

# Center for Optional Education

# COPE

Project SOAR Alternative Education program

## Student Options for Achieving Results

# SOAR



## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The provisions of this handbook are not to be considered as irrevocable contractual commitments between the school and the student. Rather, the provisions reflect the current status of the rules, practices, and procedures as currently practiced and are subject to change.

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# **SECTION 1**

## **General School Information**

The COPE/SOAR staff that operates the school are:

Cheryl Graff, Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Sherri Schimpf, Asst. Regional Superintendent of Schools  
Sam Higgerson, School Social Worker  
Amy Suslowicz, Teacher-COPE  
Julie Wittenborn-Sikorski, Teacher-COPE  
Katrina Renzaglia, Teacher-COPE  
Jessica Pease, Teacher - SOAR  
Joseph Stacy, Paraprofessional  
Alex Barry, Paraprofessional  
Rachel White - Office staff/paraprofessional

The school is located and may be contacted at:

**COPE:** 1725-B Shomaker Dr  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Phone: (618) 684-2913

**SOAR:** 2125 Spruce St.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 521-6081

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of COPE is to provide a positive learning environment that will improve the student's self esteem and impact their behavioral and educational performance so they may successfully return to their home school. The teaching staff provides opportunities for growth through individualized teaching and behavior programs that emphasize the positive traits of each child while providing direction and feedback on areas that need improvement.

### **School Day**

COPE Safe School's and Project SOAR's attendance day is from 8am to 2pm. Both schools follow the school calendar for Murphysboro CUSD #186, which can be located at <https://www.cusd186.org/calendar>.

### **Goals and Objectives of COPE and SOAR**

1. To provide academic instruction to earn credit towards promotion from the sending school through the following:
  - By providing a structured and well-disciplined classroom in which learning can take place.
  - By consistently following the behavioral expectations and consequences established by the program.
  - By maintaining communication with all parties concerned with student's progress so that everyone is working toward a common goal.
  - By developing and implementing an individualized education plan for each child according to his/her current level of functioning
2. To create a successful transition back to the sending school with linkage for the student and student's family through the following:
  - By providing parental involvement through training and staffing.
  - By developing in the students an understanding of their environment and the roles

- that need to be assumed to enhance social awareness and responsibility.
  - By providing a personal link between the sending school and alternative school for those students and their families when they return.
3. To create a positive self-image and self-esteem while realizing self-discipline and responsibility for one's actions through the following:
- By providing opportunities for students to develop self-awareness by taking on responsibilities, developing commitments and assuming leadership roles while being guided by a caring adult.
  - By providing opportunities for students to establish a relationship with the educational staff and view them as people in whom they may confide in and trust.
  - By developing the necessary social skills to establish relationships and feel comfortable with their peers.
  - By providing an opportunity to see school and education in a new and different light.

### **Curriculum & Progress Reports**

The daily instruction program consists of two components: academic learning and behavior learning. Core academic subjects include: english/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and health education. Behavior learning is centered around a character education curriculum. Academic and behavior learning progress are monitored on a regular basis.

Student academic progress reports will be sent to the home, the referring school, and any legal agencies involved in the student's case at midterm and end of each quarter. Parents may be asked to sign this report and return it to the school. A conference may be requested by the teacher during the school term. We urge the parents to comply with such a request as interventions for improvement may be identified to improve the student's performance level. Parents may request a conference concerning the student's academic and/or behavior progress at any time.

### **Behavior Monitoring Reports**

Students at COPE Safe School are monitored daily using an hourly point system. Each hour of the school day, students can accumulate points—up to 100 points daily based on staying on task, being compliant, respecting peers/staff, and displaying safe/nonaggressive behavior. These points will be used along with character education lessons when calculating character education grades.

### **Student Eligibility for COPE**

Students currently enrolled in grades six through twelfth, who are eligible for suspension or expulsion, or have been suspended/expelled according to the following criteria will possibly be eligible for the COPE Safe School Program:

- suspended at least twice for a period of more than 3 days for gross misconduct
- arrested by police and/or remanded to juvenile or criminal courts for acts related to school activities
- eligible for disciplinary reassignment pursuant to violation of school district policies
- involved in misconduct that can be demonstrated as serious, repetitive and/or cumulative
- previously remediated at least once by local school district
- youth returning from juvenile corrections facility

Students are referred to the COPE Safe School Program by the local school district. It is the responsibility of the local school district to ensure that students meet the eligibility criteria. The

local school district reserves the right not to refer a student to the COPE Safe School Program.

