for participation in the State-mandated testing. The IEP Team shall determine the extent of participation by the student with disabilities. Accordingly, the student's IEP shall require that s/he:

- A. take the prescribed test in the same manner as other students;
- B. take the prescribed test with accommodations appropriate for his/her disability; or
- C. take an alternate assessment that has been approved by the State Department of Education.

To the extent possible, and in accordance with law, a student with disabilities shall not be excused from taking a required assessment unless no reasonable accommodation can be made to enable the student to take the assessment.

The Superintendent shall implement administrative guidelines that comply with the State Department's regulations with regard to the administration of the State-mandated tests, including the reporting of results.

Program evaluations will be reviewed and updated every five (5) years. A schedule for such will be developed and implemented by the Superintendent.

After July 1, 2017, no student will spend more than two percent (2%) of the school year taking state assessments, including the Ohio graduation tests, college and work ready assessment systems and any district-wide assessment for all students in a specified subject area or grade level. Students will not spend more than one percent (1%) of the school year on diagnostic or practice assessments to prepare for the above assessments. Students with disabilities are exempt from this requirement, as are related diagnostic assessments for students who failed the English language arts achievement assessment, substitute examinations, or examinations to identify a gifted student.

This policy shall be reviewed and updated annually.

See Policy [2623.02](#) – Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Unless exempted, each student must earn the required minimum total number of points on the End of Course Ohio's State Tests. The tests will be administered at least twice per year until the student earns the needed points. Students are only required to retake those tests needed to earn the needed points. While the school district does schedule make-up dates for testing, students should avoid unnecessary absences. Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests are given to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess student achievement on specific objectives.

Career and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interests or talent. These are often given by the guidance staff.

College entrance testing information can be obtained from the Counseling Office.

SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

The Board of Education acknowledges that the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides that the parents/guardians of students enrolled in a Title I school the first year following the building's identification as being in "school Improvement", have the right to transfer their children to another school in the district, provided there is a school that provides instruction at the student's grade level(s) and such school has not been identified as being in the process of school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. If there is not another school in the district offering instruction at the student's grade level(s) that has not been identified as needing improvement, the Superintendent shall contact neighboring districts and request that they permit students to transfer to a school in one of those districts. The Superintendent shall also offer Supplemental Educational Services to students in any school no later than the first year following the building's identification as being in "school Improvement," regardless of whether a transfer option is available.

Additionally, students attending a "persistently dangerous" school, as defined by state law have the right to transfer to another "safe" school in the district. If there is not another "safe" school in the district providing

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instruction at the student's grade level(s), the Superintendent shall contact neighboring districts and request that they permit students to transfer to a school in one of those districts.

Furthermore, a student who is a victim of a "violent crime" on school property also has the right to transfer to another school. If there is not another school in the district providing instruction at the student's grade level, the Superintendent shall contact neighboring districts and request that they permit that student to transfer to a school in one of those districts providing instruction at the student's grade level.

The Board of Education authorizes such transfers in accordance with [Board Policy AG 5113.02](#).

Children who transfer in accordance with this policy will be permitted to remain at the school of transfer until completing the highest grade at the school.

SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education believes that the goals and objectives of Forest Hills are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, including those that are not conducted in a regular classroom but are directly related to the curriculum.

The purpose of curricular-related activities shall be to enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than may be available in the FHSD courses of study but are still directly related to accomplishing the educational outcomes for students as adopted by the Board in [Policy 2131](#)

For purposes of this policy, curricular-related activities are defined as those activities in which:

- A. the subject matter is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly offered course;
- B. the subject matter concerns the District's composite courses of study;
- C. participation is required for a particular course;
- D. participation results in academic credit.

No curricular-related activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it meets one or more of the criteria stated above and has been approved by the Superintendent.

Such activities, along with extra-curricular activities (not directly related to courses of study), may be conducted on or off school premises by clubs, associations, and organizations of students sponsored by the Board and directed by a staff advisor.

The Board shall allow non district-sponsored, student clubs and activities during non instructional time, in accordance with the provisions in [Policy 5730](#) -- Equal Access For Non District-sponsored, Student Clubs and Activities.

Non Curricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community may be allowed under the provisions of [Policy 5730](#) - Use of District Facilities. The Board, however will not:

- A. assume any responsibility for the planning, conducting, or evaluating of such activities;
- B. provide any funds or other resources; allow any member of the District's staff to assist in the planning, conducting, or evaluating of such an activity during the hours s/he is functioning as a member of the staff.

Students who are educated at home or enrolled in nonpublic schools are eligible to participate in accordance with [Policy 9270](#). Students attending community or STEM schools may participate in extra-curricular activities in accordance with [Policy 2430.02](#).

Whenever a student becomes a member of a district-established student group or national organization such as National Honor Society, in order to remain a member, they must continue to meet all of the eligibility criteria and abide by the principles and practices established by the group or organization.

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The Athletic Director and/or Principal shall require that each student athlete, who participates in either an interscholastic or intramural sport, submits Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2 signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received the Ohio Department of Health's concussion and head injury information sheet. The forms shall be signed and submitted on an annual basis. No student may practice or compete in interscholastic or intramural athletics until Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2 are received by the Athletic Director or Principal. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in the college credit plus program as long as the student fulfills all academic, non academic and financial requirements.

Students shall be fully informed of the curricular-related and extra-curricular activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in these activities. Students will be further informed that participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights. District- sponsored activities shall be available to all students who elect to participate and who meet eligibility standards.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to implement a program of curricular-related clubs and activities and of extra-curricular activities. Such guidelines should ensure that the needs and interests of the students are properly assessed and procedures are established for continuing evaluation of each club and activity.

PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY/STEM SCHOOL STUDENTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A student enrolled in a community school established under R.C. Chapter 3314 or in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics ("STEM") school established under Chapter 3326 and entitled to attend school in the District under R.C. 3313.64 or R.C. 3313.65, shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by the District.

