

**0000 BOARD OPERATING POLICY**

0100 **Definitions**

0110 **Official Description**

- 0111 Name
- 0112 Purpose
- 0115 Address

0120 **Powers and Philosophy**

- 0121 Authority
- 0122 Board Powers**

L

0130 **Functions**

- 0131 Legislative
- 0131.1 Charter Contract Bylaws and Board Operating Policies**
- 0132.2 Administrative Guidelines

L

0140 **Membership**

- 0141 Number
- 0142 Appointment
- 0142.1 Term
- 0142.2 Oath
- 0142.3 Vacancies
- 0142.31 Filling a Board Vacancy
- 0142.4 Orientation
- 0143 Authority
- 0143.1 Public Expression of Board Members**
- 0144 Operations
- 0144.1 Compensation
- 0144.11 Reimbursement of Expenses**
- 0144.2 Board Member Ethics
- 0144.3 Conflict of Interest
- 0144.4 Indemnification
- 0145 Discriminatory Harassment

BP  
BP  
BP

L

L  
BP  
BP  
BP

0150 **Organization**

- 0151 Annual Organizational Meeting
- 0152 Officers
- 0154 Annual Organizational Meeting Agenda (Motions)
- 0155 Committees

0160 **Meetings**

- 0161 Parliamentary Authority
- 0162 Quorum
- 0163 Presiding Officer
- 0164 Call
- 0164.1 Regular Meetings
- 0164.2 Special Meetings
- 0164.3 Emergency Meetings

**Legend:**

- L = Legally Required (if applicable)
- BP = Best Practice

0165	Notice	BP
0165.1	Posting Notice of Regular Meetings	BP
0165.2	Change of Regular Meetings	BP
0165.3	Posting Notice of Special Meetings	BP
0165.4	Posting Notice of Emergency Meetings	BP
0165.5	Recess	BP
<b>0165.6</b>	<b>Cancellation</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>0166</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>L</b>
0166.1	Consent Agenda	
0167	Conduct	
<b>0167.1</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>0167.2</b>	<b>Closed Session</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>0167.3</b>	<b>Public Participation at Board Meetings</b>	<b>L</b>
0167.4	Administrative Participation	BP
0167.5	Use of Electronic Mail	BP
0167.6	Use of Social Media	BP
0168	Minutes	BP
<b>0168.1</b>	<b>Open Meeting</b>	<b>L</b>
0168.2	Closed Meeting	BP
0168.3	Committee Meetings	BP
0169	Student Disciplinary Hearings	BP
0169.1	Closed Session Requested	BP
0169.2	Open Hearing	BP
0170	<b>Duties</b>	
0171	Officers	
0171.1	President	
0171.2	Vice-President	
0171.3	Secretary	
0171.4	Treasurer	
0172	Legal Counsel	BP
0173	Independent Auditor	BP
0175	Association Memberships	BP
0175.1	Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops	BP
<b>1000</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
1110	Assessment of Academy's Goals	
<b>1130</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>L</b>
1210	Board – Administration Relationship	BP
1217	Weapons	BP
1230	Responsibilities of the Administration	BP
1230.01	Development of Administrative Guidelines	BP
1240	Evaluation of the Educational Service Provider	BP
1400	Job Descriptions	
1420	Academy Administrator Evaluation	BP
<b>1421</b>	<b>Criminal History Record Check</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>1422</b>	<b>Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>1439</b>	<b>Administrator Discipline</b>	<b>L</b>

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice

<b>1613</b>	<b>Student Supervision and Welfare</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>1662</b>	<b>Anti – Harassment</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2000 PROGRAM</b>		
2105	Mission of the Academy	BP
2110	Statement of Philosophy	BP
<b>2112</b>	<b>Parent and Family Engagement</b>	<b>L**</b>
2120	School Improvement	
2131	Educational Outcomes for Students	
2132	Educational Process Goals	
2210	Curriculum Development	
2210.01	Right to Inspect Instructional Materials	BP
2220	Adoption of Courses of Study	BP
2221	Mandatory Courses	BP
2225	Students with Limited English Proficiency	BP
2231	Curriculum	BP
2250	Innovative Programs	BP
<b>2260</b>	<b>Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2260.01</b>	<b>Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2261</b>	<b>Title I Services</b>	<b>L**</b>
<b>2261.01</b>	<b>Parent and Family Member Participation in Title I Programs</b>	<b>L**</b>
2261.02	Title I – Parent’s Right to Know	BP
<b>2261.03</b>	<b>Academy and School Report Card</b>	<b>L</b>
2270	Religion in the Curriculum	BP
2271	Post Secondary Enrollment Option Program	BP
2330	Homework	BP
2340	Field and Other School-Sponsored Trips	BP
2370	Educational Options	BP
2370.01	On-Line/Blended Learning Program	BP
<b>2410</b>	<b>Prohibition of Referral or Assistance</b>	<b>L</b>
2411	Guidance and Counseling	BP
2413	Health Education Program	BP
<b>2414</b>	<b>Reproductive Health and Family Planning</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2416</b>	<b>Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information (FERPA)</b>	<b>L</b>
2430	School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities	BP
<b>2460</b>	<b>Education of Children with Disabilities</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2460.02</b>	<b>Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Position Statement</b>	<b>L</b>
2510	Adoption of Textbooks	BP
2521	Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment	BP
2531	Copyrighted Works	BP
2605	Program Accountability and Evaluation	BP
<b>2623</b>	<b>Student Assessment</b>	<b>L</b>

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice

2628	State Aid Incentives	BP
<b>2700</b>	<b>P.A. 25 Annual Report</b>	<b>L**</b>
<b>3000</b>	<b>Staff</b>	
3000	Educational Service Provider Statement	
<b>3110</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>3120</b>	<b>Employment of Teachers and Administrators</b>	<b>L</b>
3120.04	Employment of Substitutes	BP
<b>3121</b>	<b>Criminal History Record Check</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>3122</b>	<b>Anti-Discrimination</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>3130</b>	<b>Assignment and Transfer</b>	<b>L</b>
3217	Weapons	BP
3220	Teacher Evaluation	BP
<b>3362</b>	<b>Anti-Harassment</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>5000</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>	
<b>5111</b>	<b>Admission of Students</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>5111.01</b>	<b>Homeless Students</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>5111.02</b>	<b>Educational Opportunity for Military Children</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>5111.03</b>	<b>Children and Youth in Foster Care</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>5112</b>	<b>Entrance Age</b>	<b>L</b>
5130	Withdrawal from the Academy	BP
5136	Personal Communication Devices	BP
5200	Attendance	BP
5230	Late Arrival and Early Dismissal	BP
<b>5330</b>	<b>Use of Medications</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>5330.01</b>	<b>Epinephrine Auto-Injectors</b>	<b>L</b>
5340	Student Accidents	BP
5341	Emergency Medical Authorization	BP
5350	Student Suicide	BP
5410	Promotion, Placement, and Retention	BP
5420	Reporting Student Progress	BP
5421	Grading	BP
<b>5460</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements</b>	<b>L</b>
5463	Credits from Nonpublic Schools	BP
5500	Student Conduct	BP
5510	Students – Sex Offender Registry; Criminal Convictions	BP
5511	Dress and Grooming	BP
5512	Use of Tobacco by Students	BP
5513	Care of School Property	BP

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice

<b>5516</b>	<b>Student Hazing</b>	L
<b>5517</b>	<b>Anti-Harassment</b>	L
<b>5517.01</b>	<b>Bullying</b>	L
<b>5517.02</b>	<b>Sexual Violence</b>	L
5520	Disorderly Conduct	BP
<b>5530</b>	<b>Drug Free Environment</b>	L
<b>5532</b>	<b>Performance-Enhancing Drugs/Compounds</b>	L
<b>5540</b>	<b>Interrogation of Students</b>	L
5600	Student Discipline	BP
<b>5610</b>	<b>Emergency Removal, Suspension &amp; Expulsion of Students</b>	L
<b>5611</b>	<b>Due Process Rights</b>	L
<b>5630.01</b>	<b>Student Seclusion and Restraint</b>	L
5710	Student Grievance	BP
5722	School-Sponsored Publications and Productions	BP
5771	Search and Seizure	BP
5772	Possession of Weapons	BP
5780	Student/Parent Rights	BP
5830	Student Fund-Raising	BP
<b>6000</b>	<b>FINANCES</b>	
6107	Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and to Use Electronic Signatures	BP
6110	Grant Funds	BP
6111	Internal Controls	BP
6112	Best Practice	BP
6114	Cost Principles	BP
6116	Time & Effort Reporting	BP
<b>6144</b>	<b>Investments</b>	L
6152	Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies	BP
6210	Fiscal Planning	BP
6220	Budget Preparation	BP
6230	Budget Hearing	BP
6231	Budget Implementation	BP
<b>6320</b>	<b>Purchasing</b>	L
<b>6321</b>	<b>New School Construction</b>	L
<b>6325</b>	<b>Procurement--Federal Grants/Funds</b>	L**
<b>6420</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest – Legal Counsel, Advisors, or Consultants</b>	L
6440	Cooperative Purchasing	BP
6460	Vendor Relations	BP
6470	Payment of Claims	BP
<b>6550</b>	<b>Travel Payment &amp; Reimbursement</b>	L
6510	Payroll Authorization	BP

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice

6800	System of Accounting	BP
<b>6850</b>	<b>Public Disclosure and Reporting</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>7000</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>	
<b>7217</b>	<b>Weapons</b>	<b>L</b>
7230	Gifts, Grants, and Bequests	BP
7310	Disposition of Surplus Property	BP
7410	Maintenance	BP
7420	Hygienic Management	BP
7430	Safety Standards	BP
<b>7434</b>	<b>Use of Tobacco on Academy Premises</b>	<b>L</b>
7440	Facility Security	BP
7450	Property Inventory	BP
7455	Accounting System for Fixed Assets	BP
7460	Conservation of Natural and Material Resources	BP
7530	Lending of Board-Owned Equipment	BP
7530.02	Staff Use of Personal Communication Devices	BP
7540	Technology	BP
7540.01	Technology Privacy	BP
7540.02	Web Accessibility, Content, Apps and Services	BP
<b>7540.03</b>	<b>Student Education Technology Acceptable Use and Safety</b>	<b>L</b>
7540.04	Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety	BP
7540.05	Academy-Issued Staff E-mail Account	BP
7540.06	Academy-Issued Student E-mail Account	BP
<b>7540.07</b>	<b>Personal Internet Account Privacy – Students</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>7540.08</b>	<b>Personal Internet Account Privacy – Staff</b>	<b>L</b>
7541	Electronic Data Processing/Information System Disaster Recovery Plan	BP
7542	Access to Academy Technology Resources and/or Information Resources from Personal Communication Devices	BP
7543	Utilization of the Academy’s Website and Remote Access to the Academy’s Network	BP
7544	Use of Social Media	BP
7545	Electronic Communications	BP
<b>8000</b>	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>8120</b>	<b>Iran Economic Sanctions Act Compliance</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>8142</b>	<b>Criminal History Record</b>	<b>L</b>
8142.01	Weapons	BP
8210	Academy Calendar	
8220	Academy Day	
8300	Continuity of Organizational Operations	BP
8305	Information Security	BP
<b>8310</b>	<b>Public Records</b>	<b>L</b>
8320	Personnel Files	BP

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice

<b>8321</b>	<b>Criminal Justice Information Security</b>	<b>BP</b>
8330	Student Records	BP
<b>8340</b>	<b>Letters of Reference</b>	<b>L</b>
8350	Confidentiality	BP
8351	Breach of Confidential Information	BP
<b>8390</b>	<b>Animals on Academy</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>8400</b>	<b>Academy Safety Information</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>8401</b>	<b>Fire Safety and Fire Department Notification</b>	<b>L</b>
8405	Environmental Health and Safety Issues	BP
<b>8405.01</b>	<b>Integrated Pest Management</b>	<b>L</b>
8410	Crisis Intervention	BP
8420	Emergency Situations at the Academy	BP
<b>8431</b>	<b>Preparedness for Toxic Hazards and Asbestos Hazard</b>	<b>L</b>
8442	Reporting Accidents	BP
8450	Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases	BP
8450.01	Pediculosis (Head Lice)	BP
8453	Direct Contact Communicable Diseases	BP
8453.01	Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens	BP
8462	Student Abuse and Neglect	BP
8470	Students-Sex Offender Registry; Criminal Convictions	BP
8531	Free and Reduced–Priced Meals	BP
<b>8540</b>	<b>Vending Machines</b>	<b>L*</b>
8660	Transportation by Private Vehicle	BP
8710	Insurance	BP
8740	Bonding	BP
8800	Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances	BP
<b>9000</b>	<b>RELATIONS</b>	
9111	Telephone Communications	BP
9120	Academy Information Program	BP
9130	Public Complaints	BP
9150	Academy Visitors	BP
<b>9160</b>	<b>Public Attendance at Academy Events</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>9250</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian Review of Instructional Materials and Observation of Instructional Activities</b>	<b>L</b>
9500	Relations with Educational Institutions and Organizations	BP
9555	Partnerships with Business	BP
9700	Relations with Special Interest Groups	BP

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice

9700.01	Advertising and Commercial Activities	BP
9710	Volunteers	BP

\*\* Legally Required for Schools receiving funds under ESEA.