**NOTE: The Regional Office of Education will consider and/or evaluate all referrals, but may decline to enroll some students.**

### **Student Eligibility for SOAR**

Students currently enrolled in grades six through twelfth, who are credit deficient or require an alternate educational setting due to social/emotional/health related issues are eligible to attend Project SOAR. Students with a history of behavioral issues are **not** candidates for Project SOAR. Students are referred to the Project SOAR Program by the local school district. It is the responsibility of the local school district in coordination with ROE 30 to ensure that students meet the eligibility criteria. The local school district reserves the right not to refer a student to the COPE Safe School Program.

**NOTE: The Regional Office of Education will consider and/or evaluate all referrals, but may decline to enroll some students.**

### **Visitors**

Students who are not enrolled in the program are not permitted to visit for any part of the school day. No visitor passes will be granted unless by special permission of the principal/designee.

### **Equal Opportunity, Disability Accommodations, & Sex Equity**

Equal educational opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religious beliefs, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. No student shall, based on sex or sexual orientation, be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational programs and activities. Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact: Sherri Schimpf, Principal at (618) 687-7290.

### **Animals on School Property**

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building Principal in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

### **Emergency School Closings**

In cases of bad weather and other local emergencies, please listen to any local radio or television station to be advised of school closings or early dismissals. COPE Safe School follows the school calendar for Murphysboro CUSD #186, which can be located at <https://www.cusd186.org/calendar>. School closings for any reason will be announced as soon as reasonably possible. If bad weather or other emergency occurs during the day, please listen to local media stations for possible early dismissal information. For your child's safety, make certain your child knows ahead of time where to go in case of an early dismissal.

### **Video & Audio Monitoring Systems**

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system will be in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

### **Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the building Principal or Dean of Students if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required.

This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

### **Students with Food Allergies**

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules. If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the building Principal at (618) 687-7290. Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed support so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities. Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504.

### **Care of Students with Diabetes**

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the building Principal.

Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

1. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
2. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
3. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
4. Grant consent for and authorize designated School representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.
5. Depending on severity, the home school might need to provide staff to administer the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the building Principal.

### **Suicide & Depression Awareness & Prevention**

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school. The school maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Information can also be obtained from the school office or the school counselor on site.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Attendance**

COPE Safe School believes that every student should attend all classes every day. Regular attendance and engagement in class are essential to success and good performance and for future employment. Absence from school is one of the greatest causes for poor achievement and difficulty in school. Poor attendance often results in low or failing grades.

#### **Attendance**

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session. There are certain exceptions to the attendance requirement for children who: attend private school, are physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), are lawfully and necessarily employed, are between the ages of 12 and 14 while in confirmation classes, have a religious reason requiring absence, or are 16 or older and employed and enrolled in a graduation incentive program.

#### **Closed Campus**

COPE Safe School is a closed campus. Students are not permitted to leave school grounds at any time during the school day. Any student who leaves school without permission automatically suspends himself/herself and will be counted as unexcused absent and lose credit for the entire day. Additional disciplinary action may be imposed. The parent/guardian will be notified as well as local law enforcement/truancy authorities of the student's unauthorized departure from school.

#### **Student Absences**

In the event of any absence, the student's parent or guardian is required to call the school at **(618) 684-2913** before 8:30 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence.

Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent or guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

**THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL or DESIGNEE HAS FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF ALL ABSENCES REGARDLESS OF THE REPORTED REASONS.**

Students are permitted three excused absences per quarter. COPE Safe School maintains that at least a 95% attendance rate is necessary to complete courses of credit. If a student's attendance falls below 80%, it will result in dismissal from the program.

### **Excused Absence**

A student is permitted to make up missed work, with an excused absence. Students will be given the same amount of time that they missed from school to make-up work for excused absences. For an absence to be excused, the parent must notify the school by phone, with a note, or in person that the student is or will be absent and the reason why.

**Absences of more than 3 consecutive days will require official documentation. The school must receive that note upon your child's return to school.**

Absence notes should have name of student, day(s) of absence, and specific reason for absence.

### **Excused absences include:**

- Sickness -- personal or immediate family
- Death in the family
- Emergency situations beyond the control of the student
- Medical or dental appointments (A slip confirming the appointment should be obtained and turned into the office.)
- Circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health
- Judicial--Must be in court--Must bring back a note from a court official
- Pre-approved absence. A pre-approved absence must be presented to and approved by the Principal before the absence, or it will be termed unexcused

Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Building Principal, in their discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment. A student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teachers prior to any excused absences and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by the student prior to his or her return to school.

All other absences are considered unexcused.

**Unexcused Absences:** Three consecutive unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the program. Examples of unexcused absences (note: this list is not considered exclusive):

- Vacationing
- Shopping and other Personal business
- Grooming appointments
- Work (not personally excused by the principal/designee)
- Oversleeping
- Missing the bus or ride with another student
- Vehicle breakdown (not personally excused by the principal/designee)

- Any absence in which a student does not check out in the office, using the proper procedure.