The eligible community or STEM school student may participate in any extracurricular activities offered by the school building to which the student would otherwise be assigned provided the extra-curricular activity is not offered by the STEM school. In the event the District operates more than one (1) school building at the student's grade level, the student may participate in those extra- curricular activities offered by the school building to which the student would otherwise be assigned by the Superintendent in accordance with R.C. 3319.01.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate in any extra-curricular activity, an eligible community or STEM school student must be of the appropriate age and grade level, as determined by the Superintendent. The student will also be subject to the same eligibility requirements (i.e., academic and nonacademic eligibility standards and financial requirements) applied to all other participants. No eligible community or STEM school student will be charged any fees in excess of those fees charged to other students for participation in the same extra- curricular activity. Further, the District will not impose any additional rules upon a student participating under this policy, if those

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rules do not apply to other students participating in the same extra-curricular activity. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in the college credit plus program as long as the student fulfills all academic, non academic and financial requirements.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

At the start of the school year, all students should be provided with information on existing clubs, and all co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and encouraged to participate.

New Activities

- A. All new activities shall be approved in the following manner:
- B. Requests for new activities should be submitted to the Assistant Principal and contain the following:
 - a. purpose and rationale
 - b. intended outcomes for students
 - c. participation
 - d. plan of operation
 - e. costs
 - f. persons in chargeThe Principal will review each request and either reject or submit each for Board approval.
- C. Fiscal Compliance
 - a. Both co-curricular and extra-curricular activities need to comply with financial and bookkeeping controls established by the Treasurer's Office.
 - b. Each activity advisor is to provide the Principal with a periodic update on the fiscal status of the activity

Operating Guidelines

The principal shall prepare and publish operating procedures for all co-curricular/extracurricular activities which ensure that:

- A. students participate in ways that do not interfere with their academic programs;
- B. the safety and welfare of the students is adequately safeguarded;
- C. all activities have proper faculty planning, direction, and supervision;
- D. faculty members work cooperatively so that some activities do not interfere with the operations of others;
- E. faculty members and students are encouraged to attend activities involving student performances;
- F. each activity is assessed continuously relative to its stated purpose and goals;
- G. building facilities and equipment are being used safely and as intended, and being maintained in proper condition;
- H. students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate in a district extracurricular activity fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant, and are not charged any fees in excess of those fees charged to other students who participate in the same extra-curricular activity - See [Policy 9270](#).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All students who participate in interscholastic athletics shall meet the eligibility requirements described in the Athletic Handbook. Eligibility requirements for participation in other activities shall be specified in the student handbooks. No student who has been absent for a school day may participate in an extracurricular activity scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day without the approval of the principal.

No student may practice or compete in intramural or interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a concussion and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health.

SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

Many students have multiple talents and interests they wish to develop or pursue through participation in district-sponsored activities and groups. Since the district's policy is to encourage such participation, the following guidelines have been established for dealing with potential schedule conflicts a student could experience when participating in more than one activity.

- A. At the beginning of each semester or season, each staff member in charge of a credit course, co-curricular, or extra-curricular activity is to prepare a schedule for any practices, performances, or other after-school obligations involved in participation.

This information is to be sent to the school office.

- B. By the first day of an activity, students are to be made aware of the schedule of any practices and performances as well as other obligations.

- C. When the activity or program begins, the students are to be informed of the following:

1. If a student encounters a previously-unforeseen conflict during the semester or season, s/he should inform both staff-members-in-charge as soon as possible in order to increase the likelihood that an accommodation can be worked out.
2. If, during the year, an ad-hoc situation develops which creates a conflict in schedule for a student, s/he should discuss the conflict with activity sponsors who, in turn, will work with the staff-members-in-charge to try to reach an accommodation that is most advantageous to the student and least disadvantageous for the activities involved.
3. Under no circumstances is the student to be intimidated while making a decision by threats of penalties or future consequences.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Students are encouraged to attend as many after school events as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students participating in the event. It is strongly advised that students attending evening events as nonparticipants be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone. The Board is not responsible for supervising unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The Board of Education welcomes the attendance of members of the community at athletic and other public events held by the schools in the District, but the Board also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the District during the conduct of such events.

The Board holds the legal authority to bar the attendance of or remove any person whose conduct may constitute a disruption at a school event. School administrators have the authority to call law enforcement officials if a person violates posted regulations or does not leave school property when requested. They are also authorized to use detectors and other devices to better ensure the safety and well-being of participants and visitors.

The Board directs that no alcoholic beverage or other controlled substance be possessed, consumed, or distributed at any function occurring on District premises.

Raffles and similar forms of fund-raising by District-related organizations may be permitted by the Superintendent in accordance with Policy 9211 - District Support Organizations and Policy 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

If a student or adult is asked to leave or is removed from a school event, no admission fees shall be refunded.

Individuals with disabilities shall have an equal opportunity to purchase tickets for events that have been sanctioned or approved by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, the Board shall permit individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of the District's

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facilities where members of the public, as participants in services, programs or activities, or as invitees, are allowed to go. (See Policy 8390)

Smoking and/or the use of tobacco and/or tobacco substitute products is prohibited at any time within any enclosed facility owned or leased or contracted for by the Board, and in areas directly or indirectly under the control of the Board immediately adjacent to locations of ingress or egress to such facilities. Such prohibition also applies to school grounds.

The Board is aware of the increasing desire of many parents and other members of an audience to use "cam-corders" and other audio/visual devices at school events. It has no objection, providing their use neither interferes with the conduct of the particular activity nor impinges on the enjoyment of the event by other members of the audience. If the performance is of copyrighted material, recording can be made if the appropriate license authorizing such recordings has been secured in advance by the District. If the performance is of copyrighted material and the necessary license has not been secured in advance by the District, the audience shall be advised before the performance begins that audio and/or video recordings that will be re-broadcast or distributed in any way, such as posting on the internet, are prohibited.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish rules and procedures governing the use of nondistrict audio/visual devices and equipment at any District-sponsored event or activity, particularly athletic events, dramatic presentations, and graduation ceremonies. Such rules are to be distributed in such a manner that members of the audience who wish to record the event are aware of the rules early enough to make proper arrangements to obtain their recordings without causing delay or disruption to the activity.