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 6/10/14; 3/11/14; 9/17/14; 3/10/15; 9/8/15; 3/8/16; 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

**\*These policies are only legally required if the Academy serves food to students and receives direct or indirect federal aid for the program.**

For Board Approval

**Legend:**

L = Legally Required (if applicable)

BP = Best Practice



0000 **BOARD OPERATING POLICY**

0100 **Definitions**

0110 **Official Description**

- 0111 Name
- 0112 Purpose
- 0115 Address

0120 **Powers and Philosophy**

- 0121 Authority
- 0122 Board Powers** L

0130 **Functions**

- 0131 Legislative
- 0131.1 Charter Contract Bylaws and Board Operating Policies** L
- 0132.2 Administrative Guidelines

0140 **Membership**

- 0141 Number
- 0142 Appointment
- 0142.1 Term
- 0142.2 Oath
- 0142.3 Vacancies BP
- 0142.31 Filling a Board Vacancy BP
- 0142.4 Orientation BP
- 0143 Authority
- 0143.1 Public Expression of Board Members** L
- 0144 Operations
- 0144.1 Compensation
- 0144.11 Reimbursement of Expenses** L
- 0144.2 Board Member Ethics BP
- 0144.3 Conflict of Interest BP
- 0144.4 Indemnification BP
- 0145 Discriminatory Harassment

0150 **Organization**

- 0151 Annual Organizational Meeting
- 0152 Officers
- 0154 Annual Organizational Meeting Agenda (Motions)
- 0155 Committees

0160 **Meetings**

- 0161 Parliamentary Authority
- 0162 Quorum
- 0163 Presiding Officer
- 0164 Call
- 0164.1 Regular Meetings
- 0164.2 Special Meetings
- 0164.3 Emergency Meetings
- 0165 Notice BP
- 0165.1 Posting Notice of Regular Meetings BP
- 0165.2 Change of Regular Meetings BP

0165.3	Posting Notice of Special Meetings	BP
0165.4	Posting Notice of Emergency Meetings	BP
0165.5	Recess	BP
<b>0165.6</b>	<b>Cancellation</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>0166</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>L</b>
0166.1	Consent Agenda	BP
0167	Conduct	BP
<b>0167.1</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>0167.2</b>	<b>Closed Session</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>0167.3</b>	<b>Public Participation at Board Meetings</b>	<b>L</b>
0167.4	Administrative Participation	BP
0167.5	Use of Electronic Mail	BP
0167.6	Use of Social Media	BP
0168	Minutes	BP
<b>0168.1</b>	<b>Open Meeting</b>	<b>L</b>
0168.2	Closed Meeting	BP
0168.3	Committee Meetings	BP
0169	Student Disciplinary Hearings	BP
0169.1	Closed Session Requested	BP
0169.2	Open Hearing	BP
0170	<b>Duties</b>	
0171	Officers	
0171.1	President	
0171.2	Vice-President	
0171.3	Secretary	
0171.4	Treasurer	
0172	Legal Counsel	BP
0173	Independent Auditor	BP
0175	Association Memberships	BP
0175.1	Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops	BP

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 6/10/14; 9/17/14; 3/8/16; 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

**REVISED BYLAW – FALL 2018**  
**REVISED BYLAW – SPRING 2018**  
**DEFINITIONS**

Whenever the following items are used in these bylaws, policies and administrative guidelines, they shall have the meaning set forth below:

**Academy**

This Public School Academy

**Administrative Guideline**

A policy-based statement, usually written, outlining and/or describing the means by which a policy should be implemented and providing for the management cycle of plan, act, and assess or evaluate.

**Apps and Services**

Apps **and** services are software (i.e., computer programs) that support the interaction of **personal** communication devices (as defined in Bylaw 0100) over a network, or client-server applications in which the user interface runs in a web browser. Apps **and** services are used to communicate/transfer information/data that allow students to perform actions/tasks that assist them in attaining educational achievement goals/objectives, enable staff to monitor and assess their students' progress, and allow staff to perform other tasks related to their employment. Apps **and** services also are used to facilitate communication to, from and among and between, staff, students, and parents, **Board members and/or other stakeholders and members of the community.**

**Authorizer or Authorizing Body**

The governing boards of four different types of public educational entities (school boards, intermediate school boards, community college boards, governing boards of state public universities), empowered to issue contracts for the creation of public school academies, subject to certain limitations. The Revised School Code designates the authorizer or authorizing body.

**Board**

The Board of Directors. (See Charter Contract Bylaws)

**Board Operating Policy**

Rule of the Board for its own governance. (See Charter Contract Bylaws)

**Charter Contract**

The executive act taken by an authorizing body, authorizing a public school academy. Subject to the constitutional powers of the state board and applicable law, the charter contract is the written instrument executed by an authorizing body, conferring certain rights, franchises, privileges, and obligations on a public school academy.

### **Director**

The administrator employed by the Board/Educational Service Provider who is responsible for the daily operations of the Academy and the implementation of the policies of the Board. The Director can delegate appropriate duties assigned by the Board. The Director must hold an appropriate school administrator certificate or permit.

### **Due Process**

An established, rule-based procedure for hearing evidence, based on prior knowledge (a posted discipline code), notice of offense (accusation), and the opportunity to respond. Due process may require **consideration of statutorily mandated factors**, the right to counsel and/or confrontation or cross examination of witnesses, depending upon the situation.

### **Educational Service Provider (Educational Management Organization or Charter Management Organization)**

**An entity that enters in to a management agreement with a Public School Academy.**

### **Educational Service Provider Employee**

**All employees of the Educational Management Organization, both certificated and non-certificated, working in the school who provide service to the Academy's program or administration.**

### **Family Member**

**"Family member" means a person's spouse or spouse's sibling or child; a person's sibling or sibling's spouse or child; a person's child or child's spouse; or a person's parent or parent's spouse, and includes these relationships as created by adoption or marriage. (See Bylaw 0144.3)**

### **Full Board**

Authorized number of voting members entitled to govern the Academy, as established by the authorizer.

### **Information Resources**

The Board defines Information Resources to include any data/information in electronic, audio-visual or physical form, or any hardware or software that makes possible the storage and use of data/information. This definition includes but is not limited to electronic mail, voice mail, social media, text messages, databases, CD-ROMs/DVDs, web sites, motion picture film, recorded magnetic media, photographs, digitized information, or microfilm. This also includes any equipment, computer facilities, or online services used in accessing, storing, transmitting or retrieving electronic communications.

### **KRESA**

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency

### **May**

The word used when an action by the Board, or its designee, is permitted, but not required.

### **Meeting**

Any gathering attended by, or open to, all of the members of the Academy's Board of Directors. A meeting is held with the intent on the part of the members of the body present to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body.

### **Parent**

The natural, adoptive, or surrogate parent(s) or the party designated by the courts as the legal guardian or custodian of a student. Both parents will be considered to have equal rights, unless a court of law decrees otherwise and a copy of such order is on file with the Academy.

### **Personal Communication Devices**

Personal communication devices ("PCDs") include computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile phones, smartphones, and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

### **Policy**

A general statement written by the governing Board that defines its expectations or position on a particular matter. A policy also authorizes appropriate action that must or may be taken to establish and/or maintain the Board's expectations.

### **President**

The official leader of the Board. In addition to the responsibilities listed in "Duties of President," contained in the Charter Contract Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, the President has the authority to sign, execute, and acknowledge, on behalf of the Board, all deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, leases, reports, and all other Board-approved documents.

### **Relative**

The mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, parent of spouse, child, grandparents, grandchild, or dependent in the immediate household, as defined in the policy covering this subject.

### **Secretary**

The chief clerk of the Board of Directors. (See Charter Contract Bylaws.)

### **Shall**

This word is used when an action by the Board or its designee is required. (The words *will* and *must* also signifies a required action.)

## **Social Media**

**Social media are online platforms where users engage one another and/or share information and ideas through text, video, or pictures. Social media consists of any form of online publication or presence that allows interactive communication, including, but not limited to, text messaging, instant messaging, websites, web logs ("blogs"), wikis, online forums (e.g., chat rooms), virtual worlds, and social networks. Examples of social media include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, Instagram, Pinterest, Skype, and Facetime. Social media does not include sending or receiving e mail through the use of Academy-issued e-mail accounts. Apps and web services shall not be considered social media unless they are listed on the Academy's website as Academy-approved social media platforms/sites.**

## **Student**

A person who is officially enrolled in the Academy.

## **Support Personnel**

Personnel who provide support to the Academy's program, professional staff, and Administration, whose position does not require professional certification.

## **Technology Resources**

The Board defines Technology Resources to include computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile telephones, smartphones, web-enabled devices, video and/or audio recording equipment, projectors, software and operating systems that work on any device, copy machines, printers and scanners, information storage devices (including mobile/portable storage devices such as external hard drives, CDs/DVDs, USB thumb drives and memory chips), the computer network, Internet connection, and online educational services and apps.

## **Treasurer**

The chief financial officer of the Academy. (See Charter Contract Bylaws)

## **Vice-President**

The Vice-President of the Board of Directors. (See Charter Contract Bylaws)

## **Voting**

The act of taking a vote at a meeting of the Board of Directors. Board members **must** be physically present to have their vote officially recorded in the Board minutes.

Citations to Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) are shown as MCL followed by the Section Number (e.g., MCL 380.1438). Citations to the Michigan Administrative Code are prefaced AC Rule (e.g., AC Rule R380.221). Citations to the Federal Register are noted as FR, to the Code of Federal Regulations as CFR, and to the United States Code as USC.

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 1/10/17

## **REVISED BYLAW – FALL 2018** **POWERS AND PHILOSOPHY**

### **0121 Authority**

The supervision of this Academy shall be conducted by the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as *the Board*, constituted and governed by the laws of the State of Michigan and the Charter Contract.

MCL 380.1201 et seq.

### **0122 Board Powers**

This Academy shall operate as a public school academy, pursuant to the provisions of the Charter Contract and applicable laws. The Board of Directors has all of the rights, powers, and duties expressly stated in the law and the Charter Contract. The Board may exercise power incidental to, or appropriate to, the operation of the Academy, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- A. Educate Students. In addition to educating students in the grades and subjects authorized in the Charter Contract, the Board may operate preschool, adult education, and GED testing preparation programs, if specified in the Charter Contract.
- B. Provide for the safety and welfare of students while at the Academy, at a school-sponsored activity, or while en route to or from the school or a school-sponsored activity.
- C. Acquire, construct, maintain, repair, renovate, dispose of, or convey Academy property, facilities, equipment, technology, or furnishings.
- D. In accordance with its Charter Contract and with an Educational Service Provider: to hire, contract for, schedule, supervise, or terminate employees, independent contractors, and others to carry out Academy operations. The Board may contract with the Educational Service Provider to provide educational, administrative and other services and to exercise certain of said powers. The rights, responsibilities and obligations of the school and the Educational Service Provider are set forth in the agreement between the Board and the Educational Service Provider. The Academy's policies and procedures are not intended to modify any of the terms of such a contract.
- E. Receive, account for, invest, or expend Academy money; borrow money and pledge Academy funds for repayment; and qualify for State-School Aid and other public or private money from local, regional, State, or Federal sources.

The Academy may enter into agreements or cooperative arrangements with other entities, public or private and may join organizations that assist in performing the functions of the Academy.

The Board has the authority, based on statute, to make decisions or delegate some of its decision-making authority to an Educational Service Provider, regarding the following subjects:

- The policyholder of **an employee** group insurance **benefit** (if the Board employs staff.)
- The starting day for the school year and the amount of student contact time to receive full State school aid.
- The composition of the **Academy's** school-improvement committee(s) **established under M.C.L. 380.1277**.
- Contracting with outside parties for non-instructional support services **provided by an employee group (if the Board employs staff)** including the procedures for obtaining a contract, the identity of the outside party, and the impact on individual staff members **if the employee group is given an opportunity to bid on providing the noninstructional support services**.
- Use of volunteers.
- Decisions regarding the use of experimental or pilot programs including staffing, use of technology, provision of the technology, and the impact on individual staff members.
- Compensation or reimbursement of a staff member for monetary penalties imposed on the staff member under **the Public Employment Relations Act**. (if the Board employs staff).
- Any decision regarding the placement of teachers, or the impact of that decision on an individual employee (if the Board employs staff).
- Decisions about the development, content standards, procedures, adoption and implementation of a performance evaluation system under M.C.L. 380.1249 for teachers and administrators.
- Decisions concerning the content of a teacher's or administrator's performance evaluation or the impact of such decision (if the Board employs staff).
- Decisions concerning the classroom observation of an individual teacher, and the impact of such decision on an individual teacher (if the Board employs staff).
- Decisions about the development, content, standards, procedures, adoption and implementation of the method of performance-based compensation for teachers and administrators in accordance with M.C.L. 380.1250.



- Decisions about how performance evaluation is used to determine the performance-based compensation for teachers and administrators (if the Board employs staff).
- Any requirement that would violate section 10(3), M.C.L. 423.210(3), (**Right to Work Law**).
- Decisions about the development, format, content, and procedures of the notification to parents and legal guardians required under M.C.L. 380.1249a (the requirement to make the notifications is effective with the 2015-2016 school year).

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

For Board Approval

## **REVISED BYLAW – FALL 2018** **FUNCTIONS**

### 0131 Legislative

#### 0131.1 Charter Contract Bylaws and Board Operating Policies

**The Board of Directors shall adopt bylaws and policies for the organization and operation of this Board and the Academy and shall be bound to follow such bylaws and policies.**

Policies that are not dictated by the statute or rules of the State Department of Education, ordered by the State Board of Education, or directed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or a court of competent authority may be adopted, amended, repealed, or suspended at any meeting of the Board.