### **Tardiness**

A student is considered tardy for class when not in their assigned room at the start of the school day. Students late for class, up to ten minutes, will be counted tardy. After ten minutes they will be counted as an unexcused absence. If a student is tardy more than twice in one month, the parent/guardian will be notified and a conference may be required. All tardies must be made up at the end of the day, or as otherwise arranged. Students with excessive late arrivals to school will face disciplinary action.

### **Illness at School**

If a student becomes ill while at school, the director/staff will attempt to notify the parent/guardian or person listed for emergency notification on intake form. The parent/guardian or designated representative must complete the sign out form before removing the student from school.

### **Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance**

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s). Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

### **Make-Up Work**

Students will be given an appropriate number of days to turn in the make-up work. **It is the student's responsibility to contact their teachers and make the necessary arrangements within the allotted time for obtaining make-up assignments.**

### **Truancy**

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district. Students who miss more than 1% but less than 5% of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are truant. Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause are chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline

A student who misses 15 consecutive days of school without valid cause and who cannot be located or, after exhausting all available support services, cannot be compelled to return to school is subject to expulsion from school.

A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State

## **SECTION 3**

### **Student Fees & Meal Costs**

#### **Fines, Fees, & Charges**

COPE Safe school does not establish fees and/or charges to students or their families in order to participate in its program. However, if it becomes necessary, COPE Safe School will assess charges for lost and damaged materials, supplies, and/or equipment.

#### **School Meal Program**

**Students are *NOT* allowed to bring food or drinks into COPE Safe School.** Meals will be provided by Tri-County Special Education Center located next door to COPE Safe School. Breakfast and lunch are free to COPE students for the school year. Students shall clean the area in which they are seated and dispose of any trash in the appropriate receptacle. Students shall follow all school rules during lunch.

#### **Food Service Discrimination**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal, or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by the USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information, should contact the Agency where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact the USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

## **SECTION 4**

### **Transportation**

COPE Safe School does not allow students to drive to school. Parents may choose to transport their student to and from COPE. Students should arrive at COPE between 8-8:15am and must be picked up at 2pm.

#### **Bus Transportation**

The home school district provides bus transportation to and from school for all students. While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. Students are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the building principal.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are also expected to observe the following:

- Dress properly for the weather. Make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, etc. on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed to lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
- Arrive on time at the bus stop, and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board. Enter in a single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.
- Take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms, and head inside the bus.
- Talk quietly on the bus. No shouting or creating loud noises that may distract the driver.
- Tablets, iPods®, iPads®, smart phones, smart watches and other electronic devices must be silenced on the bus unless a student uses headphones.
- Help keep the bus neat and clean. Keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.
- Always listen to the driver's instructions. Be courteous to the driver and other students. Sit with your hands to yourself and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers. Remain seated, keeping your hands, arms, and head inside the bus at all times.
- Wait until the bus pulls to a complete stop before standing up. Use the handrail when exiting the bus.
- Stay out of the danger zone next to the bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. Take five giant steps away from the bus and out of the danger zone, until you can see the driver and the driver sees you. Never crawl under a bus.
- If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal and then cross in front of the bus. Cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
- Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

Video and audio cameras may be active on buses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus. For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact your home school district main office.

### **Bus Conduct**

Students are expected to follow all school rules when riding the school bus. A student may be suspended from riding the bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to, the following:

- Violating any school rule or school district policy.
- Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
- Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
- Repeated use of profanity.
- Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor. • Such other behavior as the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

A student suspended from riding the bus who does not have alternate transportation to school shall have the opportunity to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit. It shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternate transportation.

## **SECTION 5**

### **Health & Safety**

#### **Immunization, Health, Eye & Dental Examination**

##### **Required Health Examinations & Immunizations**

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases within one year prior to:

- Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
- Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
- Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). Students between the age of one and seven must provide a statement from a physician assuring that the student was "risk-assessed" or screened for lead poisoning.

Failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

##### **Eye Examination**

All students entering kindergarten or the school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

##### **Dental Examination**

All students entering kindergarten, second and sixth grades must present proof by May 15 of

the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to present proof allows the school to hold the child's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

### **Health Examination Exemptions**

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

- Medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
- Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
- Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
- Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
- Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

### **Student Medication**

Taking medication during school hours is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well being. When a student's licensed health care provider and/or parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take medication during school hours, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a "Prescription Medication Form."

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student's self administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed Prescription Medication Form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds other than as provided for in this procedure.