Any person or organization seeking to film students or a school activity which is not a public event shall obtain prior permission from the Superintendent.

Upon request to the principal, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to attend public District activities.

Admission for Senior Citizens

All senior citizens living in the Forest Hills School District possessing a Gold Pass (available in Human Resources at the Administration Building) will be admitted to all Forest Hills school activities within the District, except Anderson vs. Turpin football games or OHSAA tournament events.

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Athletic Passes and Employee/Spouse Activity Passes

Activity passes and athletic passes shall be distributed according to regulations developed by the Superintendent.

SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT

ATTENDANCE

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

A student in grades PK through 6 may be considered a full-time equivalent student, provided the student is enrolled in at least five (5) units of instruction, as defined by State law, per school year.

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

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

- A. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- C. quarantine of the home
- D. death in the family
- E. college visits as approved by the building principal
- F. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- G. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- H. absence during the school day for professional appointments
- I. emergency or other set of circumstances as determined by the Superintendent
- J. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy [5751](#)
- K. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity.
- L. any classroom assignment missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student.
- M. if the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours when the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.
- N. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

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Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board.

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

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

Attendance shall be taken at the commencement of the school day. Attendance for students arriving late or leaving early must be tracked and recorded to the nearest full hour.

Excessive Absences

When a student of compulsory school age is absent from school with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, the attendance officer shall notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absence, in writing, within seven (7) school days after the date of the absence that triggered the notice requirement. At the same time written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken.

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

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

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

Absence Intervention Team

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

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

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Each absence intervention team may vary based on the needs of each individual student but shall include a representative from the child's building, another representative from the child's building who knows the child, and the child's parent or parent's designee, or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. The team also may include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, or representative of a public or nonprofit agency designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

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

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

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

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

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

Reporting Requirements

- A. The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against a student on the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all of the following apply:
- B. The student is habitually truant.
- C. The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication, if applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Absence reporting

- A parent/guardian phone call received by the attendance office, on each day of the student's absence, for any of the acceptable reasons listed below, is sufficient to excuse the child's absence up to the tenth absence yearly.
- Subsequently, after the tenth absence, the parent/guardian must provide written documentation from a treating physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or relevant third party, stating the day(s) absent and reason for such absence*.
- Student absences in excess of 10 days will be recorded as unexcused absences unless a doctor's note or third party documentation is presented to attendance officials for each additional absence. Without a doctor's note or third party documentation, truancy charges can be brought and charged to the parent and or student.

Prolonged consecutive **excused absences for one illness may count as one absence towards the ten (10) times parents can call the school to report an absence*

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

- A. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- C. quarantine of the home
- D. death in the family
- E. college visits as approved by the building principal
- F. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- G. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- H. absence during the school day for professional appointments
- I. emergency or other set of circumstances as determined by the Superintendent
- J. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with [Policy 5751](#)
- K. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extra-curricular activity. Any classroom assignments missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student. If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.
- L. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

[Based on Board policy 5200](#)

Encouraging Attendance

Promoting and fostering desired student attendance habits requires a commitment from the administration, faculty, and parents. No single individual or group can - in and of itself - successfully accomplish this task. A professional staff member's responsibility must include, but not be limited to: speaking frequently of the importance of students being in class, on time, ready to participate;

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- A. providing meaningful learning experiences every day; Therefore, a student who is absent from any given class period would be missing a significant component of the course.
- B. keeping accurate attendance records (excused vs. unexcused);
- C. requiring an admit slip from a student when s/he returns from an absence and invoking a consequence if s/he does not have one;
- D. incorporating defined, daily participation as part of the teaching/learning process and each grading period
- E. requiring students to make up missed quizzes, tests, and other pertinent assignments before or after the regular school day and not permitting students to use instructional time to do make-up work.

Students Leaving School During School Day

- A. No staff member shall permit or cause any student to leave the school prior to the regular hour of dismissal except with the knowledge and approval of the principal and with the knowledge and approval of the student's parents.
- B. No student will be released to any government agency without proper warrant or written parental permission except in the event of an emergency as determined by the principal.
- C. Students must be signed out in the main office by a parent/guardian as noted in the student information screen in DASL. An adult must produce ID to sign out a student.

Tardiness

Each student is expected to be in his/her assigned location throughout the school day. If a student is late arriving at school, s/he must report to the school office before going to his/her first assigned location.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board of Education recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish a reasonable dress code in order to promote a safe and healthy school setting and enhance the educational environment. The dress code shall be incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct.

Accordingly, grooming guidelines are necessary to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. Such guidelines shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices which:

- A. present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- C. prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Such guidelines shall establish the dress requirements for members of the athletic teams, bands, and other school groups when representing the District at a public event.

Items not placed in lockers will be taken away by school personnel and kept until the end of the school day. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary action.

Students violating the dress code will be subject to the full range of discipline considerations, including immediate removal from school, suspension and expulsion as determined by the administrative staff.

Students who are representing the school at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups.

All apparel designed by groups, organizations and individuals for distribution to students must have administrative approval. Failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary action.

GANGS

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment will not be tolerated. Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited. Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the principal.

CARE OF PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or loses school property, the student and/or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

BULLYING AND OTHER FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

5517 - ANTI-HARASSMENT

General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel

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share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

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

Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

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

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

Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bullying

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

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

Harassment

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

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Sexual Harassment

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videos, posters, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.
- H. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggests the desire for a romantic relationship.
- J. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.
- K. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- L. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- M. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

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

Race/Color Harassment

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

Religious (Creed) Harassment

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

National Origin/Ancestry Harassment

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

Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

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

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Director of Wellness
513-231-3600
7946 Beechmont Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45255

Director of Business Operations
513-231-3600
7946 Beechmont Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45255

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

- A. in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- B. on each individual school's website.

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

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

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

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to the Compliance Officer(s) within two (2) days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the harassment. Thereafter,

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the Compliance Officer(s) or designee must contact the Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Students and all other members of the School District community along with Third Parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a report shall file it with the Compliance Officer within two (2) days of receiving the report of harassment.