The adoption, modification, repeal, or suspension of an Academy policy shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting. All policies shall be printed in the Board Policy manual. Any policy or part of a policy that is superseded by a term in the Charter Contract shall no longer be in force or effect as a policy.

Board policies that are neither dictated by the statutes or rules of the State of Michigan nor ordered by either the Charter Contract of the authorizing institution or a court of competent authority may be adopted, amended, and repealed at any meeting of the Board provided the proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal was proposed at a previous Board of Directors meeting and, once proposed, remained on the agenda of each succeeding Board of Directors meeting until approved or rejected.

By laws and policies shall be adopted, amended, repealed or suspended by a majority vote of the Board.

Periodically, it may be deemed necessary to make technical corrections to policies that have already been adopted through normal procedures. These technical corrections may include statutory references, scrivener's errors, renumbering that does not change the order of the sections or subsections, grammatical corrections or additions including punctuation or typographical errors, as well as alterations and omissions not affecting the construction or meaning of any sections, subsections, chapters, titles, or policies as a whole. Technical corrections may also include the updating of the named individuals in these policies where the originally named individual no longer works for the Academy or no longer works in the applicable position. Should the Board choose to make such technical corrections, it may be accomplished by resolution without going through the normal policy adoption procedures.

The Board may adopt, amend, or repeal rules of order for its own operation by simple resolution of the Board passed by a majority of those present and voting.

MCL 450.2223, 450.2231

0132 **Executive**

0132.2 **Administrative Guidelines**

The Board shall develop and delegate to the Administration the responsibility to specify required actions and the detailed arrangements under which the Academy will operate. These detailed arrangements shall constitute the Administrative Guidelines governing the Academy and shall be consistent with statutes or regulations of the State Department of Education, the policies of this Board, the provisions of the Charter Contract, and the contractual agreement with the Educational Service Provider.

- A. When issued and approved, such Administrative Guidelines shall be binding on the staff and the students of this Academy.
- B. The Board shall delegate authority to the Administration to take necessary action in circumstances not provided for in Board policy or Administrative Guidelines, provided such action, if material, shall be reported to the Board at the next meeting following such action.

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised** 9/17/14

For Board Approval

**REVISED BYLAW – FALL 2018**  
**REVISED BYLAW – SPRING 2018**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

0141 **Number**

The members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the number established within the provisions of the Charter Contract.

0142 **Appointment**

0142.1 **Term**

Each Board member shall be appointed for a term, the length of which is set by the Charter Contract. A member may serve additional terms.

0142.2 **Oath**

Each Board member must swear or affirm and file the oath of public officers established at Art. XI § 1 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 within the timelines established in the Charter Contract and applicable law.

0142.3 **Vacancies**

(See Provision of Charter Contract Bylaws.)

0142.31 **Filling a Board Vacancy**

(See Provision of the Charter Contract Bylaws.)

0142.4 **Orientation**

The preparation of each Board member for the performance of Board duties is essential to the effective functioning of the Board. The Board shall encourage each new Board member to understand the functions of the Board, acquire knowledge of matters related to the operation of the Academy, and learn Board procedures. Accordingly, in conjunction with the Authorizer and the Educational Service Provider, the Board shall give copies of the following items to new Board members no later than their first regular meeting as Board members for their use and possession during their term on the Board:

- A. the Charter Contract;
- B. the Board Policies Manual;
- C. the current budget statement, audit report, and related fiscal materials;
- D. the student handbook;
- E. the staff handbook;

- F. the Open Meetings Act;
- G. materials concerning the conduct of meetings (standard agenda, recording minutes, handling of a motion); and
- H. other materials, as deemed appropriate by the Board.
- I. The Board will provide and maintain a library of publications and reference materials for the use of Board members.

Each new Board member shall be invited to meet with the Board President, Educational Service Provider representative, and Director to discuss Board functions, policies, procedures, and provisions of the Charter Contract.

The Board shall encourage the attendance of each new Board member at orientation and training meetings.

0143 **Authority**  
MCL 15.261 et seq.

Individual members of the Board do not possess the powers that reside in the Board of Directors. The Board speaks through approval of actions reflected in its minutes, not through its individual members. An act of the Board shall not be valid unless approved by majority vote of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. (See Charter Contract Bylaws.)

No member of the Board shall be denied documents or information to which he/she is legally entitled and that are required in the performance of his/her duties as a Board member.

0143.1 **Public Expression of Board Members**

The Board President functions as the official spokesperson for the Board. Occasionally, however, individual Board members **will** make public statements on Academy matters.

**If** such statements imply, or **if** the readers (listeners) **could** infer that the opinions expressed or statements made are the official positions of the Board, **the Board members shall**, when writing or speaking on Academy matters make it clear that their views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board or those of their colleagues on the Board.

This policy shall apply to all statements and/or writings by individual Board members that are not explicitly sanctioned by a majority of its members, except as follows:

- A. correspondence, such as legislative proposals, when the Board member has received official guidance from the Board on the matters discussed in the letter;
- B. routine "thank you" letters of the Board;

- C. statements by Board members on non-Academy matters (providing the statements do not identify the author as a member of the Board); or
- D. personal statements not intended for publication.
- E. **A Board member's personal or private use of social media may have unintended, negative consequences to the Board member and/or the Academy, including possible violations of the Open Meetings Act and issues relating to creation of a public record. Postings to social media should be done in a manner sensitive to the Board member's responsibilities, applicable Academy policies, and legal obligations.**

## 0144 Operations

### 0144.1 Compensation

Board members shall not receive annual compensation for service as a Board Member.

### 0144.11 Reimbursement of Expenses

Reference: MCL 380.1254; MCL 388.1764b

The Board shall pay or cause to be paid the actual and necessary expenses of its members in the discharge of official duties or in the performance of functions authorized by the Board. The expenditure shall be a public record and shall be made available to a person upon request.

The Board shall approve payment of an expense incurred by a Board member only if either (1) the Board, by a majority vote of its members at an open meeting, approved reimbursement of the specific expense before the expense was incurred, or (2) the expense is consistent with the following policy, and the Board approves the reimbursement before it is actually paid:

The following categories of expenses shall be reimbursable:

- A. Mileage for Board-related activities and meetings, not to exceed the then-current rate established by the Internal Revenue Service;
- B. Expenses of attending a Board-approved conference, including fees, parking, mileage, meals and housing
- C. Expenses related to purchase of printed or other materials relating to Board membership; and
- D. Expenses of attending a community or Academy-related event, if the individual attends as the designated representative of the Board.

The following categories of expenses shall not be reimbursable:

- A. Expenses of attending a community or Academy-related event, if the individual attends as a private citizen;
- B. Entertainment expenses; and
- C. The purchase of alcoholic beverages.

A voucher detailing the amount and nature of each expense must be submitted to the Academy Board for approval at a Board meeting, prior to reimbursement.

0144.2 **Board Member Ethics**

Reference: Board of Directors, National School Boards Association

Members of the Board of Directors will strive to improve public education. To that end, Board members will do the following:

- A. attend all regularly scheduled and special Board meetings, insofar as possible, and stay informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
- B. endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;
- C. render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment, refusing to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- D. encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members and seek systematic communications among the Board and students, staff, and all elements of the community;
- E. work with the other Board members to establish effective Board policies and delegate authority for the administration of the Academy;
- F. communicate to other Board members and the Educational Service Provider expressions of public reaction to Board policies and Academy programs;
- G. inform themselves concerning current educational issues through individual study and participation in programs, which provide relevant information;
- H. support the employment of persons best qualified to serve as staff, and insist on regular and impartial evaluations of all staff;
- I. avoid conflict of interest and refrain from using their Board positions for personal or partisan gain;
- J. take no private action that may compromise the Board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
- K. remember that their first and greatest concern must be for the educational welfare of the students attending the Academy;
- L. observe all applicable statutory limitations and duties regarding conflicts of interest;

- M. avoid actions or behaviors that if done by a Board Member in a Board meeting or as a Board representative that would amount to grounds for dismissal from the Board. For examples, misrepresenting the Board's position to the general public; disrespect of another Board Member in public; acting without authority of the Board; violations of the FOIA or the transparency required of public officials;
- N. avoid interfering with the ongoing operation of the school itself or of any of the administrators or teachers;
- O. avoid interfering with the contract with Ombudsman or any other contractual obligation of the Board.

0144.3 **Conflict of Interest**  
MCL 15.323; 380.1203, 450.2545a

Board members shall perform their official duties free from any conflict of interest. To this end, no Board member shall use his/her position as a Board member to benefit either himself/herself or any other individual or agency, apart from the total interest of the Academy.

When a member of the Board suspects the possibility of a personal interest conflict, he/she should disclose his/her interest (such disclosure shall become a matter of record in the minutes of the Board) and thereafter abstain from any participation in both the discussion of the matter and the vote thereon.

If a Board member's financial interest pertains to a proposed contract with the Academy, the following requirements must be met:

- A. The Board member shall disclose the financial interest in the contract to the Board with such disclosure made a part of the official Board minutes. If his/her direct financial interest amounts to \$250 or more, or five percent (5%) or more of the contract cost to the Academy, the Board member shall make the disclosure in one of two (2) ways:
  - 1. In writing, to the Board President (or, if the member is the Board President, to the Board Secretary) at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the contract will be taken. The disclosure shall be made public in the same manner as the Board's notices of its public meetings. (See Board Operating Policy 0165.)
  - 2. By verbal announcement at a meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which a vote on the contract is to be taken. The Board member must use this method of disclosure if his/her financial interest amounts to \$5,000 or more.
- B. Any contract in which there is a conflict of interest, as defined by this Policy and the related statute (MCL 15.321 et seq.), must be



approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the full Board (excluding the vote of any Board member with a financial interest).

However, if a majority of the members of the Board are required to abstain from voting on a contract or other financial transaction due to a financial interest, then for the purposes of that contract or other financial transaction, the members who are not required to abstain constitute a quorum of the board and only a majority of those members eligible to vote is required for approval of the contract or financial transaction.

- C. A member of the Board is presumed to have a conflict of interest if the member or his/her family member has a financial interest, or a competing financial interest, in the contract or other financial transaction or is an employee of or at the Academy.

Having a child in the Academy does not alone constitute a conflict of interest or financial interest in a contract or other financial transaction of the Academy.

“Family member” means a person’s spouse or spouse’s sibling or child; a person’s sibling or sibling’s spouse or child; a person’s child or child’s spouse; or a person’s parent or parent’s spouse, and includes these relationships as created by adoption or marriage.

A Board member is not considered to have a financial interest in any of the following instances:

1. A contract or other financial transaction between the Academy and any of the following:
  - a. A corporation in which the individual is a stockholder owning 1% or less of the total stock outstanding in any class if the stock is not listed on a stock exchange or owning stock that has a present market value of \$25,000.00 or less if the stock is listed on a stock exchange.
  - b. A corporation in which a trust, if the individual is a beneficiary under the trust, owns 1% or less of the total stock outstanding in any class if the stock is not listed on a stock exchange or owns stock that has a present market value of \$25,000.00 or less if the stock is listed on a stock exchange.
  - c. A professional limited liability company organized pursuant to the Michigan limited liability company act, if the individual is an employee but not a member of the company.

2. A contract or other financial transaction between the Academy and any of the following:

- a. A corporation in which the individual is not a director, officer, or employee.
  - b. A firm, partnership, or other unincorporated association, in which the individual is not a partner, member, or employee.
  - c. A corporation or firm that has an indebtedness owed to the individual.
3. A contract awarded to the lowest qualified bidder, upon receipt of sealed bids pursuant to a published notice for bids if the notice does not bar, except as authorized by law, any qualified person, firm, corporation, or trust from bidding. This does not apply to any amendments or renegotiations of a contract or to additional payments under the contract that were not authorized by the contract at the time of award.
- D. The official minutes of the Board must disclose the name of each party involved in the contract, the nature of the financial interest, and the terms of the contract, including the duration; financial consideration between the parties; facilities or services of the Academy included in the contract; and the nature and degree of assignment of Academy staff needed to fulfill the contract.
- E. A Board member with a conflict of interest in a contract may not participate in the discussion of nor vote on the contract.

Board members shall not solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts.

0144.4 **Indemnification**  
MCL 691.1408, 450.2561 – 2569

The Board may hold Directors and Officers harmless and may indemnify, pay, settle, or compromise a judgment against a Board member to the extent allowed under the law. The Board may also purchase Errors and Omissions insurance coverage for the Board of Directors.

0145 **Discriminatory Harassment**  
MCL 37.1101 et seq., 37.2101 et seq.

The intent of the Board of Directors is to provide an environment that fosters the respect and dignity of each person. To this end, the Board is committed to the maintenance of an environment free of harassment and intimidation.

Harassment of students, persons providing services to the Academy, and employees on the basis of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or any other legally protected characteristic in its educational programs or activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. See Policy 5517.

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 3/8/16; 7/12/16

For Board Approval

## **REVISED BYLAW – FALL 2018** **MEETINGS**

0161 **Parliamentary Authority**

The parliamentary authority governing the Board of Directors shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised or the rules of order of this Board.