### **Self-Administration of Medication**

A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form. The school and district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication or epinephrine auto-injector or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student's parent/guardian must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and/or asthma inhaler, or the storage of any medication by school personnel.

Students who are diabetic may also self-carry and self-administer diabetic testing supplies and insulin. Students who are diabetic must also have a Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school.

### **Designated Caregiver Administration of Medical Cannabis**

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act allows a parent/guardian of a student who is a minor to register with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a designated caregiver to administer medical cannabis to their child. A designated caregiver may also be another individual other than the student's parent/guardian. Any designated caregiver must be at least 21 years old and is allowed to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a child who is a student on the premises of his or her school or on his or her school bus if:

1. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
2. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the District; and
3. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a *School Medication Authorization Form - Medical Cannabis*.

*Medical cannabis infused product* (product) includes oils, ointments, foods, and other products that contain usable cannabis but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis is prohibited.

After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver shall immediately remove it from school premises or the school bus. The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the District or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

### **School Counseling/Guidance**

Mental health services will be provided in accordance with ISBE goals for social and emotional wellness. Services delivered include personal counseling through trauma informed care, group counseling, behavior management, positive peer interaction, academic support, and career preparation. Crisis protocol, in conjunction with community links is supported by addressing risk-oriented behavior such as suicide or homicide ideation. Counseling is part of the academic component promoting a mentally healthy and positive learning environment for all students.

**Fire & Civil Defense Drills** Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement/intruder drill, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. Drills will not be preceded by a warning to the students.

### **Communicable Disease**

The COPE Safe School will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a

communicable disease.

- In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
- The school will provide written instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
- A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

### **Head Lice**

The COPE Safe School will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice
- Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
- The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
- A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

### **Emergency Procedures/Accidents**

In an emergency the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Secure the immediate safety needs of the student or staff member—if necessary, notify 911 for any emergency services.
2. Notify the parent/guardian or individual(s) as noted on student emergency contact information as soon as possible.
3. Attend to the other students.
4. Notify the director, the administrator and other appropriate agencies as soon as possible.
5. Any accident will require the staff and/or director to make a written report, which will be forwarded to the Regional Superintendent of Schools (administrator).

In the event that students must be removed from the building (fire or other disaster), they will be moved to one of two locations:

1. Tri-County Special Education (phone 618 684-2109) located directly east of COPE.
2. Murphysboro Elks (phone 618 684-4541) located directly to the west of COPE.

In the event that you are unsure of where your student may be located following an emergency, please call the Regional Office of Education at 618 687-7290.

## **SECTION 6**

## **Discipline & Conduct**

At COPE Safe School, we believe that our students should take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities afforded to them. Students are expected to cooperate with and show respect to all staff, students, and visitors. Students who choose to act inappropriately and/or disrupt/interfere with the educational process for other students should be disciplined in an appropriate and timely manner.

### **Student Rights/Responsibilities**

#### **Student Rights:**

1. Each student has the right to expect that all of his/her rights will be protected as long as he/she exercises full responsibility
2. Each student, regardless of race, color, creed, or religion, sex, legal marital status, national origin, or disabling condition, has the right to an opportunity for an education.
3. Each student has the right to learn, participate in school activities and the rights of freedom of expression, assembly and privacy as long as these rights don't infringe on the rights of others. These rights will not interfere with the orderly operation of the school or classroom.
4. Each student should expect that his/her property to be safe while at school.
5. Each student will be afforded due process in all suspensions/expulsions.

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

1. Each student is to act responsibly,
2. Each student should express opinions in a respectful manner
3. Each student should participate positively in the learning process.
4. Each student is expected to complete assignments in a timely manner and request help when needed.
5. Each student should cooperate to maintain order in the school and classroom.
6. Each student is expected to report to school regularly and on time.

### **School Dress Code & Student Appearance**

Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well fitting manner while on school property. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a substantial disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress/attire (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress/attire (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, sexually suggestive, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.
- Hats, hoods, coats, jackets, bandannas, sweat bands, and sunglasses may not be worn in the building during the school day.
- Midriff and undergarments should not be visible.
- Purses, wallets, wallet chains, and sleeveless shirts are not permitted.
- Tights/leotards may not be worn as pants.

- Sleep apparel/pants or anything closely resembling them are not permitted.
- Hair styles, dress, and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted.
- Clothing with holes, rips, tears, and clothing that is otherwise poorly fitting, showing skin and/or undergarments may not be worn at school.
- The length of shorts, pants, or skirts must be at least mid-thigh length and worn at the natural waistline.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times to avoid a safety hazard.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the building principal/designee will make the final decision.
- Student whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff or others may be subject to discipline.