Members of the School District community and Third Parties, which includes students, or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy [5517.01](#) – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to the Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. If the alleged harassment involves Sexual Harassment as defined by Policy 2266, the matter will be handled in accordance with the grievance process and procedures outlined in Policy 2266. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, or the matter is being addressed pursuant to determination of responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report or the determination of responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 5517 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report. Likewise, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Principal with the determination of responsibility that results from the Policy 2266 grievance process.

Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any student who believes that they have has been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of the complaint through the the procedures described below. The formal complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty

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(30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.

Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is promptly to stop inappropriate behavior and to facilitate resolution through informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in the informal process.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complainants involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a Third Party and a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe in doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the alleged harassing conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The Complainant should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the Complainant if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the alleged inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: 1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; 2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or 3) directly to one (1) of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to one (1) of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

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The Board's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide students who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the Complainant, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one (1) or more of the following:

- A. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the Respondent.
- B. Distributing a copy of this anti-harassment policy to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and the Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer/designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one (1) of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the CO determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, principal, or other District official at the student's school, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or another District employee who works at another school or at the district level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District official at the student's school, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days.

Throughout the course of the process, the Compliance Officer should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the Complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer/designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation. The Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer/designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or

retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within ten (10) school days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer/designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within ten (10) school days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent shall issue a written decision as described above.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment/retaliation regardless of whether the student alleging the unlawful harassment/retaliation pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer/designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

Sanctions and Monitoring

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The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful harassment/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

Retaliation

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

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

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

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

Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any school teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child with a disability under the age of twenty-one (21) or that a child under the age of eighteen (18) has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or

suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

State law defines certain contact between a teacher and a student as "sexual battery." If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the Complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined in Ohio's Criminal Code, such knowledge should be immediately reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to a county children's services agency or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

Allegations Involving Conduct Unbecoming the Teaching Profession/Suspension

The Superintendent will report to the Ohio Department of Education, on forms provided for that purpose, matters of misconduct on the part of licensed professional staff members convicted of sexual battery, and will, in accordance with [Policy 8141](#), suspend such employee from all duties that concern or involve the care, custody, or control of a child during the pendency of any criminal action for which that person has been arrested, summoned and/or indicted in that regard.

Education and Training

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in [Policy 8315](#)) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the District's

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response to the alleged violation of this policy;

- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State law (e.g., R.C. 3319.321) – e.g., student records and confidential medical records.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with [Policy 8310](#), [Policy 8315](#), [Policy 8320](#), and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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[See more at Board policy 5517](#)

SAFETY TIPLINE--SAFEROH

The safety and well-being of students and staff is a priority in the Forest Hills School District. Through partnerships with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, every school in the Forest Hills School District has been registered for SaferOH, a tip line that helps proactively ensure the safety and well-being of students.

Available for each FHSD school, the tip line allows students and adults to share information regarding threats to school or student safety, such as bullying, suicides or violence, with district and law enforcement officials. Callers can remain anonymous or share their contact information for possible follow-up. The line will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Individuals can contact the tip line by calling or texting 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764). Calls or texts are received by analysts in the Ohio Homeland Security's Threat Assessment and Prevention Unit. The TAP Unit will then immediately forward information to district officials, local law enforcement agencies and others, as necessary, to ensure that the incident is investigated, action is taken and the outcome is tracked.

Through partnerships with the ODE and ODPS, the SaferOH tip line is provided to Forest Hills at no cost.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

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

The Board believes that the best discipline is self-imposed and that students should learn to assume responsibility for their own behavior and the consequences of their actions. The Board does not tolerate violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior by its students.

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

- A. conform to reasonable standards of socially-acceptable behavior;
- B. respect the person and property of others;
- C. preserve the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which they are engaged;

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- D. respect the rights of others;
- E. obey constituted authority and respond to those who hold that authority.

The Student Code of Conduct designates sanctions for the infractions of rules, excluding corporal punishment, which shall:

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

Students may be prohibited by authorized school personnel from participating in all or part of co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities without further notice, hearing or appeal rights. A student who has been disorderly on a school bus may be suspended from transportation services consistent with Board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

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

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

The Superintendent, principals, and other administrators shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the Student Code of Conduct and, where required by law, to the student's due process right to notice, hearing, and appeal.

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

Discipline on Board vehicles shall be the responsibility of the driver on regular bus runs. When Board vehicles are used for field trips and other Board activities, the teacher, coach, advisor, or other Board employee shall be responsible for student discipline. If a student becomes a serious discipline problem on a vehicle, the Superintendent and/or his/her designee may suspend the transportation privileges of the student providing such suspension conforms with due process. The procedures for suspension are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy [5611](#) – Due Process Rights.

No student is to be detained after the close of the regular school day unless the student's parent has been contacted and informed that the student will be detained. If a parent cannot be contacted, the student should be detained on another day.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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Suspension, Expulsion, and Removal of Students

This Code of Conduct is adopted by the Board of Education of Forest Hills School District pursuant to sections 3313.661 and 3313.662, Ohio Revised Code. Any student engaging in the following types of conduct either specifically or generally like the kinds of conduct listed in the accompanying regulations is subject to expulsion, suspension, emergency suspension, removal, or permanent exclusion from curricular activities pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code. This Code of Conduct applies while a student is in the custody or control of the school, on school grounds, or closely proximate thereto, while at a school-sponsored function or activity or on school-owned or provided transportation vehicles. In addition, the Student Code of Conduct governs a student's conduct at all times, on or off school property, when such student conduct is reasonably related to the health and safety of other students and/or school employees, or such conduct would unreasonably interrupt the educational processes of Forest Hills schools.