0162 **Quorum**

In order to legally transact business, the Academy Board shall have a quorum physically present at a duly called meeting of the Academy Board. A "quorum" shall be defined as follows:

<u># of Academy Board Positions</u>	<u># Required for Quorum</u>
Five (5)	Three (3)
Seven (7)	Four (4)
Nine (9)	Five (5)

**Manner of Acting**

The Academy board shall be considered to have "acted," when a duly called meeting of the Academy Board has a quorum present and the number of Academy Board members voting in favor of an action is as follows:

<u># of Academy Board Positions</u>	<u># for Quorum</u>	<u># required to act</u>
Five (5)	Three (3)	Three (3)
Seven (7)	Four (4)	Four (4)
Nine (9)	Five (5)	Five (5)

0163 **Presiding Officer**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board. In the absence, disability, or disqualification of the President, the Vice-President shall act instead; if neither person is available, any member shall be designated by a plurality of those present to preside. The act of any person so designated shall be legal and binding.

0164 **Call**

0164.1 **Regular Meetings**

The Board shall hold a meeting at least once each month on a date and at a time and place determined annually by a resolution of the Board.

0164.2 **Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by any two (2) members of the Board provided there is compliance with the notice

provision of these Bylaws.

0164.3 **Emergency Meetings**

In the event of a severe and imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the Academy, its personnel, or students, any member of the Board may call an emergency session provided the majority of the Board concur that delay would be detrimental to efforts to lessen or respond to the threat. Actual notice of any emergency meeting shall be attempted, but not required to other Board members.

0165 **Notice**

0165.1 **Posting Notice of Regular Meetings**

Within ten (10) days after the organizational Board meeting, the Board shall cause to be posted at the Board office and in other locations considered appropriate by the Board, a notice listing the date, time, and place of each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The notice shall contain the name and address of the Academy and its telephone number.

The notice shall also contain the following statement:

"Upon request to the Board President, the Academy shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting."

Upon the written request of an individual, organization, firm, or corporation, and upon the requesting party's payment of a yearly fee of not more than the estimated reasonable cost for printing and postage of each notice as shall be determined annually by the Board, the Academy shall send to the requesting party by first-class mail a copy of any notice required to be posted by these bylaws. The news media shall be entitled to receive, at their request, copies of such notices free of charge.

0165.2 **Change of Regular Meetings**

Within three (3) days after the Board adopts a resolution changing the date, time, or place of a regularly scheduled meeting, the meeting notice shall state the date, time, and place of the rescheduled meeting, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the Academy. Said notice shall be posted on the front door of the building and such other place(s) as the Board may determine. Said notice shall be posted at least eighteen (18) hours before the rescheduled meeting.

MCL 15.264, 15.266

0165.3 **Posting Notice of Special Meetings**

Said notice shall state the date, time, and place of such special meeting and the business to be transacted thereat, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the Academy. A notice of any special meeting shall be posted at least eighteen (18) hours before said special meeting at the Board office and such other places as the Board may determine. A

copy of said notice shall be served upon each member of the Board.

0165.4 **Posting Notice of Emergency Meetings**

No notice of any emergency meeting shall be required.

0165.5 **Recess**

Any meeting of the Board may be recessed to another time and place. Any meeting which is recessed for more than thirty-six (36) hours shall be reconvened only after a notice stating the date, time, and place of the recessed meeting as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the Academy has been posted on the front door and such other place as the Board may determine for at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time the meeting is to be reconvened.

MCL 15.265, 380.1201(3)(4)

0165.6 **Cancellation**

**Any meeting of the Board may be cancelled for appropriate purposes, which shall include, but not be limited to, inclement weather, lack of a quorum, or conflict with a special event relating to the Academy. If the cancelled meeting is a regular meeting it must be re-scheduled following all notice requirements set forth above.**

**M.C.L. 15.265, 380.1201(3)(4)**

0166 **Agenda**

The Board President shall prepare and submit to each Board member a written agenda prior to each regular meeting and each special meeting, unless otherwise directed by the Board. The agenda shall list the various matters to come before the Board and shall serve as a guide for the order of procedure for the meeting. Individual Board members may include items on the agenda upon the concurrence of the Board President.

The agenda of the regular monthly meeting or special meetings shall be accompanied by a report from the Director on information relating to the Academy with such recommendations as s/he shall make.

Each agenda shall contain the following statement:

"This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in agenda."

**Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Educational Service Provider no later than seven (7) days prior to the meeting and include:**

- A. name and address of the participant;
- B. group affiliation, if and when appropriate;
- C. topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be subject to the final approval of the Educational Service Provider or the Board President.

Denial of the opportunity to have an item placed on the agenda will not preclude an individual or group from the opportunity to speak during the public participation portion of the meeting.

The agenda for each regular meeting shall be mailed or delivered to each Board member so as to provide proper time for the member to study the agenda. Generally, the agenda should be mailed no later than three (3) days prior to the meeting, or delivered so as to provide time for the study of the agenda by the member. The agenda for a special meeting shall be delivered at least twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting, consistent with provisions calling for special meetings.

The Board shall transact business according to the agenda prepared by the Board President and submitted to all Board members in advance of the meeting. The order of business may be altered and items added at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

0166.1

#### **Consent Agenda**

The Board of Directors shall use a consent agenda to keep routine matters within a reasonable time frame.

The following routine business items may be included in a consent motion to include:

- A. minutes of prior meetings
- B. bills for payment
- C. hiring of personnel
- D. resolutions that require annual adoption, such as bank signatories, Michigan High School Athletic Association membership, etc.
- E. resignations and leaves

A member of the Board may request any item to be removed from the consent resolution and defer it for a specific action and more discussion. No vote of the Board will be required to remove an item from the consent agenda. A single member's request shall cause it to be relocated as an action item eligible for discussion. Any item on the consent agenda may be removed and discussed as a nonaction item or be deferred for further study and discussion at a subsequent Board meeting if any Board member thinks the item requires further discussion.

0167                    **Conduct**

0167.1                **Voting**

All regular and those special meetings of the Board at which the Board is authorized to perform business shall be conducted in public. No act shall be valid unless approved at a meeting of the Board by a majority vote of the members elected or appointed to and serving on the Board **who are authorized to vote (see Voting as defined in Bylaw 0100)** and a proper record made of the vote. Meetings of the Board shall be public and no person shall be excluded therefrom. MCL 380.1201

Unless specifically authorized by Michigan conflict of interest laws, any Board member's decision to abstain shall be recorded and be deemed to acquiesce in the action taken by the majority. Failure to vote, absent a statutory exception **or other reasonable ethical basis**, constitutes a breach of the Board member's duty as a public official. In situations in which a specified number of affirmative votes are required and abstentions have been noted, the motion shall fail if the specified number of affirmative votes have not been cast. In situations in which there is a tie vote and the abstention represents the deciding vote, the motion shall fail for lack of a majority. 184 Mich App 681, 684 (1990)

All actions requiring a vote may be conducted by voice, show of hands, or roll call provided that the vote of each member be recorded. Proxy voting shall not be permitted. **If a vote is not conducted by roll call**, any member may request **a roll call vote**.

0167.2                **Closed Session**

The Board may by means of a roll call vote meet in a closed session, one closed to the public, for the following purposes:

- A. to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing (a majority vote is required)
- B. to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student only if the student or student's parents request a closed hearing (a majority vote is required) (Also see Bylaw 0169, Student Disciplinary Hearings)
- C. for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collectively-bargained agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing (a majority vote is required)
- D. to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained (a two-thirds (2/3's) vote is required)
- E. to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only if an open meeting



would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body (a two-thirds (2/3's) vote is required)

- F. to consider materials exempt from discussion **or disclosure under State or Federal statute, including by the way of example only, written opinions of legal counsel, and school safety plans** (a two-thirds (2/3's) vote is required)
- G. to review the specific contents of an application for employment or appointment if the candidate requests that the application remain confidential (a two-thirds (2/3's) vote is required)

However, all interviews for employment or appointment of the Educational Service Provider shall be held in an open meeting of the Board.

0167.3

### **Public Participation at Board Meetings**

In keeping with the confidential nature of closed sessions, no member of the Board shall disclose the content of discussions that take place during such sessions. The only exceptions will be discussions with the Academy's legal counsel or as directed by an order of a court with proper jurisdiction.

It is expected that Board members shall not record nor communicate by any means, electronic or otherwise, with party or parties outside such meetings regarding the substance of such meetings either during or after the course of such meetings.

MCL 15.267, 15.268

The Board of Directors recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at public meetings of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation in Board meetings and in Board committee meetings. **The rules shall be administered and enforced by the presiding officer of the meeting.**

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the printed agenda.
- B. Anyone with concerns related to the operation of the schools or to matters within the authority of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name;

1. address;

2. group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration.
  - E. No participant may speak more than once.
  - F. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.
  - G. The presiding officer may:
    1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
    2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
    3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
    4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
    5. call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action;
    6. waive these rules. with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

Tape or video recordings are permitted subject to the following conditions:

- A. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.
- B. No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.
- C. No commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience while the Board is in session.

The person operating the recorder should contact the Director prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment.

MCL 15.263(4)(5)(6), 380.1808

0167.4           **Administrative Participation**

The Director and those administrators directed by the Director shall attend all meetings, when feasible.

0167.5           **Use of Electronic Mail**

Since E-mail is a form of communication that could conflict with the Open-Meetings Law, it will be used to conduct business of the Board only for the purposes of communicating:

- A.       times, dates, and places of regular or special Board meetings;
- B.       a Board meeting agenda or public record information concerning items on the agenda;
- C.       requests for public record information from a member of the administration, school staff, or community pertaining to Academy operations;
- D.       responses to questions posed by members of the public, administrators, or school staff.

Under no circumstances shall Board members use E-mail to discuss among themselves Board business that is only to be discussed in an open meeting of the Board, is part of an executive session, or could be considered an invasion of privacy if the message were to be monitored by another party.

There should be no expectation of privacy for any messages sent by E-mail. Messages that have been deleted may still be accessible on the hard drive, if the space has not been occupied by other messages. Messages, deleted or otherwise, may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, unless an exemption would apply.

0167.6           **Use of Social Media**

**Social Media, as defined in Bylaw 0100, shall not be used to conduct any form of Board business.**

0168           **Minutes**

0168.1          **Open Meeting**

The Secretary, or a temporary secretary appointed by the presiding officer, shall designate a person to keep minutes of each meeting showing the date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decisions made at a meeting open to the public, and the purpose or purposes for which a closed session is called. These minutes must be approved by the Board and endorsed by the Secretary at the next meeting. The minutes shall include all roll-call votes taken at the meeting. Proposed minutes shall be available for public inspection not later than eight (8) business days after the meeting to which the minutes refer. Approved minutes shall be available for public inspection not later than five (5) business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. The minutes shall be available for inspection at the Director's office and shall be available for purchase at a fee estimated

by the business office to cover the cost of printing and copying.

The Board Secretary shall not include in or with its minutes any personally identifiable information on any student of the Academy which if released, would prevent the public body from complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

The official minutes shall be bound together by years and kept in the office of the Board of Directors.

Minutes of the preceding meetings shall be approved by the Board as its first order of business at its next meeting.

The minutes shall show only action taken.

- A. and if requested, remarks of
- B. Board members
- C. administration.
- D. citizens present.

MCL 15.269, 380.1201

0168.2 **Closed Meeting**

The Board shall designate a person to keep separate minutes of each closed meeting of the Board. These minutes shall be retained by the Secretary of the Board, but shall not be available to the public and shall only be disclosed if required by a civil action filed under MCL 15.270 et seq. These minutes may be destroyed one (1) year and one (1) day after approval of the minutes of the regular meeting at which the closed session was approved.

MCL 15.267, 15.269, 15.270-71, 15.273

0168.3 **Committee Meetings**

Any Board committee, whether standing or appointed ad hoc, which exercises governmental or proprietary authority must comply with the Open Meetings provisions in 0168.1 and 0168.2, and Public Participation provisions in 0167.3. Committees that are empowered to take action, make recommendations or otherwise deliberate in place of the Board are subject to this requirement.

0169 **Student Disciplinary Hearings**

0169.1      **Closed Session Requested**

If parent or student requests a closed hearing, a vote must be taken. The purpose of the closed session should be announced: "To consider a student disciplinary matter, pursuant to the request of the parent/guardian" (**NOTE: Do not use the name since that could identify the student**). A majority is required to go into a closed session.

Those invited into closed session should include the student, parent(s) and/or representative(s) and school administrator(s) bringing charges. Others may be admitted at Board discretion, if needed for the proceeding or at the request of student/parents.

Witnesses should be admitted when needed to testify. They should be asked to leave the closed session after testifying. Witnesses may be required to affirm that they will tell the truth.

The Administration should present a summary of the requested discipline and an overview of the incident(s) supporting discipline. The Administration shall call and question witnesses as it determines appropriate. The administrator may testify as a witness to the results of his/her investigation of the incident and the student's past record.

The student, parent, or representative (only one (1)) should be allowed to ask the witness(es) questions related to issues reasonably related to the discipline. Additional questioning by the Administration, the student/representative and/or the Board may be allowed at the Board's discretion.

The student, parent, or representative may then present witnesses or statements to the Board. The Administration and/or the Board may ask questions of these individuals. The Board may allow additional questioning at its discretion.

When the presentation of evidence is concluded, the Board will deliberate. It may exclude both the Administration and the student and representatives, or allow both sides to remain. If the Board desires clarification of any testimony during its deliberation, it shall assure that both the Administration and the student are present to hear the information.

The Board shall not take any action in the closed session. To act on the discipline the Board must return to open session. This requires a majority vote.

During the open session the name of the student shall not be used in voting on the discipline, to protect student privacy under the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The student may be referred to by a Code Number or Pseudonym (i.e. Student A). Only the reference code shall be indicated in the Board minutes, NOT the student's actual name. The reference code shall be listed in the student's discipline file.