**NOTE: All dress code and student appearance policies are subject to change at any time, if the need arises or a disruption to the educational process occurs.**

## **Student Behavior**

### **Prohibited Student Conduct**

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes/e-cigarettes, vaping devices and accessories, as well as lighters.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
  - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
  - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician or licensed practitioner's prescription.
  - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
  - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication,

hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.

- f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
  - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
  - h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form.
- 4. Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school and will be treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.
  - 5. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a "weapon" or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
  - 6. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
  - 7. Using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating and sending, sharing, viewing, receiving or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device or cellular telephone, commonly known as "sexting." Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student's lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals..
  - 8. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
  - 9. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member's request to stop an activity, remove a hood/hat, sleeping in class, or continual idle time during class time.
  - 10. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
  - 11. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to
    - a. engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any
    - b. use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or

other comparable conduct.

12. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
13. Engaging in teen dating violence.
14. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
15. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
16. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
17. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
18. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
19. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
20. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.
21. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
22. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
23. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.
24. Threats of and/or acts of physical aggression toward staff and/or other students.
25. Tampering with firefighting/emergency evacuation equipment and/or initiating a false alarm, including bomb threats.
26. Playing cards, flipping or matching coins, rolling dice, or any other forms of gambling.
27. Other activity deemed by the administration/staff to be disruptive to the educational process.

For purposes of these rules, the term "possession" includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is:

1. on the student's person;
2. contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile;
3. in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property;
4. at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or
5. in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and support shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

**NOTE: ALL POSSIBLE MISCONDUCT AND/OR BEHAVIORAL CIRCUMSTANCES CANNOT BE CATEGORIZED AND DESCRIBED IN THE HANDBOOK. CONDUCT WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE ADMINISTRATION, IS UNACCEPTABLE IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING WILL RESULT IN AN APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE. THE SEVERITY OF THE DISCIPLINE WILL RANGE FROM A WARNING UP TO AND INCLUDING EXPULSION.**

**TEACHERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE A DISRUPTIVE OR NON-COMPLIANT STUDENT FROM THEIR CLASSROOM AT ANY TIME. A STUDENT WHO DISREGARDS THE RULES OF THIS SCHOOL AND/OR VIOLATES THE RIGHTS OF OTHER STUDENTS TO AN EDUCATION WILL PLACE HIS/HER EDUCATIONAL FUTURE AT COPE SAFE SCHOOL IN JEOPARDY.**

### **When and Where Conduct Rules Apply**

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at an time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

### **Disciplinary Measures**

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Alternative classroom setting

6. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
7. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
8. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
9. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
10. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
11. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

**NOTE: IN THE EVENT THAT A STUDENT NEEDS TO BE REMOVED FROM COPE SAFE SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS, THE STUDENTS PARENT(S) OR APPROVED DESIGNEE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTING THAT STUDENT IMMEDIATELY OFF OF SCHOOL GROUNDS. FAILURE TO DO SO, MAY RESULT IN POLICE INVOLVEMENT.**

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

### **Suspensions & Expulsions**

Suspensions are assigned to students for disciplinary infractions that are of a serious nature. An out-of-school suspension requires that a student not attend school for the duration of the suspension. A student is not allowed to attend any school-related functions, events, or activities either home or away during the suspension period. The student can receive credit for assignments submitted during the suspension.

An expulsion is the removal of a student from school for more than 10 days and up to 2 calendar years. Parents/guardians of a student being considered for expulsion will be contacted with the time and date for a hearing and will receive a list of the student's protected rights, including due process, hearing procedures, and appeal rights.

### **Police Involvement**

The administration and staff have the responsibility to ensure the smooth, efficient and orderly operation of the COPE Alternative School Program. Therefore, the following circumstances may warrant the need to notify the police.

1. Physical aggression against any COPE School staff member
2. Physical aggression against another student
3. Possession of any weapons
4. Possession of any controlled substance/alcohol
5. Extremely violent, out of control behavior
6. Out of control behavior on the bus

The parent/guardian will be notified of any police involvement and/or action taken by the school with regard to the above listed behavior by the student. The parent may be asked to intervene. If parent/guardian cannot be contacted immediately, efforts will continue to contact them at all available phone numbers throughout the day.

Should any police involvement be required, the student will be suspended from school and the parent/guardian will be required to return to school with the student for a disciplinary conference.

If a student becomes physically aggressive toward a staff member, criminal charges may be pursued against the student. The decision to involve the local police will be made by the principal and staff based on the circumstances and input from all involved. All incidents will be handled on an individual basis.