General Provisions

1. Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations
2. Violation of any board rule, regulation, or policy
3. Repeated violations of the student code of conduct and/or any other board rule, regulation, or policy
4. Violating computer and/or on-line student privileges policy

Damage To Or Theft Of Public Or Private Property:

5. Theft or possession of stolen goods
6. Damage or destruction of private property on school premises or in areas controlled by the school.
7. Damage or destruction of school property, property of school employees, or property of other students, on or off of school premises

Disruption Or Potential Disruption Of The Educational Program For Self Or Others:

8. Truancy
9. Tardiness
10. Improper or suggestive dress
11. Cheating or plagiarizing
12. Continuously and/or intentionally creating a noise or acting in any manner that interferes with a teacher's ability to conduct class
13. Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program

Threat To The Health, Safety Or Well-Being Of Self And/Or Others:

14. Upon initial arrival, leaving school property without permission
15. Leaving school premises during school hours without permission of the proper school authority.
16. Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of the proper school authority
17. Presence on school property with a communicable disease
18. Disobedience of driving regulations while on school premises
19. Cursing
20. Cellular telephones (including but not limited to camera phones), beepers, pagers, or any other related electronic communication devices are not to be turned on or visible during the school day. If a teacher or administrator observes any electronic communication device during the school day, it may be confiscated. Electronic devices with the capacity to take pictures raise concerns about individual

privacy. No pictures are to be taken anywhere in the school building or on school property without administrative/teacher authorization.

21. Possession of an electronic laser pointing device or electronic light emitting device without expressed written permission of administration.
22. Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes set forth in student handbooks or established by administration or the board of education. This includes the prohibition of all clothing, jewelry, signs, etc., which, at the discretion of the administration, is reasonably related to or represents gang or gang-like activity.
23. Possession of matches or lighters or other similar devices.
24. Buying, selling, transferring, using, or possessing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, a clove cigarette, chewing tobacco, snuff, and dip, or using tobacco in any other form.
25. Use of indecent or obscene language in oral or written form.
26. Publication of obscene, pornographic, or libelous material.
27. Fighting.
28. Abuse of another. No student shall use or direct to, or about a school employee, or student, words, phrases, or actions which are considered to be slanderous or degrading in nature, words or phrases which could be considered threatening, menacing or indicate an intent to cause harm to person or property, and/or words or phrases which are obscene or profane as defined by the majority of our society. Name calling and negative, uncomplimentary, and offensive remarks related to physical handicaps or defects, mental handicaps, race, religion, nationality, appearance, or other reason is prohibited. (Also see Policy [8321.05](#) Violent, Disruptive, or Inappropriate Behavior Not to be Tolerated)
29. Hazing (to persecute, harass, or humiliate another student and/or employee)
30. Harassment of school personnel or other students during school and/or non-school hours
31. Assault on a school employee, student, or other person
32. Extortion of a student or school personnel
33. Arson or other improper use of fire
34. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind. Buying, selling, transferring, using, or possessing any drug or alcoholic paraphernalia to include instruments, objects, papers, pipes, containers, etc.
35. Buying, selling, transferring, using, or possessing any drug or alcoholic paraphernalia to include instruments, objects, papers, pipes, containers, etc.
36. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any drug, medication, inhalant, or other controlled substance which can be taken internally where the students involved cannot show a legitimate health or other reason for the use of such substances.
37. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) or inhalants, or buying, selling, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any counterfeit controlled weapon substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that is believed to be a controlled substance).
38. Sell, offer to sell, or possess a controlled substance on school premises or at a school-related function (trafficking in drugs).
39. Possession or use of dangerous weapons or ordnance or objects, which look like weapons or ordnance, including, but not limited to, guns, firearms, ammunition, knives, grenades, sling shots, bows, arrows,

machetes, brass knuckles, chains, studs, etc.; or possession or use of objects which may render physical harm to another if improperly used, including, but not limited to, axes, hatchets, hammers, saws, ice picks, screwdrivers, knives, etc.

40. Convey, attempt to convey, or knowingly possess a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance onto any property owned or controlled by or to any activity held under the auspices of the board of education.
41. Carrying concealed weapons
42. Indecent exposure
43. Engaging in sexual acts, displaying excessive affection or other inappropriate behavior with a person of the same or opposite sex
44. Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, disaster, or other alarms
45. Making a bomb threat to a school building or any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat
46. Failing to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could result in harm to another person or persons or damage to property, when the student has information about such actions or plans
47. Aggravated assault
48. Felonious assault
49. Involuntary manslaughter
50. Voluntary manslaughter
51. Murder
52. Aggravated murder
53. Gross sexual imposition
54. Felonious sexual penetration
55. Rape
56. Commission by a pupil of any crime in violation of the Ohio Criminal Code, Ohio Traffic Code or the Ohio Juvenile Code
57. Placing signs and slogans on school property without the permission of the proper school authority.
58. Distribution on school premises of pamphlets, leaflets, petitions, buttons, insignia, etc., without the permission of the proper school authority
59. Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities including school administrators and teachers
60. Skipping detention
61. Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority
62. Refusing to take detention or other properly administered discipline
63. Any disruption or interference with school activities
64. Any other activity by a pupil, which the pupil knows or should know, will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity
65. Chronic misbehavior, which disrupts or interferes with any school activity
66. Any type of prohibited activity listed herein taking place on a school bus shall be reason for expulsion, suspension, or removal
67. Failure to abide by rules and regulations set forth by administration for student parking
68. Falsifying of information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs
69. Gambling

70. Forgery of school or school-related documents

Informal Discipline

Informal discipline that takes place within the school may include but not limited to:

- writing assignments;
- change of seating or location;
- before school, lunch-time, after-school detention;
- in-school discipline;
- Saturday school
- Evening Alternative school

Detentions

A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher, after giving the student and his/her parents one day's notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation.

Saturday School

Assigned students will attend a continuous 3 hour period, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Each student shall arrive with sufficient educational materials to be busy during this 3 hour study period.

A student missing any portion of his/her assigned time in detention, Saturday School may be given an additional consequence. Failure to timely detention, Saturday School assignment(s) may lead to suspension from school for a period not to exceed 3 days. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with district guidelines on suspension and expulsion.

The following rules apply to detention, Saturday School:

- Students are required to have class assignments with them.
- Students are not to communicate with each other unless given permission to do so.
- Students are to remain in their designated seats at all times unless permission is granted to do otherwise
- Students shall not be allowed to put their heads down or sleep.

Transportation to and from any after school discipline is the student/parent's responsibility.

Formal Discipline

Formal discipline involves removal of the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to three school days, suspension for up to 10 school days, expulsion for up to 80 school days or the number of days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater, and permanent exclusion. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year.