If, at any time during the hearing, the student, parent or authorized representative withdraws the request for a closed hearing, the matter shall proceed under the open hearing provisions.

0169.2      **Open Hearing**

If the student, parent or authorized representative does not request a closed hearing, the Board must still assure that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is not violated.

The parents (or student if eighteen (18) or older) should sign an authorization to release student record information to allow discussion of the student's information in the public forum. If the parents refuse to sign the authorization or information relating to other students must be presented at the hearing, it should be done anonymously by referring to students by Code Numbers or Pseudonyms. If this is not possible, then the Board may go into closed session to receive student identifiable information pursuant to a two-thirds (2/3's) roll call vote for the announced purpose of "Considering material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State or Federal law."

In all other respects the hearing shall proceed as outlined under the Closed Hearing.

The Board must deliberate and act on the discipline in open session. The student, parents, administration and public will be allowed to be present. Students/parents who have not authorized disclosure to the public will not be mentioned by name during deliberations, but only by anonymous reference code. Any action must be by a vote of the Board in open session. If the student/parents have signed an authorization for public disclosure, then the student's name may be used in the motion and recorded in the Board minutes.

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised** 6/10/14; 12/12/17

For Board

1000 **ADMINISTRATION**

1110	Assessment of Academy's Goals	
<b>1130</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>L</b>
1210	Board – Administration Relationship	BP
1217	Weapons	BP
1230	Responsibilities of the Administration	BP
1230.01	Development of Administrative Guidelines	BP
1240	Evaluation of the Educational Service Provider	BP
1400	Job Descriptions	
1420	Academy Administrator and Director Evaluation	BP
<b>1421</b>	<b>Criminal History Record Check</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>1422</b>	<b>Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity</b>	<b>L</b>
1422.02	Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee	BP
<b>1439</b>	<b>Administrator Discipline</b>	<b>L</b>
1460	Physical Examination	BP
1461	Unrequested Leaves of Absence/Fitness for Duty	BP
1613	Student Supervision and Welfare	BP
<b>1623</b>	<b>Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>1662</b>	<b>Anti – Harassment</b>	<b>L</b>

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 9/17/14; 3/10/15; 9/8/15; 3/8/16; 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018**

# **NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Reference: M.C.L. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq.  
Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution  
20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act  
20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974  
20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act  
42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93)  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964  
29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635

It is the expectation of the Board of Directors that the Educational Service Provider will prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

### **Academy Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the Academy's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs")

[NOTE: Academies are advised to appoint both a male and female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the Academy's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO.]

Center Director  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

- a. in the staff handbooks.
- b. on the Academy's web site.
- c. in the student handbook.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the Academy's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the Academy's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination/retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the



Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the Academy's collective bargaining agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above. In addition, any gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

### Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation

Employees are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other Academy official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other Academy official or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO within two (2) school days.

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the discrimination/retaliation or the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Educational Service Provider or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Academy community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact the employee within two (2) business days to advise him/her of the Board's intent to investigate the wrongdoing.

### Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 1422 F2)

Any employee who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make

every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

### Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop quickly inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for an employee who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (the alleged target of the discrimination/retaliation and individual(s) alleged to have engaged in the discrimination) agree to participate in it.

Employees who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a Academy employee or any other adult member of the Academy community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the person who engaged in the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct that it is inappropriate and must stop. The complaining individual should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the person who allegedly engaged in the unlawful conduct of his/her concerns is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination, such as sexual discrimination, the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a building administrator; (2) directly to one of the COs; and/or (3) to the Educational Service Provider or other Academy official.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The Academy's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees who believe they are being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate his/her concerns to the person who allegedly engaged in the discriminatory/retaliatory behavior.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 1422—Non-Discrimination as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming discrimination/retaliation and the individual accused of engaging in the misconduct to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

#### Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a principal, the CO, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy official. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a principal, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy official, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination/retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

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

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take

whatever actions s/he deems appropriate in consultation with the Educational Service Provider.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 1422 - Non-Discrimination. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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

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

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Educational Service Provider that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Educational Service Provider.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or the designee, the Educational Service Provider must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Educational Service Provider's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Educational Service Provider requests additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Educational Service Provider determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, s/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Educational Service Provider may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Educational Service Provider's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

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

The Complainant may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

#### Privacy/Confidentiality

The Academy will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent(s).

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

#### Sanctions and Monitoring

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Educational Service Provider shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged

conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Educational Service Provider shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

#### Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

#### Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Educational Service Provider or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the Academy community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for Academy students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

#### Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

**All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:**

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;**
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;**
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Academy personnel related to the investigation and/or the Academy's response to the alleged violation of this policy;**
- D. written witness statements;**
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;**

- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);**
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;**
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;**
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;**
- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;**
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;**
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the Academy to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the Academy at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);**
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;**
- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**

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

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

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 9/17/14

For Board Approval



## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **ANTI-HARASSMENT**

Reference: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.  
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA) 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967  
29 U.S.C. 6101, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.  
42 U.S.C. 1983  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635  
Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.  
29 U.S.C. 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
The Handicappers' Civil Rights Act, M.C.L.A. 37.1101 et seq.  
The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, M.C.L.A. 37.2101, et seq.  
Policies on Bullying, Michigan State Board of Education, 7-19-01  
Model Anti-bullying Policy, Michigan State Board of Education, 09-2006  
National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis – May 2008

### **General Policy Statement**

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

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

For purposes of this policy, "Academy community" means students, administrators, and professional and support staff, as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

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

### Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

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

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

### Definitions

#### Bullying

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

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

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

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

### Sexual Harassment

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

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

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

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

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

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, jokes or

- innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, which may embarrass or offend individuals.
  - F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
  - G. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
  - H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
  - I. In the context of employees, consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
  - J. Inappropriate boundary invasions by an Academy employee or other adult member of the Academy community into a student's personal space and personal life.
  - K. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

NOTE: Sexual conduct/relationships with students by Academy employees or any other adult member of the Academy community is prohibited, and any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery". The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge and/or with respect to the application of this policy to Academy employees or other adult members of the Academy community.

#### Race/Color Harassment

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

### Religious (Creed) Harassment

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

### National Origin/Ancestry Harassment

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

### Disability Harassment

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

### Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Members of the Academy community, which includes all staff, and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor or other Academy official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other Academy official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the Academy's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer at his/her first convenience.

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

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the

Educational Service Provider believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Educational Service Provider will report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the Educational Service Provider shall suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Educational Service Provider informed of the status of the 1662 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

#### Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the Academy. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

[NOTE: Academies are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. In addition, the Compliance Officers may also serve as the Academy's Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators.]

Amber Long  
Director  
269-353-4193  
6750 Chime St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the parent and staff handbooks.

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

Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the Academy community alleging harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Educational Service Provider or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Academy community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) business days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to

investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

#### Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 1662 F1)

Any employee or other member of the Academy community or third party (e.g., visitor to the Academy) who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The informal and formal procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

#### Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the Academy community, or third party who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint and will only be utilized where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in such process.

Employees, other members of the Academy community, or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving an Academy employee, any other adult member of the Academy community, or a third party against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing

an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) directly to one of the Compliance Officers; and/or (3) to the Educational Service Provider.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The Academy's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the Academy community, or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful harassment, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

#### Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes she/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, Principal, the Compliance Officer, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential



witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, Principal, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

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

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the alleged harasser. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Educational Service Provider.

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

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing or retaliatory conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent", that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant Administrative Guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment Policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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

The investigation will include:

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Educational Service Provider that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Educational Service Provider.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Educational Service Provider must either issue a final decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Educational Service Provider's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Educational Service Provider requests additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must issue a final written decision as described above.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Educational Service Provider may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the date of the Educational Service Provider's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

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

#### Privacy/Confidentiality

The Academy will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants

proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will instruct all members of the Academy community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation.

### Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

### Retaliation

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

### Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any Academy teacher or Academy employee who knows or suspects that a child under the age of eighteen (18) **or that a person with a disability receiving services as a student from the Academy regardless of age** has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

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

### Education and Training

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

### Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Academy personnel related to the investigation and/or the Academy's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;

- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the Academy to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the Academy at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]

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

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

Adopted 2/11/14  
Revised

2000 PROGRAM

2105	Mission of the Academy	BP
2110	Statement of Philosophy	BP
<b>2112</b>	<b>Parent and Family Engagement</b>	<b>L**</b>
2120	School Improvement	
2131	Educational Outcomes for Students	
2132	Educational Process Goals	
2210	Curriculum Development	
2210.01	Right to Inspect Instructional Materials	BP
2220	Adoption of Courses of Study	BP
2221	Mandatory Courses	BP
2225	Students with Limited English Proficiency	BP
2231	Curriculum	BP
2250	Innovative Programs	BP
<b>2260</b>	<b>Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2260.01</b>	<b>Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2261</b>	<b>Title I Services</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2261.01</b>	<b>Parent and Family Member Participation in Title I Programs</b>	<b>L**</b>
2261.02	Title I – Parent’s Right to Know	BP
<b>2261.03</b>	<b>Academy and School Report Card</b>	<b>L</b>
2270	Religion in the Curriculum	BP
<b>2271</b>	<b>Post-Secondary (Dual) Enrollment Option Program</b>	<b>L</b>
2330	Homework	BP
2340	Field and Other School-Sponsored Trips	BP
2370	Educational Options	BP
2370.01	On-Line/Blended Learning Program	BP
<b>2410</b>	<b>Prohibition of Referral or Assistance</b>	<b>L</b>
2411	Guidance and Counseling	BP
2413	Health Education Program	BP
<b>2414</b>	<b>Reproductive Health and Family Planning</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2416</b>	<b>Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information (FERPA)</b>	<b>L</b>
2430	School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities	BP
<b>2460</b>	<b>Education of Children with Disabilities</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>2460.02</b>	<b>Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Position Statement</b>	<b>L</b>
2510	Adoption of Textbooks	BP
2521	Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment	BP
2531	Copyrighted Works	BP
2605	Program Accountability and Evaluation	BP
<b>2623</b>	<b>Student Assessment</b>	<b>L</b>
2628	State Aid Incentives	BP

**2700 P.A. 25 Annual Report**

**L\*\***

\*\* Legally Required for Schools receiving funds under ESEA.

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 9/17/14; 3/10/15; 9/8/15; 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

For Board Approval

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Reference: Sec. 1112, 1116 ESEA  
MCL 380.1294

The Board of Directors recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents **and family members** in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism. **This policy shall serve as the Academy policy.**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), defines the term "parent" to include a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

The term "family" is used in order to include a child's primary caregivers, who are not the biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, other family members and responsible adults who play significant roles in providing for the well-being of the child.

Family engagement is a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development and health of every learner. The principles of family engagement include: relationships as the cornerstone; positive learning environments; efforts tailored to address all families, so all learners are successful; purposeful and intentional efforts that clearly identify learner outcomes; and engaging and supporting families as partners in their child's education.

Through this policy, the Board directs the establishment of a Parental **and Family Engagement** Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parent of each child in the Academy. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication. The Parental **and Family Engagement** Plan shall reflect the Board's commitment to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

1. cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
2. providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools;<sup>1,2</sup>



3. **providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers;**<sup>1,2</sup>
4. providing coordination, technical support and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family **engagement** activities.<sup>2</sup>

B. Effective Communication

1. providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
2. providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities;<sup>1,2</sup>
3. promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
4. communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable;<sup>1,2</sup>
5. providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress;<sup>2</sup>
6. providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Michigan's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions;<sup>1,2</sup>
7. preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff.<sup>1,2</sup>

C. Volunteer Opportunities

1. providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities;<sup>2</sup>
2. supporting other needs, such as transportation and child care, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family **engagement** events.<sup>2</sup>

D. Learning at Home

1. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school;<sup>1,2</sup>
2. working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;
3. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home.<sup>1</sup>

E. **Engaging Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

1. **engaging** families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning;<sup>2</sup>
2. **engaging** families in the development of its Academy-wide parent **and family engagement** policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families.<sup>1,2</sup>

F. **Collaborating with the Community**

1. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources;<sup>1,2</sup>
2. coordinating and integrating **parent and family engagement** programs and activities with Academy initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Implementation**

The Director will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the Academy's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The **Academy's** plan will be distributed to all parents and students through publication in the Student Handbook or other suitable means. The plan will provide for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's **content**, effectiveness and identification of barriers to participation by parents and families **with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background; the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children (including engaging with school personnel and teachers); and the strategies to support successful school and family interaction.** Each school plan will include the development of a written school-parent compact jointly with parents for all children participating in Title I, part A activities, services, and programs. The compact will outline how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family **Engagement** policy and to improve the effectiveness of the Academy plan. **This policy will be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents, families, and the schools.**

<sup>1</sup>Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

<sup>2</sup>Indicates Title I Section 1116 parent **and family engagement**

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Reference: MCL 380.1146, 380.1704, 37.1101 et seq., 37.2402, 37.1402, 37.2101-37.2804  
Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution  
20 USC Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendments Act  
20 USC Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974  
20 USC Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act  
29 USC Section 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
29 CFR Part 1635  
42 USC Section 2000d et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964  
42 USC Section 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
42 USC 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
34 CFR Part 110 (7/27/93)  
Vocational Education Program Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services, Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, March 1979  
42 USC 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship and/or personal sense of self-worth.