The COPE Alternative School recognizes that each student has certain rights when a police officer or identified representative of the court wishes to interview or remove the student from the premises. Before any interview takes place, the director or designee will first get permission from the parent/guardian. If permission is given, the director or designee may be present during the interview at the request of the parent/guardian. If the parent objects to any questioning, the parent may be requested to appear at school to remove the student and make arrangements with law enforcement officials for the interview.

If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the officer will be requested to make arrangements for questioning the student at a later time or date when the parent or guardian can be present. In case of an emergency the director or designee may supervise the conference when the student is not a suspect in any criminal activity, but a witness or victim of a crime. Factors that may determine an emergency will include, but not limited to, the severity of the crime or delinquent act, the degree of danger to other persons or property caused by any delay in the investigation, and whether or not the information about the matter being investigated is likely to become unreliable with the passage of time.

Should the officer request to take the student out of school, he will do so only with the consent of the parent/guardian or with a subpoena, which requires the student to be a witness. If the police are going to arrest the student with or without a warrant, he will be allowed to do so. When a student is removed from school under arrest, the director shall endeavor to notify the parent/guardian prior to the student's removal or as soon thereafter as possible. The law enforcement officer will be requested to sign a release order and leave the school any supporting documents requiring the student's removal.

### **Weapons Prohibition**

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any

school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look-alikes” of any firearm as defined above.

### **Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited**

“Gang” is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

### **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension or expulsion. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student’s ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

### **Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, & Harassment**

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important district and school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is **prohibited** in each of the following situations:

- During any school-sponsored education program or activity.

- While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
- Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
- Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

*Bullying* includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
- Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal, district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

**Complaint Manager:**  
**Sherri Schimpf, SOAR/COPE Principal**  
**(618)687-7290**  
[sschimpf@roe30.org](mailto:sschimpf@roe30.org)

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

## **Sexual Harassment & Teen Dating Violence Prohibited**

### **Sexual Harassment Prohibited**

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. A person engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and/or engages in other verbal or physical conduct, including sexual violence, of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
  - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment
  - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
  - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
  - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms *intimidating*, *hostile*, and *offensive* include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities. The term *sexual violence* includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

### **Teen Dating Violence Prohibited**

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

### **Making a Complaint; Enforcement**

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidents of sexual harassment, teen dating violence or any other prohibited conduct to the nondiscrimination coordinator, building principal, assistant building principal, dean of students, or a complaint manager. A student may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to discipline.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field-trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline. All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be

prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

Before going on any field trip, sporting event, etc., students are to check with all of their teachers for assignments. Any assignments that are due on the day of the field trip must be submitted to the teacher prior to leaving on the field trip, unless arrangements are made ahead of time with the teacher. All assignments from the day of the field trip are due the next day that the student is present at school, unless arrangements are made ahead of time with the teacher.

### **Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites**

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

### **Student Use of Electronic Devices**

The use of electronic devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices, except as provided herein. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following: cell phone, smart phone, smart watch, audio or video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), iPod®, iPad®, laptop computer, tablet computer or other similar electronic device. Pocket pagers and other paging devices are not allowed on school property at any time, except with the express permission of the building principal.

During instructional time, which includes class periods and passing periods, electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight unless: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms; (2) cheating; and (3) creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting).

The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school.

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

## **SECTION 7**

### **Internet & Technology**

#### **Internet Acceptable Use**

All use of electronic network use must be consistent with the school's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These rules do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. **The failure of any user to follow these rules will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.**

**Acceptable Use** - Access to the electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

**Privileges** - The use of the electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator or Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

**Unacceptable Use** - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

1. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
2. Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or de-virused;
3. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
4. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
5. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
6. Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
7. Invading the privacy of individuals, that includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature including a photograph;
8. Using another user's account or password;
9. Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
10. Posting anonymous messages;
11. Using the network for commercial or private advertising;
12. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
13. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

**Network Etiquette** - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
2. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
3. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of

students or colleagues.

4. Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
5. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
6. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.

**No Warranties** - The school and district make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The school and district are not responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The school and district specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

**Indemnification** - The user agrees to indemnify the school and district for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the school or district relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

**Security** - Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify the system administrator or building principal. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

**Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

**Telephone Charges** - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

**Copyright Web Publishing Rules** - Copyright law prohibits the republishing of text or graphics found on the Web without explicit written permission.

1. For each re-publication (on a Web site or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the Web address of the original source.
2. Students engaged in producing Web pages must provide library media specialists with e-mail or hard copy permissions before the Web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of "public domain" documents must be provided.
3. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the Web site displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.

**Use of Email** – The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the School District. The School District provides email to aid students as an education tool.

1. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its

system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student to an email account is strictly prohibited.

2. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an electronic mail message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an e-mail message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
3. Electronic messages transmitted via the school district's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet "domain." This domain name is a registered domain name and identifies the author as being with the school district. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the school and district. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all electronic mail messages transmitted to external recipients.
4. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
5. Use of the School District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.

### **Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology Vendors Under the Student Online Personal Protection Act 1**

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as operators. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the IL State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number

- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English language learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)
- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents/guardians
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district

## **SECTION 8**

### **Search & Seizure**

#### **Search & Seizure**

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. “School authorities” includes school liaison police officers.

#### **School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students**

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

#### **Students**

School authorities may search a student and/or the student’s personal effects in the student’s possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has

violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

### **Seizure of Property**

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

## **SECTION 9**

### **Student Records & Privacy**

#### **Student Privacy Protections**

##### **Surveys by Third Parties**

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions. Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the building principal.

##### **Surveys Requesting Personal Information**

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Sexual behaviors or attitudes.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility.

The student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

### **Instructional Material**

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

### **Student Records**

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes; and electronic recordings made on school buses. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

- 1. The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 school days of the day the District receives a request for access.**  
The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copy rights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The District charges \$.35 per page for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost. These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.
- 2. The right to have one or more scores received on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript.**  
Parents/guardians or eligible students may have one or more scores on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript. The District will include scores on college entrance examinations upon the written request of the parent/guardian or eligible student stating the name of each college entrance examination that is the subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be included.
- 3. The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.**  
Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate

educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records. Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

4. **The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.** The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first

5. **The right to prohibit the release of directory information.**

Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

Name

Address

Gender

Grade level

Birth date and place

Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers

Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs

Academic awards, degrees, and honors

Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics

Major field of study

Period of Attendance in school

***Any parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.***

6. **The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student's information without your prior written consent.**

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of

higher learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the parent/guardian, or student who is 18 years of age or older, request that the information not be disclosed without prior written consent. If you wish to exercise this option, notify the building principal.

7. **The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.**
8. **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education  
Student Privacy Policy Office  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20202-4605

### **Student Biometric Information**

Before collecting biometric information from students, the school must seek the permission of the student's parent/guardian or the student, if over the age of 18. Biometric information means information that is collected from students based on their unique characters, such as a fingerprint, voice recognition or retinal scan.

### **Military Recruiters & Institutions of Higher Learning**

Upon their request, military recruiters and institutions of higher learning will be given access to students' names, addresses and telephone numbers. Parents who do not want their child's name to be released (or students over the age of 18 who do not want their name released) should contact the building principal.

## **SECTION 10**

### **Parental Right Notifications**

#### **Standardized Testing**

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that the State and home District require students to take certain standardized tests, including the following:

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to cooperate in preparing students for the standardized testing, because the quality of the education the school can provide is partially dependent upon the school's ability to continue to prove its success in the state's standardized tests. Parents can assist their students achieve their best performance by doing the following:

1. Encourage students to work hard and study throughout the year;
2. Ensure students get a good night's sleep the night before exams;
3. Ensure students eat well the morning of the exam, particularly ensuring they eat sufficient protein.
4. Remind and emphasize for students the importance of good performance on standardized testing;
5. Ensure students are on time and prepared for tests, with appropriate materials;
6. Teach students the importance of honesty and ethics during the performance of these and other tests;
7. Encourage students to relax on testing day.

### **Homeless Child's Right to Education**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act ensures the educational rights and protections of homeless children and youth so that they may enroll in school, attend regularly, and be successful. The act guarantees McKinney-Vento eligible children and youth the following:

- The right to immediate enrollment in school, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment.
- The right to attend school in his/her school of origin (if this is requested by the parent and is reasonable) or in the school in the attendance area where the family or youth is currently residing.
- The right to receive transportation to his/her school of origin, if this is requested by the parent or unaccompanied youth.
- The right to services comparable to those received by housed schoolmates, including transportation and supplemental educational services.
- The right to attend school along with children not experiencing homelessness.

Assistance and support for homeless families includes:

#### **Emergency Services**

All Emergencies	911
Illinois State Police	618-542-2171
Jackson County Sheriff	618-684-2177
Murphysboro Police	618-684-2121
Carbondale Police	618-457-3200

**Murphysboro Food Pantry** 618-684-8258

**Family Shelters** 618-457-5794

#### **Health Services**

St. Joseph Hospital (Murphysboro)	618-684-3156
Memorial Hospital (Carbondale)	618-549-0721
Jackson County Health Department	618-684-3143

#### **Education, Employment, and Job Training**

Evaluation & Development Center	618-453-2331
John A. Logan College	618-985-2828

## **Abuse**

Illinois Dept. of Child & Family Service	618-687-1733
Women's Center (Carbondale)	618-529-2324
Shawnee Alliance for Seniors	618-985-8322
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance	618-684-2282
Jackson County State's Attorney	618-687-7200