Any student who is expelled from school for more than 20 days or for any period of time if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year will be provided with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitude and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion.

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The Superintendent at his/her discretion may require/allow a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of an expulsion. The Superintendent may impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion to the following school year. Removal for less than one school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension, expulsion, and permanent exclusion may be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension are entitled to an informal meeting with the building administrator prior to removal. Also, students being considered for expulsion are entitled to an informal meeting with the Superintendent or designee prior to removal. During the informal meeting, the student will be notified of the charges and given the opportunity to respond.

Students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics can lose their eligibility for violation of the school rules. If a student commits a crime while under the school's jurisdiction, they may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as action through local law enforcement.

Due Process Rights

Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed. As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting, or be subject to appeal.

[See more 5611 - DUE PROCESS RIGHTS](#)

REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

- "Emergency removal" shall be the exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an on-going threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District. (See [Policy 5610.03](#) "Emergency Removal")
- "Suspension" shall be the temporary exclusion of a student by the Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or any other administrator from the District's instructional program for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspension may not extend beyond the current school year, if at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year.
- The Superintendent may instead require a student to participate in a community service program or another alternative consequence for a number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension. The student shall be required to begin such community service program or alternative consequence during the first full week day of summer break.
 - In the event, the student fails to complete the required community service or the assigned alternative consequence, the Superintendent may determine the next course of action. Such course of action, however, shall not include requiring the student to serve the remaining time of the suspension at the beginning of the following year. The procedures for suspension are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and [Policy 5611](#) - Due Process Rights.
 - A student who is suspended may not be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension.
- "Expulsion" shall be the exclusion of a student from the schools of this District for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty (80) school days or the number of school days remaining in a semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place or for one (1) year as specifically provided in this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code. Only the Superintendent may expel a student. The procedures for expulsion are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Board [Policy 5611](#) "Due Process Rights".
- "Permanent exclusion" shall mean the student is banned forever from attending a public school in the State of Ohio. (See [Policy 5610.01](#))

Refer to BoardDocs [Policy 5610](#) for complete description

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

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

Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges

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When a student is being considered for suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the reason. The student will be given an opportunity to address the basis for the proposed suspension at an informal hearing. After that informal hearing, the principal [or assistant principal or other administrator] will decide whether or not to suspend his/her bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year.

If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

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

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Such spaces remain the property of the Board and, in accordance with law, may be the subject of random search. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Administrators are permitted to conduct a random search of any student's locker and its contents at any time, providing proper notice has been posted in the locker areas of each building. Search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened.

Administrators are authorized to arrange for the use of a breath-test instrument for the purpose of determining if a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. It is not necessary for the test to determine blood-alcohol level, since the Board will not tolerate alcohol use.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places on school property where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or with organizations certified in canine detection and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

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Except as provided below, a request for the search of a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the principal who shall request the consent of the student to the inspection. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the principal in the presence of the student and another staff member. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

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

Based on Board Policy [5771](#)

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

The school is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the school believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and s/he (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or a children's services agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent. Based on Board policy [5540](#)

STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION

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

- A. Material cannot be displayed if it:
 - 1. is obscene to minors, libelous, or pervasively indecent or vulgar;

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2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
 3. intends to be insulting or harassing;
 4. intends to incite fighting; or
 5. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it will cause or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.
- B. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods, and/or before or after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the building administrator for approval 24 hours prior to display.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS / LIMITED USE OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION [5630.01](#)

The Board is committed to the District-wide use of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ("PBIS") with students and the establishment of a school environment focused on the care, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members. Student Personnel shall work to prevent the need for the use of restraint and/or seclusion. PBIS shall serve as the foundation for the creation of a learning environment that promotes the use of evidence-based behavioral interventions, thus enhancing academic and social behavioral outcomes for all students. An emphasis shall be placed on promoting positive interventions and solutions to potential conflicts. PBIS emphasizes prevention of student behavior problems through the use of non-aversive techniques, which should greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the need to use restraint and/or seclusion.

Professional staff members and support staff determined appropriate by the Superintendent are permitted to physically restrain and/or seclude a student, but only when there is immediate risk of physical harm to the student and/or others, there is no other safe and effective intervention possible, and the physical restraint or seclusion is used in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate and protects the safety of all children and adults at school.

All restraint and seclusion shall only be done in accordance with this Policy, which is based on the standards adopted by the State Board of Education regarding the use of student restraint and seclusion.

Training in methods of PBIS and the use of restraint and seclusion will be provided to all professional staff and support staff determined appropriate by the Superintendent. Training will be in accordance with the State's Standards. Only school staff who are trained in permissible seclusion and physical restraint measures shall use such techniques.

Every use of restraint and seclusion shall be documented and reported in accordance with this Policy.

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The Board shall annually notify parents of this policy, and publish it on the District's website.

DEFINITIONS

Aversive behavioral interventions means an intervention that is intended to induce pain or discomfort to a student for the purpose of eliminating or reducing maladaptive behaviors, including such interventions as application of noxious, painful, and/or intrusive stimuli, including any form of noxious, painful or intrusive spray, inhalant, or taste.

Chemical restraint means a drug or medication used to control a student's behavior or restrict freedom of movement that is not:

- A. Prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under Ohio law, for the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition; and
- B. Administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under Ohio law.

De-escalation techniques are strategically employed verbal or non-verbal interventions used to reduce the intensity of threatening behavior before a crisis situation occurs.

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

Mechanical restraint means any method of restricting a student's freedom of movement, physical activity, or normal use of the student's body, using an appliance or device manufactured for this purpose. Mechanical restraint does not mean devices used by trained school personnel, or used by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed, including:

- A. restraints for medical immobilization;
- B. adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports; or
- C. vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

Parent means:

- A. a biological or adoptive parent;
- B. a guardian generally authorized to act as the child's parent, or authorized to make decisions for the child (but not the State if the child is a ward of the State);
- C. an individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare;
- D. a surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-05(E); or

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- E. any person identified in a judicial decree or order as the parent of a child or the person with authority to make educational decisions on behalf of the child.