As such, the Board of Directors does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry or genetic information in its educational programs or activities and will not permit discrimination in any of these categories from its Educational Service Provider.

The Board also does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind. The Board will not permit discrimination of the employment practices of its Educational Service Provider as they relate to students, and will not tolerate harassment of any kind.

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

In order to achieve the aforesaid goal, the Educational Service Provider shall:

A. Curriculum Content

review current and proposed courses of study and textbooks to detect any bias based ascertaining whether or not supplemental materials, singly or taken as a whole, fairly depict the contribution of both genders, various races, ethnic groups, etc. toward the development of human society;

B. Staff Training

develop an ongoing program of in-service training for school personnel designed to identify and solve problems in all aspects of the program;

C. Student Access

review current and proposed programs, activities, facilities, and practices to ensure that all students have equal access thereto and are not segregated on the basis of any legally protected interest in any duty, work, play, classroom, or school practice, except as may be permitted under State regulations;

verify that facilities are made available, in accordance with Board Policy 7510 - Use of District Facilities, for non-curricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community, including but not limited to any group affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society;

This language does not prohibit the Academy from establishing and maintaining a single-gender school, class, or program within a school if a comparable school, class, or program is made available to students of each gender.

D. Academy Support

verify that like aspects of the Academy program receive like support as to staff size and compensation, purchase and maintenance of facilities and equipment, access to such facilities and equipment, and related matters;

E. Student Evaluation

verify that tests, procedures, or guidance and counseling materials, which are designed to evaluate student progress, rate aptitudes, analyze personality, or in any manner establish or tend to establish a category by which a student may be judged, are not differentiated or stereotyped on the basis of Protected Classes.

Academy Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the Academy's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs")

[NOTE: Academies are advised to appoint both a male and female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the Academy's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO.]

Center Director  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

- a. in the staff handbooks.
- b. on the Academy's web site.
- c. in the student handbook.

The Academy will accommodate the use of certified service animals when there is an established need for such supportive aid in the school environment. Certain restrictions may be applied when necessary due to allergies, health, safety, disability or other issues of those in the classroom or school environment. The goal shall be to provide all students with the same access and participation opportunities provided to other students in school. Confirmation of disability, need for a service animal to access the school programming, and current certification/training of the service animal may be required.

The **COs** are responsible for coordinating the Academy's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the Academy's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

The Educational Service Provider shall annually attempt to identify children with disabilities, ages 0-25, who do not receive a public education.

In addition, s/he shall establish procedures to identify students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), including immigrant children and youth, to assess their ability to participate in Academy programs, and develop and administer a program that meets the English language and academic needs of these students. This program shall include procedures for student placement, services, evaluation and exit guidelines and shall be designed to provide students with effective instruction that leads to academic achievement and timely acquisition of proficiency in English. As a part of this program, the Academy will evaluate the progress of students in achieving English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing, on an annual basis (also see Policy 2225).

#### Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation

Students and all other members of the Academy community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other Academy official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other Academy employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO within two (2) school days.

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

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may constitute unlawful discrimination based on a Protected Class, the Principal shall report the act to one of the COs who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the CO investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend his/her Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the CO's written report. The CO shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 2260 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the discrimination/retaliation or the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Educational Service Provider or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Academy community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

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

#### Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Any student who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The Cleveland Office of the OCR can be reached at 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 325, Cleveland, Ohio 44115; Telephone: (216) 522-4970; Fax: (216) 522-2573; TDD: (216) 522-4944; E-mail: [ocr.cleveland@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.cleveland@ed.gov); Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

### Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to quickly stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (the alleged target of the discrimination and individual(s) alleged to have engaged in the discrimination) agree to participate in it.

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a Academy employee or any other adult member of the Academy community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a student feels that s/he is being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the person who engaged in the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct that it is inappropriate and must stop. The complaining individual should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the person who allegedly engaged in the unlawful conduct of his/her concerns is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination, such as sexual discrimination, the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A student who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Educational Service Provider or other Academy-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the COs.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The Academy's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide students who believe they are being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the student claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the student about how to communicate his/her concerns to the person who allegedly engaged in the discriminatory/retaliatory behavior.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 2260 – Non-Discrimination as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.

- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the student claiming discrimination/retaliation and the individual accused of engaging in the misconduct to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

#### Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one (1) of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the student elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

A student who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant") may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, Principal, or other employee at the student's school, the CO, Educational Service Provider, or another employee who works at another school or at the Academy level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a teacher, Principal, or other employee at the student's school, Educational Service Provider, or other employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination/retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

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

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in; the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person alleged to have engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deems appropriate in consultation with the Educational Service Provider.



Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent") that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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

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

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Educational Service Provider that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if unlawful discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Educational Service Provider.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the Educational Service Provider must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Educational Service Provider's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Educational Service Provider requests additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider shall issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Educational Service Provider determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, s/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Educational Service Provider may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Educational Service Provider's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

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

The Complainant may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a Complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

#### Privacy/Confidentiality

The Academy will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent(s).

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

#### Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

### Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

### Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Educational Service Provider or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the Academy community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for Academy students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

The Academy will endeavor to assist the student and/or his/her parents in their access to Academy programs by providing notices to the parents and students in a language and format that they are likely to understand.

Materials approved by the State Department of Education describing the benefits of instruction in Braille reading and writing shall be provided to each blind student's individualized planning committee. The Academy shall not deny a student the opportunity for instruction in Braille, reading, and writing solely because the student has some remaining vision.

### Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

**All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:**

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;**
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;**
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Academy personnel related to the investigation and/or the Academy's response to the alleged violation of this policy;**

- D. written witness statements;**
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;**
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);**
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;**
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;**
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;**
- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;**
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;**
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the Academy to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the Academy at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);**
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;**
- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in**

**a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**

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

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

Adopted 2/11/14  
Revised 9/17/14

For Board Approval

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **TITLE I SERVICES**

Reference: 20 USC 6301 et seq.  
34 C.F.R. Part 200, et seq.

The Board of Directors elects to augment the educational program of educationally disadvantaged students by the use of Federal funds and in accordance with Title I of the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended.**

The Director/Educational Service Provider shall prepare and present to the State Department of Education a plan for the delivery of services that meets the requirements of the law, including those described below. The plan shall be developed by appropriate staff members and parents of students who will be served by the plan. **The Academy will periodically review and revise the plan, as necessary.**

### ***Assessment***

The Academy shall annually assess the educational needs of eligible children, as determined by Federal and State criteria. This assessment shall include performance measures mandated by the Department of Education as well as those determined by the Academy's professional staff to assist in the diagnosis, teaching, and learning of the participating students.

### ***Scope***

The Academy shall determine if the funds will be used to upgrade the educational program of the entire Academy **in Title I Academies that qualify as schoolwide schools** and/or to establish or improve programs that provide services only for eligible students in greatest need of assistance. The **schoolwide** program shall include the components required by law as well as those agreed upon by participating staff and parents.

### ***Participation***

The Title I program shall be developed and evaluated in consultation with parents and professional staff members, **including teachers, School Leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, administrators and other appropriate academy personnel** involved in its implementation. Appropriate training will be provided to staff members who provide Title I services. Parent participation shall be in accord with Board Policy 2261.01 and shall meet the requirements of Section **1116** of the Act.

### ***Comparability of Services***

Title I funds will be used only to augment, not to replace, State and local funds. **The Academy will document its compliance with the supplement not supplant provisions by using a written methodology that ensures State and local funds are allocated to each academy on the same basis, regardless of whether an academy receives Title I funding. The Educational Service Provider shall use State and local funds to provide educational services in schools receiving Title I assistance that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services being provided in academies that are not receiving Title I assistance.** The determination of the comparability of services may exclude State and local funds **expended for language instruction educational programs and the**

**excess costs of providing services to children with disabilities as determined by the Academy.**

The determination of comparability **of services** will not take into account unpredictable changes in student enrollments or personnel assignments **that occur after the beginning of the school year.**

To achieve comparability of services, the Administration shall assign teachers, administrators, and auxiliary personnel and provide curriculum materials and instructional supplies in such a manner as to ensure equivalence throughout the Academy.

***Professional Development***

**Members of** the professional staff **may** participate in the design and implementation of staff development activities that:

- A. involve parents in the training, when appropriate;
- B. combine and consolidate other available Federal and public school funds;
- C. foster cooperative training with institutions of higher learning and other educational organizations;
- D. include in the staff development curriculum the following strategies:
  - 1. creating and using performance-based student assessments;
  - 2. using technology in teaching and learning;
  - 3. working effectively with parents;

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

## **REPLACEMENT POLICY – FALL 2018**

# **PARENT AND FAMILY MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN TITLE I PROGRAMS**

Reference: 20 U.S.C. 6318 et seq.  
34 C.F.R. Part 200 et seq.

In accordance with the requirements of Federal law, programs supported by Title I funds must be planned and implemented in meaningful consultation with parents and family members of the students being served.

Each year the Educational Service Provider shall work with parents and family members of children served in Title I Programs in order to jointly develop and agree upon a proposed written parent and family engagement policy to establish expectations for the involvement of such parents and family members in the education of their children. The proposed policy shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Directors and distributed to parents and family members of children receiving Title I services. The proposed policy must establish the Academy's expectation and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement, and describe how the Academy will:

- A. involve parents and family members in the development of the Academy's Title I plans and any State-mandated comprehensive support and improvement plans;
- B. provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating academies in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement and academy performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;
- C. coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other Federal, State, and local laws and programs;
- D. with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of academies, including:
  1. identifying barriers to greater parent participation (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
  2. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with academy personnel and teachers; and





- P. conduct other activities as appropriate to the Title I plan and State and Federal requirements.**

The Board will reserve the requisite percent of its allocation of Federal Title I funds to carry out the above-described activities. Parents and family members of children receiving Title I services shall be involved in the decisions regarding how the reserved funds are allotted for parent involvement activities. Reserved funds shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the Board's parent and family engagement policy (Policy 2111), including at least one (1) of the following:

- A. Supporting academies and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for the Academy and academy personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other Directors, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.**
- B. Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at academy.**
- C. Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.**
- D. Collaborating, or providing subgrants to academies to enable such academies to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.**
- E. Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the Board determines are appropriate and consistent with its parent and family engagement policy.**

The Educational Service Provider must also assure that each Title I participating academy develops a specific written plan, with parental involvement and agreement, which includes provisions regarding the following:

- A. Each Director must convene an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend to explain the parents' rights to be involved and the academy's obligations to develop a parent and family engagement policy.**
- B. Meetings with parents of children receiving Title I services must be scheduled at flexible times with assistance such as child care, transportation, home visits, or similar aid offered to parents to encourage their involvement.**
- C. Parents must be involved in an organized, on-going and timely way in the development, review, and improvement of parent involvement activities, including the planning, review and improvement of the academy parent and family engagement policy, and the joint development of the academywide program plan, if appropriate.**

- D. Parents of participating students must be provided with:**
- 1. timely information about the Title I program and the academy's parent and family engagement policy;**
  - 2. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the academy, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels expected;**
  - 3. regular meetings, upon request, for parents to make suggestions, and to participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and receive responses regarding the parents' suggestions about their student's education as soon as practicably possible.**
- E. If the written plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the academy must submit any parents' comments when it presents the plan to the Educational Service Provider.**
- F. As a component of the academy-level parent and family engagement policy, the Director for each academy shall coordinate the development of a academy-parent compact jointly with parents of children served under Title I which outlines how the academy staff, the parents, and the students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the academy and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high standards. The compact must:**
- 1. describe the academy's responsibility to provide a high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment;**
  - 2. describe the ways in which each parent is responsible for supporting their child's learning environment such as monitoring attendance, homework, extra-curricular activities and excessive television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and their positive use of extra-curricular time;**
  - 3. address the importance of parent/teacher communication on an on-going basis through at least annual parent teacher conferences to discuss the child's achievement and the compact; frequent progress reports to the parents on their child's progress; reasonable access to the staff and to observe and participate in classroom activities and regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.**
- G. Parents of children receiving Title I services must be notified about their academy's parent and family engagement policy in an understandable and uniform format, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the**

parents can understand. These policies must also be made available to the community.

- H. Academy-level parent and family engagement policies must be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the academies.

In order to involve parents in the education of their children and to support a partnership among the academy, parents and the community for improving student academic achievement, the Educational Service Provider and building principals must include provisions in the Academy and parent and family engagement policies regarding:

- A. assisting parents of children served under Title I in understanding such topics as the State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve their child's achievement;
- B. providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright privacy);
- C. educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, Directors (including principals), and other staff, with the assistance of parents, about the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and how to build ties between parents and the school;
- D. to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordination and integration of parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs (including public preschool programs), and conducting other activities that encourage and support parents more fully participating in the education of their children (e.g., parent resource centers);
- E. providing information related to academy and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents of participating children in a format, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
- F. providing such reasonable support for parent involvement activities as parents may request.

In order to build the Academy's capacity for parent involvement, the Educational Service Provider and building principals may also:

- A. involve parents in the development of training for teachers and administrators and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- B. provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds if the Academy has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;

- C. pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in academy related meetings and training sessions, including transportation and child care costs;**
- D. train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;**
- E. arrange academy meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-house conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at academy, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;**
- F. adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;**
- G. establish an Academy parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs;**
- H. develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.**

Adopted 2/11/14  
Revised

For Board Approval

## **REPLACEMENT POLICY – FALL 2018** **ACADEMY AND SCHOOL REPORT CARD**

References: 20 U.S.C. 6314  
34 C.F.R. 200.31(h)(1)  
A.C. 3301-35-02, 3301-35-02 (B)

Each Academy that receives Title I, Part A funds must prepare and publicly disseminate a report card on the performance and operations of the Academy. Report cards must be concise and presented in an understandable and uniform format that is developed in consultation with parents and accessible to persons with disabilities and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

The report shall contain the information called for on the form issued by the Michigan Department of Education in accordance with State and Federal law. The report must include 1) an overview section and 2) a detail section.