## **800 Hotlines**

Child Abuse & Neglect	800-252-2873
Elder Abuse	866-800-1409
Gambling	800-426-2537
Health/Human Services	211
HIV/STD	800-243-2437
Mental Health	800-345-9049
National Runaway & Child Abuse	800-843-5678
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-8255
Veteran Crisis	800-273-8255

## **Alcohol and Drug Abuse/Addiction**

Gateway	877-352-9992
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## **Crisis Intervention**

Arrowleaf (Alexander, Pulaski, Union)	618-658-2611
Centerstone	877-467-3123
Perry County Counseling	618-542-4357
Rape Crisis	618-529-2324
SIU Clinical Center	618-453-2361

## **School Visitation Rights**

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

## **Mandated Reporter**

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

## **Student Privacy**

The District has adopted and uses several policies and procedures regarding student privacy, parental access to information and administration of certain physical examinations to students. Copies of these policies are available upon request. Schools must notify parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year of any of the following: (1) Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information; (2) The administration of surveys requesting personal information; and

(3) The administration of any nonemergency, invasive physical examination. Notice should include the dates of administration and the ability of parents to opt out their student.

### **Sex Offender Notification Law**

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child, such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board. Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property for any reason – including the three reasons above – he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

### **Violent Offender Community Notification**

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth. You may find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>. You may find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>.

## **Parent Notices Required by the Every Student Succeeds Act**

### **I. Teacher Qualifications**

A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, whether:

1. The teacher has met the State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. The teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status.
3. The teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
4. Paraprofessionals provide services to the student and, if so, their qualifications.

## **II. Testing Transparency**

The State and District requires students to take certain standardized tests. For additional information, see the handbook procedure on Standardized Testing.

A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, information regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by law or District policy, which shall include information on any applicable right you may have to opt your student out of such assessment.

## **III. Annual Report Card**

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's website.

## **IV. Parent & Family Engagement Compact**

## **V. Unsafe School Choice Option**

The unsafe school choice option allows students to transfer to another District school or to a public charter school within the District under certain circumstances.

## **VI. Student Privacy**

Students have certain privacy protections under federal law. For additional information, see the handbook procedure on Student Privacy.

## **VII. English Learners**

The school offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all children are expected to meet. For additional information, see the handbook procedure on English Learners.

## **VIII. Homeless Students**

For information on supports and services available to homeless students, see the handbook procedure on Homeless Students.

For further information on any of the above matters, please contact the building principal.

# **Addendum 1**

## **School Operations During a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency**

This handbook procedure is meant to apply generally to any pandemic or other health emergency and should be supplemented with other relevant and timely information.

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably. Your child's school and district play an essential role, along with the local health department and emergency management agencies, in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic or other health emergency.

During a pandemic or other health emergency, you will be notified in a timely manner of all changes to the school environment and schedule that impact your child. Please be assured that even if school is not physically in session, it is the goal of the school and district to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

Additionally, please note the following:

1. All decisions regarding changes to the school environment and schedule, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Illinois Department of Public Health, local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education.
2. Available learning opportunities may include remote and/or blended learning. Blended learning may require your child to attend school on a modified schedule.
3. Students will be expected to participate in blended and remote instruction as required by the school and district. Parents are responsible for assuring the participation of their child. Students who do not participate in blended or remote learning will be considered truant.
4. All school disciplinary rules remain in effect during the interruption of in-person learning. Students are subject to discipline for disrupting the remote learning environment to the same extent that discipline would be imposed for disruption of the traditional classroom.
5. Students and parents will be required to observe all public health and safety measures implemented by the school and district in conjunction with state and local requirements.
6. During a pandemic or other health emergency, the school and district will ensure that educational opportunities are available to all students.
7. School personnel will work closely with students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations to minimize the impact of any educational disruption.
8. Students who have a compromised immune system, live with an individual with a compromised immune system, or have a medical condition that may impact their ability to attend school during a pandemic or other public health emergency should contact school officials.
9. During a pandemic or other health emergency, teachers and school staff will receive additional training on health and safety measures.
10. In accordance with school district or state mandates, the school may need to conduct a daily health assessment of your child. Parents and students will be notified of the exact assessment procedures if this becomes necessary.
11. Parents should not send their child to school if their child exhibits any symptoms consistent with the pandemic or other health emergency.
12. Please do not hesitate to contact school or district officials if you have any concerns regarding your child's education, health or safety.

## **Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement and Pledge**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Student Acknowledgement and Pledge**

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations. In order to help keep my school safe, I pledge to adhere to all School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve me or my child from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date