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

Physical restraint means the use of physical contact that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his/her arms, legs, body, or head freely. Physical restraint does not include a physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint. Physical restraint does not include brief physical contact for the following or similar purposes to:

- A. break up a fight;
- B. knock a weapon away from a student's possession;
- C. calm or comfort;
- D. assist a student in completing a task/response if the student does not resist the contact; or
- E. prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (e.g., running in front of a car).

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ("PBIS") means a school-wide systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data-driven decision making to improve school climate and culture in order to achieve improved academic and social outcomes, and increase learning for all students. PBIS encompasses a range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to reinforce desired behaviors, diminish recurrences of challenging behaviors, and teach appropriate behaviors to students.

Positive Behavior Support Plan means the design, implementation, and evaluation of individual or group instructional and environmental modifications, including programs of behavioral instruction, to produce significant improvements in behavior through skill acquisition and the reduction of problematic behavior.

Prone restraint means physical or mechanical restraint while the student is in the face-down position for an extended period of time.

Seclusion means the involuntary isolation of a student in a room, enclosure, or space from which the student is prevented from leaving by physical restraint or by a closed door or other physical barrier. It does not include a timeout.

Student means a child or adult aged three (3) to twenty-one (21) enrolled in the District.

Student Personnel means teachers, principals, counselors, social workers, school resource officers, teacher's aides, psychologists, bus drivers, or other District staff who interact directly with students.

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

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POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ("PBIS") creates structure in the environment using a non-aversive affective behavioral system to improve academic and behavior outcomes for all students.

The PBIS prevention-oriented framework or approach shall apply to all students and staff, and in all settings. PBIS shall include:

- A. school staff trained to identify conditions such as where, under what circumstances, with whom, and why specific inappropriate behavior may occur;
- B. preventative assessments that include:
 - a. review of existing data;
 - b. interviews with parents, family members, and students; and
 - c. examination of previous and existing behavioral intervention plans.
- C. development and implementation of preventative behavioral interventions, and the teaching of appropriate behavior, including:
 - a. modification of environmental factors that escalate inappropriate behavior;
 - b. supporting the attainment of appropriate behavior; and
 - c. use of verbal de-escalation to defuse potentially violent dangerous behavior.

SECLUSION

Seclusion may be used only when a student's behavior poses an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no other safe and effective intervention is possible. Seclusion may be used only as a last resort safety intervention that provides the student with an opportunity to regain control of his/her actions. Seclusion must be used in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate, for the minimum amount of time necessary for the purpose of protecting the student and/or others from physical harm, and otherwise in compliance with this Policy and the Ohio Department of Education's ("ODE") corresponding policy.

Seclusion shall be implemented only by Student Personnel who have been trained in accordance with this Policy to protect the care, welfare, dignity and safety of the student.

Additional requirements for the use of seclusion:

If Student Personnel use seclusion, they must:

- A. continually observe the student in seclusion for indications of physical or mental distress and seek immediate medical assistance if there is a concern;
- B. use verbal strategies and research-based de-escalation techniques in an effort to help the student regain control as quickly as possible;
- C. remove the student from seclusion when the immediate risk of physical harm to the student and/or others has dissipated;
- D. assess the student for injury or psychological distress after the use of seclusion, and monitor the student as needed following the incident;
- E. conduct a debriefing including all involved staff to evaluate the trigger for the incident, staff response, and methods to address the student's behavioral needs; and
- F. complete all required reports and document their observations of the student.

Requirements for a room or area used for seclusion:

A room or area used for seclusion must provide for adequate space, lighting, ventilation, clear visibility, and the safety of the student.

A room or area used for seclusion must not be locked or otherwise prevent the student from exiting the area should staff become incapacitated or leave the area.

Additional prohibited seclusion practices:

Seclusion shall never be used as a punishment or to force compliance.

Seclusion shall not be used:

- A. for the convenience of staff;
- B. as a substitute for an educational program;
- C. as a form of discipline or punishment;
- D. as a substitute for less restrictive alternatives;
- E. as a substitute for inadequate staffing;
- F. as a substitute for staff training in positive behavior supports and crisis prevention and intervention;
- G. as a means to coerce, retaliate, or in a manner that endangers a student; or
- H. if it deprives the student of basic needs.

Seclusion of preschool-age children is prohibited, except that a preschool-age child may be secluded from his or her classmates, either in the classroom or in a safe, lighted, and well-ventilated space, for an amount of time that is brief in duration and appropriate to the child's age and development, if the child is always within sight and hearing of a preschool staff member.

RESTRAINT

There are different types of restraint, as defined above, including physical restraint, prone restraint, mechanical restraint, and chemical restraint. The use of restraint other than physical restraint is prohibited.

Physical restraint may be used only when the student's behavior poses an immediate risk of physical harm to the student and/or others and no other safe and/or effective intervention is possible. The physical restraint must be implemented in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate, does not interfere with the student's ability to communicate in his/her primary language or mode of communication, and otherwise in compliance with this Policy and the ODE's corresponding policy.

Physical restraint shall be implemented only by student personnel who have been trained in accordance with this Policy to protect the care, welfare, dignity and safety of the student, except in the case of rare and unavoidable emergency situations when trained personnel are not immediately available.

Additional requirements for the use of physical restraint:

If student personnel use physical restraint, they must:

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- A. continually observe the student in restraint for indications of physical or mental distress and seek immediate medical assistance if there is a concern;
- B. use verbal strategies and research-based de-escalation techniques in an effort to help the student regain control as quickly as possible;
- C. remove the student from physical restraint immediately when the immediate risk of physical harm to the student and/or others has dissipated;
- D. assess the student for injury or psychological distress after the use of physical restraint, and monitor the student as needed following the incident;
- E. conduct a debriefing including all involved staff to evaluate the trigger for the incident, staff response, and methods to address the student's behavioral needs; and
- F. complete all required reports and document their observations of the student.

Physical restraint shall not be used for punishment or discipline, or as a substitute for other less restrictive means of assisting a student in regaining control.