Report cards must begin with a clearly labeled overview section that is prominently displayed. The overview section of Academy report cards must include information on key metrics of State, District, and school performance and progress and is intended to help parents and other stakeholders quickly access and understand such information and provide context for the complete set of data included in the report.

The overview section of the annual report card must include for the Academy as a whole and each school, if appropriate:

- A. student achievement data (i.e., the number and percentage of students at each level of achievement on the State mathematics, reading/language arts, and science assessments), including how achievement in the Academy compares to State as a whole and, for each school in the Academy, how that school compares to the Academy and the State as a whole;
- B. English language proficiency of English learners (i.e., the number and percentage of English learners achieving English language proficiency as measured by Michigan's English proficiency assessment);
- C. performance on each measure within the Academic Progress indicator used by the State for elementary schools and secondary schools that are not high schools;
- D. high school graduation rates, including the four (4) year adjusted cohort and the extended-year adjusted cohort;
- E. performance on each measure within any School Quality or Student Success indicator used by the State;
- F. school identifying information, including student membership count and Title I participation status;
- G. summative determination for each school;

- H. whether the school was identified for comprehensive support and improvement or targeted support and improvement, and the reason(s) for such identification.

The overview section must include disaggregated data for specific student subgroups as required by the United States Department of Education (e.g., each major racial and ethnic group; children with disabilities; English learners; and economically disadvantaged students).

Report cards must include student achievement data overall and by grade, including the percentage of students at each level of achievement as determined by the State for all students and disaggregated by each major racial and ethnic group, gender, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency status, status as economically disadvantaged, status as a homeless student/youth, status as a child in foster care, and status as a student with a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (which includes full-time National Guard duty). Data for these subgroups must be included in the detail section of report cards if it is not included in the overview section.

The details section of the School report card must include the remaining information required in the statute and applicable regulations. An Academy need not include information in the detail section of the report if it includes such information in the overview section. The annual report detail section must include, if appropriate:

- A. student achievement data (i.e., the number and percentage of students at each level of achievement on the State mathematics, reading/language arts, and science assessments), including how achievement in the Academy compares to State as a whole and, for each school in the Academy, how that school compares to the Academy and the State as a whole;
- B. percentages of students assessed and not assessed in each subject (i.e. participation rates on required assessments);
- C. extent alternate assessments aligned with alternate academic achievements standards were used for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (i.e., the number and percentage of students assessed using alternate academic achievement standards, by grade and subject);
- D. as applicable, number and percentage of recently arrived English learners exempted from one administration of the reading/language arts assessments or whose results are excluded from certain State indicators;
- E. high school graduation rates, including the four (4) year adjusted cohort, and the extended-year adjusted cohort;
- F. postsecondary enrollment rates for each high school;
- G. information collected and reported in compliance with the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) under 20 U.S.C. 3413(c)(1);

- H. progress toward State-designed long-term goals for academic achievement, graduation rates, and English learners achieving English language proficiency (including measurements of interim progress);
- I. level of performance on each indicator included in State accountability system including, as applicable, results on each individual measure within each indicator not already included in the school overview section
- J. information on educator qualifications;
- K. information on per-pupil expenditures (i.e., actual personnel and actual non-personnel; for the Academy as a whole and each school);

[Note: The Academy and school report cards must include per-pupil expenditures of Federal, and State/local funds, disaggregated by source of funds; Academy expenditures not allocated to public schools; and the web address to the procedures for calculation.]

- L. State performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) – math and reading, grades 4 and 8;
- M. description and Results of State accountability system (the Academy may provide the web address or URL of, or a direct link to, a State plan or other location on the Michigan Department of Education’s web site to meet this requirement);
- N. additional information best-suited to convey the progress of each school;

[Note: School report cards must include the following NAEP data: 1) the percentage of students at each NAEP achievement level (below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced) in the aggregate; 2) participation rate for students with disabilities; and 3) participation rate for English learners.]

- O. other information as required by the State Department of Education.

When presenting data on a report card, the Academy shall protect the privacy of individuals and the privacy of personally identifiable information contained in students’ education records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and R.C. Section 3319.321.

The Academy’s annual report card information must be made publicly available through such means as posting on the Academy’s web site and distribution to local media and public agencies. [Note: If the Academy does not operate a web site, the Academy must make report available to the public in another manner determined by the Board.]

The Board will provide the school level overview directly to all parents in each school served by the Academy annually. [Note: The Academy may send the report card overview to the parents of students enrolled in each school in the Academy directly through the U.S. mail, via email, or through other means such as sending the report



**card overview home to parents in the child's backpack or distribute the report card during parent-teacher conferences.]**

**The data from the local report card is to be used by each of the schools and the Academy as a whole in revising and upgrading school and Academy improvement plans.**

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

For Board Approval

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION PROGRAM**

Reference: MCL 380.1473, 380.1481, 388.1621(b)

The Board of Directors recognizes the value to students and the Academy for students to participate in courses offered by accredited and degree-granting colleges and universities. Eligible postsecondary institutions shall include state universities, community colleges, and independent nonprofit degree-granting colleges or universities located in Michigan and that choose to comply with the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act **and out-of-state colleges satisfying the requirements of M.C.L. 388.513 that choose to comply with the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act.**

The Board will allow eligible high school students who meet the criteria established in guidelines/procedures to enroll in eligible postsecondary courses while in attendance at the Academy. The Administration shall allow a student, upon written request of his/her parent to take approved readiness assessment(s) in order to establish eligibility for postsecondary enrollment. Any tests are to be administered free of charge in accordance with the Academy's testing schedule. Students will be eligible to receive appropriate credit for completing any of these courses providing they meet all requirements for the type of credit they wish to earn.

The Educational Service Provider shall establish the necessary Administrative Guidelines to ensure that such courses are in accord with State law and are properly communicated to both the students and their parents. The Educational Service Provider shall also establish guidelines and procedures for awarding credit and the proper entry on a student's transcript and other records of his/her participation in a postsecondary program.

Upon receipt of a bill from the postsecondary institution, itemizing the charges for a student's participation in a particular course, the Academy shall either pay the bill or the prorated percentage of the State portion of the foundation allowance for that student, whichever is lower.

If a student participating in the postsecondary (dual) enrollment program fails to successfully complete an eligible course, the student and his/her parents are responsible for reimbursing the Academy for such charges incurred by the Academy for such enrollment. In the event reimbursement is not made in a reasonable period of time, the Educational Service Provider is authorized to file claim against the student and/or his/her parents in Small Claims Court for collection.

The Educational Service Provider is to submit annually to the Intermediate School District the following information:

- A. the amount of money paid to postsecondary institutions for this program;
- B. the number of students in the high school and the number who participated in at least one (1) postsecondary program and received payment for all or part of the eligible charges under this program, both in the aggregate and by grade level;
- C. the percentage of the Academy's enrollment represented by eligible students, both in the aggregate and by grade level;

- D. the total number of postsecondary courses for which the Academy made payment, the number of courses for which postsecondary credit was granted, the number of courses for which high school credit was granted, and the number of courses that were not completed by eligible students

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

For Board Approval

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **P.A. 25 ANNUAL REPORT**

Reference: MCL 380.1204a(1)

The Academy must prepare and publicly disseminate the P.A. 25 Annual Report no later than the beginning of each school year to all parents of all students. Required information for the Academy and each individual building includes the following:

### ***Assessment Data***

- A. Aggregate student achievement at each proficiency level on state assessments.
- B. Student achievement at each proficiency level disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency, and economic status. The federal requirement is to report this data only when it is statistically sound. The Michigan Department of Education recommends reporting on subgroups if the size is more than thirty (30) students in the Academy or thirty students across each grade level tested.
- C. Percentage of students not tested, disaggregated by each group (if statistically sound).
- D. Most recent 2-year trend in achievement for each subject area and grade level.
- E. Report of the Academy's results of locally administered student competency tests and/or nationally normed achievement tests. This should include data from the assessments for students in grades 1-5, as required by section 1280b of the School Code (PA 25).

### ***Academy Programs***

- A. Accreditation status. Public Act 25 (PA 25) requires schools to report on state accreditation status, accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, or another specialized accreditation authority approved by the US Department of Education (PA 25).
- B. Academy pupil retention data, in addition to the data on graduation rate referenced earlier. (PA 25)
- C. Number and percentage of pupils enrolled in post-secondary programs and/or college level equivalent courses, if the Academy has a high school (dual enrollment) (PA 25).
- D. The status of the core curriculum and the School Improvement Plan (PA 25).

### ***Staff***

- A. The professional qualifications of teachers, the percentage of teachers teaching with emergency or provisional credentials, and the percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers (disaggregated by high-poverty compared to low-poverty schools).

- B. The annual progress toward meeting state objectives for percentage of highly qualified teachers.

**Parents**

- A. Information on parent-teacher conference attendance rates, a requirement of PA 25.
- B. Dissemination of the Academy's parent **and family engagement** policy.

The Academy may include additional data if it chooses.

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

For Board Approval

3000 **Staff**

3000 Educational Service Provider Statement

**3110 Conflict of Interest**

L

**3120 Employment of Teachers and Administrators**

L

3120.04 Employment of Substitutes

BP

**3121 Criminal History Record Check**

L

**3122 Anti-Discrimination**

L

**3130 Assignment and Transfer**

L

3217 Weapons

BP

3220 Teacher Evaluation

BP

**3362 Anti-Harassment**

L

Adopted 3/8/16

Revised 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

For Board Approval

## **NEW POLICY FOR YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY– FALL 2018**

### **EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS**

Reference: MCL 37.2101 et seq., 333.17901, 380.1229, 1230, 1230b, 1231, 1233, 380.1233b, 1237, 380.623, 20 USC 6319 & 7801

The Board of Directors recognizes it is vital to the successful operation of the Academy that the Educational Service Provider fill positions created by the Board with highly-qualified, competent personnel who meet all current state and federal certification, training, and education requirements.

The Educational Service Provider shall provide the Board with a list of the proposed staff that shows all current qualifications and licensing.

This section applies to teachers and administrators working at the Academy.

All staff are subject to a criminal history record check. See Policy 3121.

A person employed as a Director or administrator must confirm that he/she has met, or is in the process of fulfilling, the appropriate educational or certification requirements established by the Revised School Code, Michigan Department of Education and applicable law.

Prior to hiring an applicant, the Educational Service Provider shall obtain from the applicant a signed Consent to Obtain Records (Form 3120-F2 or 3120-F4, as applicable) and shall obtain any records from the applicant's current or immediately-previous employer, including the applicant's personnel file (particularly any records relating to unprofessional conduct in which the applicant may have engaged). Any such records are to be reviewed prior to a recommendation for employment and may be disclosed to those individuals directly involved in evaluating the applicant's qualifications.

#### **Requirements for Title I Teachers**

All teachers hired for a Title I supported program must comply with the Michigan Department of Education's requirements for certification adopted under Michigan's approved ESSA plan. The Educational Service Provider will ensure that the Academy follows any best practice guidance issued by the Michigan Department of Education relating to appropriate staff placement, including Title I teachers.

## **NEW POLICY FOR YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY** **- FALL 2018** **EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**

Reference: MCL 380.1229A, 380.1230, 380.1230a, 380.1230g, 380.1233, 380.1233b, 380.1531  
MCL 380.1236, 380.1236a  
AC Rule 390.1105(1), 390.1141(2)

The Board of Directors recognizes the need to procure the services of substitutes to continue the operation of the Academy when regular personnel are absent. Substitutes shall be provided by the Board.

Substitute personnel are subject to a criminal history record check. See Policy 3121.

The Board shall employ substitutes, as required, to replace regular staff members temporarily absent and to fill new positions. Such assignment of substitutes may be terminated when their services are no longer required.

Substitute teachers must possess a valid Michigan professional certificate or a permit, if substitute teaching in a subject for which he/she is not certified, except under the following circumstances:

- A. In grades 9-12, the Director may employ non-certificated, unendorsed substitutes to teach a course in computer science, foreign language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, robotics, or any other course approved by the State Board, providing the substitutes meet all of the conditions established by state and federal law and regulation and by the Board.
- B. The Board may also employ a substitute without a valid teaching certificate if the person has at least sixty (60) semester hours of college credit or an associate degree from a college or university or community college and, for substitute teaching in grade 9 to 12, is at least twenty-two (22) years of age.
- C. The Board may hire an individual, who does not hold a valid teaching certificate, to serve in a counseling or speech pathologist role, provided he/she meets all the requirements established by state and federal law and regulations. Policy 3120 and Policy 3121 shall apply, with respect to that individual, in the same manner required for employing a person with a teaching certificate.
- D. The Educational Service Provider may employ noncertificated, substitutes to teach in an industrial technology education program or career and technical education program providing they meet all of the conditions established by law and by the Board.