Prohibited Restraint Practices

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

- A. prone restraint as defined in Executive Order 2009-13 (which defines prone restraint to mean "all items or measures used to limit or control the movement or normal functioning of any portion, or all, of an individual's body while the individual is in a face-down position for an extended period of time");
- B. physical restraint that restricts the airway of a student or obstructs the student's ability to breathe;
- C. physical restraint that impacts the student's primary mode of communication;
- D. restraint of preschool-age students, except for holding a child for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so that the child may regain control;
- E. restraint that deprives the student of basic needs;
- F. restraint that unduly risks serious harm or needless pain to the student, including physical restraint that involves the intentional, knowing, or reckless use of any of the following techniques:
 - a. using any method that is capable of causing loss of consciousness or harm to the neck or restricting/obstructing respiration in any way;
 - b. pinning down the student by placing knees to the torso, head and/or neck of the student;
 - c. using pressure points, pain compliance, or joint manipulation;
 - d. dragging or lifting of the student by the hair or ear or by any type of mechanical restraint;
 - e. using other students or untrained staff to assist with the hold or restraint; or
 - f. securing the student to another student or to a fixed object.
- G. mechanical restraint (that does not include devices used by trained Student Personnel, or by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed); or
- H. chemical restraint (which does not include medication administered as prescribed by a licensed physician).

ADDITIONAL PROHIBITED PRACTICES

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

- A. corporal punishment;
- B. child endangerment as defined in Ohio Revised Code 2919.22; and

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- C. aversive behavioral interventions.

CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND/OR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

In accordance with the Board's Emergency Management Plan (see Policy [8400](#)), District personnel shall contact law enforcement and/or appropriate emergency response personnel if at any point they determine that an intervention (either a restraint or seclusion) is insufficient to maintain the safety of all involved.

FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT AND BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION PLAN

If a student repeatedly engages in dangerous behavior that leads to instances of restraint and/or seclusion, district personnel shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment to identify the student's needs and more effective ways of addressing those needs. If necessary, district personnel shall also develop a behavior intervention plan that incorporates positive behavioral interventions.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The district shall provide training as follows:

- A. All student personnel, as defined in this Policy, shall be trained annually on the requirements of the Ohio Department of Education's Policy on Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, and Restraint and Seclusion; Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15; and this Policy.
- B. The Superintendent, in consultation with each school building's principal and/or assistant principal, shall identify which district employees should receive additional training so that an adequate number of personnel in each building are trained in crisis management and de-escalation techniques, including the use of restraint and seclusion. District employees who receive such additional training must keep their training current in accordance with the requirements of the provider of the training.
- C. The Superintendent shall develop a plan to provide training to school personnel, as defined in this Policy, so that Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports are implemented on a district-wide basis. Implementation of PBIS throughout the district may be a multi-year process, with training taking place over several years.

The district shall maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided and lists of participants in each training.

Only individuals trained in accordance with this policy in the appropriate use of restraint and seclusion may use those techniques.

MONITORING AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Superintendent shall monitor the implementation of this policy. Any parent of a child enrolled in school in the district may submit a written complaint to the Superintendent regarding an incident of restraint or seclusion. The Superintendent shall investigate each written complaint and respond in writing to the parent's complaint within thirty (30) days of receipt of the complaint.

A parent of a child with a disability (as defined by R.C. 3323.01) may file a complaint with the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children, in accordance with the complaint procedures available under Ohio Administrative Code Section 3301-51-05(K)(4)-(6).

REQUIRED DATA AND REPORTING

Each use of restraint or seclusion shall be:

- A. documented in writing;
- B. reported to the building administration immediately;
- C. reported to the parent immediately; and
- D. documented in a written report.

A copy of the written report shall be made available to the student's parent or guardian within twenty-four (24) hours of the use of restraint or seclusion. A copy of the written report shall also be maintained in the student's file.

All written documentation of the use of restraint or seclusion are educational records pursuant to the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act ("FERPA"), and district personnel are prohibited from releasing any personally identifiable information to anyone other than the parent, in accordance with FERPA's requirements.

The Superintendent shall develop a process for the collection of data regarding the use of restraint and seclusion.

The Superintendent shall report information concerning the use of restraint and seclusion annually to the Ohio Department of Education as requested by that agency, and shall make the District's records concerning restraint and seclusion available to the staff of the Ohio Department of Education upon request.

* Adapted from the Ohio Department of Education's Policy on Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, and Restraint and Seclusion, adopted January 15, 2013.

SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

The district provides transportation for all students who live further than one mile from school. The transportation schedule and routes are available by going to the Forest Hills School District website, www.foresthills.edu.

Students may only ride assigned buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the Principal.

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The principal may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need. Parents should send a note to the principal stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

BUS CONDUCT

Students who are riding to and from school on district-provided transportation must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation. The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety. Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

Prior to loading (on the road and at school)

Each student shall:

- be on time at the designated loading zone 5 minutes prior to scheduled stop;
- stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation;
- line up single file off the roadway to enter;
- wait until the school transportation is completely stopped before moving forward to enter;
- refrain from crossing a highway until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
- properly board and depart the vehicle;
- go immediately to a seat and be seated.

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

During the trip

Each student shall:

- remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;
- keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school transportation at all times;
- not push, shove or engage in scuffling;
- not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into, or from the vehicle;
- keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
- be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
- not eat or play games, cards, etc.;
- not use nuisance devices (e.g., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endangers students or employees;
- not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment (including, but not limited to emergency and/or safety equipment).

Exiting the school vehicle

Each student shall:

- remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
- cross the road, when necessary, at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
- be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.

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The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials.

VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the Principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

Revision Log	
Date	General Comments
8/11/22	Updated admin names for 22-23
8/16/22	Added - Screenings - Hearing and Vision

NOTE:	<i>This Student-Parent Handbook is based in part on policies adopted by the Forest Hills School District Board of Education. Policies are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to this handbook since it was produced in July 2019. Any questions should be directed to a school administrator. For all current policies adopted by the Board of Education, please reference Board policy. Forms referenced in this handbook are available in the school office.</i>
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