The Board may enter into a contract with a person or entity (a partnership, nonprofit or Business Corporation, labor organization, limited liability company, or any other association, corporation, trust, or other legal entity) to furnish substitute teachers to the Academy, as necessary, to carry out the operations of the Academy. A contract entered into under this section shall include the following provisions:



- A. Assurance that the person or entity will furnish the Academy with qualified teachers, in accordance with the Academy Code and any implementing rules and regulations as specified above.**
- B. Assurance that the person or entity will not furnish to the Academy any teacher who, if employed directly by the Academy, would be ineligible for employment by the district as a substitute teacher under the Academy Code.**
- C. A description of the level of compensation and fringe benefits to be provided for the employees of the person or entity who are to be assigned to the district as substitute teachers.**
- D. A description of the type and amounts of insurance coverage to be secured and maintained by the person or entity and the Academy.**
- E. Assurance that the person or entity, before assigning an individual to serve as a substitute teacher in the Academy, will comply with, and provide to, the Board the criminal history record information obtained under section 1230 and with the results of the criminal records check under section 1230a of the Academy Code.**

The Board that contracts with a person or entity to furnish substitute teachers under this section may purchase liability insurance to indemnify and protect the Academy and the person or entity against losses or liabilities incurred by the Academy and person or entity arising out of any claim for personal injury or property damage caused by the Academy, its officers, personnel, or agents. The Academy may pay premiums for the insurance out of its operating funds.

## **NEW POLICY FOR YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY – FALL 2018 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**

Reference: M.C.L. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq.  
Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution  
20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act  
20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974  
20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act  
42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93)  
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964  
29 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635

The Academy shall not discriminate in its policies, practices, procedures, or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability/handicap, age, religion, marital/parental/ family status, military status, ancestry, or genetic information and shall comply with all applicable law with respect to equitable treatment of students, employees, and applicants for employment opportunities.

### **Academy Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the Academy's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs")

[NOTE: Academies are advised to appoint both a male and female CO in order to provide complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. The COs may also serve as the Academy's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, by appointing two (2) COs, there should always be a CO available to investigate a claim of discrimination that pertains to the other CO.]

Jason Walker  
Director  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193  
[jwalker@ombudsman.com](mailto:jwalker@ombudsman.com)

Lisa Thomas  
Teacher  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193  
[lathomas@kalamazoopublicschool.net](mailto:lathomas@kalamazoopublicschool.net)

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks.

The COs are responsible for coordinating the Academy's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the Academy's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, retaliation or denial of equal access. The COs shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II, of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members,

and the general public. Any sections of the Academy's collective bargaining agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above. In addition, any gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. A copy of each of the Acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

### **Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation**

Employees are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to an administrator, supervisor, or other Academy Official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any administrator, supervisor, or other Academy employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO within two (2) school days.

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's employment. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept complaints of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, either directly or through a school building administrator, a CO will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the discrimination/retaliation or the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Educational Service Provider or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Academy community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact the employee within two (2) business days to advise him/her of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 3122 F2)**

Any employee who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”).

### Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to quickly stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for an employee who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the parties (the alleged target of the discrimination/retaliation and individual(s) alleged to have engaged in the discrimination) agree to participate in it.

Employees who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/ retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a Academy employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the person who engaged in the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct that it is inappropriate and must stop. The complaining individual should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the person who allegedly engaged in the unlawful misconduct of his/her concerns is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination, such as sexual discrimination, the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a building administrator; (2) directly to one of the COs; and/or (3) to the Educational Service Provider or other Academy employee.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The Academy's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees who believe they are being unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate his/her concern to the person who allegedly engaged in the discriminatory/retaliatory behavior.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 3122 – Non-Discrimination as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming discrimination/retaliation and the individual accused of engaging in the misconduct to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

#### Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a Principal, the CO, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a Principal, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) business days.

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

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in; the discriminatory/retaliatory conduct; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.



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

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the person who allegedly engaged in the misconduct. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Educational Service Provider.

Within two (2) business days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the discriminatory or retaliatory conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent"), that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 3122 - Non-Discrimination. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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

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

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Educational Service Provider that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provide recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. In determining if discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Educational Service Provider.

**Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or the designee, the Educational Service Provider must either issue a final decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Educational Service Provider's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.**

**If the Educational Service Provider requests additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must issue a final written decision as described above.**

**If the Educational Service Provider determines the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, she/he must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.**

**A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Educational Service Provider may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Educational Service Provider's final decision.**

**In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.**

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

**The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights or the filing of a court case. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.**

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

**The Academy will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent(s).**

**During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual**

who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that s/he learns and/or provides during the course of the investigation.

### **Sanctions and Monitoring**

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

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against an employee, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Educational Service Provider shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation, or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Educational Service Provider or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the Academy community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for Academy students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

### **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:



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

- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**

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

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

FOR BOARD APPROVAL

## **NEW POLICY - FALL 2018** **ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER**

References: M.C.L. 380.1231, 1233, 1233b  
E.S.E.A./N.C.L.B. – 20 U.S.C. 6319

The Board of Directors believes that the appropriate placement of qualified and competent staff is essential to the successful functioning of the Academy.

The Educational Service Provider shall be responsible for the proper assignment and transfer of all staff members and shall attempt to effect the optimum assignment of the staff in conformance with any applicable contractual or legal requirements, State certification requirements, and Federal requirements. S/He shall establish an audit procedure to ensure that each instructional staff member's teaching certificate is currently in compliance with appropriate State certification criteria and has not been nullified or, if applicable, that the staff member is otherwise qualified to teach as allowed by law.

FOR BOARD APPROVAL

## **NEW POLICY FOR YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY – FALL 2018 ANTI-HARASSMENT**

Reference: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.  
20 U.S.C. 1400 ET SEQ., The Individuals with Disabilities Education improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)  
29 USC 621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967  
29 U.S.C. 6101, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 USC 2000e et seq.  
42 USC 1983  
42 USC 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635  
Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681 et seq. 29 U.S.C. 794,  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
The Handicappers' Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.1101 et seq.  
The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101, et seq.  
Policies on Bullying, Michigan State Board of Education, 7-19-01  
Model Anti-bullying Policy, Michigan State Board of Education, 09-2006  
National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis – May 2008

### **General Policy Statement**

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

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

For purposes of this policy, "Academy community" means students, administrators, and professional and support staff, as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

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

### **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

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

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

### **Definitions**

#### **Bullying**

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

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

### **Harassment**

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

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

### **Sexual Harassment**

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

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

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

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

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

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.

- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, which may embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. In the context of employees, consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
- J. Inappropriate boundary invasions by an Academy employee or other adult member of the Academy community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- K. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment or education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

[NOTE: Sexual conduct/relationships with students by employees or any other adult member of the Academy community is prohibited, and any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery". The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge and/or with respect to the application of this policy to Academy personnel or other adult members of the Academy community.]

### Race/Color Harassment

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



educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

#### **Religious (Creed) Harassment**

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

#### **National Origin Harassment**

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

#### **Disability Harassment**

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

#### **Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct**

Members of the Academy community, which include all staff, and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor or other Academy official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other Academy official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the Academy's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer at his/her first convenience.

Members of the Academy community or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed by another member of the Academy community or a third party are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining



individual's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the School Leader believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the School Leader will report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the School Leader shall suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the School Leader informed of the status of the 3362 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

#### Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the Academy. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

[NOTE: Academies are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. In addition, the Compliance Officers may also serve as the Academy's Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators.]

Jason Walker  
Director  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193

[jwalker@ombudsman.com](mailto:jwalker@ombudsman.com)

Lisa Thomas  
Teacher  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193

[lathomas@kalamazoopublicschool.net](mailto:lathomas@kalamazoopublicschool.net)

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the parent and staff handbooks.

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

Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, or receive complaints that are initially filed with an Academy building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through an Academy building administrator, a Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the Academy community alleging harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct

such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Academy or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Academy community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.

Any employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) business days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

#### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure (See Form 3362 F1)**

Any employee or other member of the Academy community or third party (e.g., visitor to the Academy) who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The informal and formal procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

#### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the Academy community, or third party who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint and will only be utilized where the parties (alleged target of harassment and alleged harasser(s)) agree to participate in such process.

Employees, other members of the Academy community, or third parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving an Academy employee, any other adult member of the Academy community, or a third party against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if an individual feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

An individual who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) directly to one of the Compliance Officers; and/or (3) to the Educational Service Provider.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The Academy's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the Academy community, or third parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the individual claiming unlawful harassment, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the individual about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the individual claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

An individual who believes s/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, Principal, the Compliance Officer, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, Principal, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

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

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the alleged harasser. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Educational Service Provider.

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

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing or retaliatory conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent", that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed

about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant Administrative Guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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

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

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Educational Service Provider that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Educational Service Provider.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Educational Service Provider must either issue a final decision regarding whether the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Educational Service Provider's final decision will be delivered to both the Complainant and the Respondent.

If the Educational Service Provider requests additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Educational Service Provider must issue a final written decision as described above.

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Educational Service Provider may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Educational Service Provider's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned



party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

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

### Privacy/Confidentiality

The Academy will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related Administrative Procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the respondent.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will instruct all members of the Academy community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation.

### Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

### Retaliation

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

**Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct**

State law requires any Academy teacher or Academy employee who knows or suspects that a child under the age of eighteen (18) or that a person with a disability receiving services as a student from the Academy regardless of age has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

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

**Education and Training**

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

**Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Academy personnel related to the investigation and/or the Academy's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;

- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;**
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);**
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;**
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;**
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;**
- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;**
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;**
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the Academy to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the Academy at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);**
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;**
- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**



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

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

FOR BOARD APPROVAL

5000 **STUDENTS**

<b>5111</b>	<b>Admission of Students</b>	L
<b>5111.01</b>	<b>Homeless Students</b>	L
<b>5111.02</b>	<b>Educational Opportunity for Military Children</b>	L
<b>5111.03</b>	<b>Children and Youth in Foster Care</b>	L
<b>5112</b>	<b>Entrance Age</b>	L
5130	Withdrawal from the Academy	BP
5136	Personal Communication Devices	BP
5200	Attendance	BP
5230	Late Arrival and Early Dismissal	BP
<b>5320</b>	<b>Immunization</b>	L
<b>5330</b>	<b>Use of Medications</b>	L
<b>5330.01</b>	<b>Epinephrine Auto-Injectors</b>	L
5340	Student Accidents	BP
5341	Emergency Medical Authorization	BP
5350	Student Suicide	BP
5410	Promotion, Placement, and Retention	BP
5420	Reporting Student Progress	BP
5421	Grading	BP
<b>5460</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements</b>	L
5463	Credits from Nonpublic Schools	BP
5500	Student Conduct	BP
5510	Students – Sex Offender Registry; Criminal Convictions	BP
5511	Dress and Grooming	BP
5512	Use of Tobacco by Students	BP
5513	Care of School Property	BP
<b>5516</b>	<b>Student Hazing</b>	L
<b>5517</b>	<b>Anti-Harassment</b>	L
<b>5517.01</b>	<b>Bullying</b>	L
<b>5517.02</b>	<b>Sexual Violence</b>	L
5520	Disorderly Conduct	BP
<b>5530</b>	<b>Drug Free Environment</b>	L
<b>5532</b>	<b>Performance-Enhancing Drugs/Compounds</b>	L
<b>5540</b>	<b>Interrogation of Students</b>	L
5600	Student Discipline	BP
<b>5610</b>	<b>Emergency Removal, Suspension &amp; Expulsion of Students</b>	L
<b>5611</b>	<b>Due Process Rights</b>	L
<b>5630.01</b>	<b>Student Seclusion and Restraint</b>	L
5710	Student Grievance	BP
5722	School-Sponsored Publications and Productions	BP
5771	Search and Seizure	BP
5772	Possession of Weapons	BP
5780	Student/Parent Rights	BP

5830 Student Fund-Raising

BP

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 9/17/14; 3/10/15; 9/8/15; 3/8/16; 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

For Board Approval

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **USE OF MEDICATIONS**

Reference: MCL 37.1211(a); 20 USC §§ 5812, 7114; 41 USC § 702; 42 USC §§ 12114, 12210; 28 CFR § 35.131; 29 CFR §§ 825.112, 1630.3; 49 CFR §§ 382.121, 382.401, 382.601

Neither the Board of Directors nor the Administration shall be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or the child is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.

For purposes of this policy, *medication* shall include all medicines including those prescribed by a physician and any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations, and/or remedies and performance-enhancing drugs as defined in AG 2431C. *Treatment* refers both to the manner in which a medication is administered and to health-care procedures that require special training, such as catheterization.

Before any medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written prescription from the child's physician, accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. These documents shall be kept on file in the administrative offices. No student is allowed to provide or sell any type of over-the-counter medication to another student. Violations of this rule will be considered violations of Policy 5530 - Drug Free Environment and of the Student Discipline Code/Code of Conduct.

Only medication in its original container that is labeled with the date (if a prescription), the student's name, and exact dosage may be administered. Parents, or students authorized in writing by their physician and parents, may administer medication or treatment.

Staff members are to administer medication or treatment only in the presence of another adult, except in the case of an emergency that threatens the life or health of the student. Staff licensed as professional registered nurses are exempt from this requirement.

All staff authorized to administer medication or treatment will receive training on appropriate procedures for administering the medication or treatment. This training shall be provided by qualified individuals with knowledge of the Academy's policy and procedures and knowledge of the administration of medications or treatment.

All medication shall be kept in a locked storage case in the Academy's office.

The Board shall permit only trained staff to administer any medication requiring intravenous or intramuscular injection or the insertion of a device into the body when both the medication and the procedure are prescribed by a physician.

Students who may require the administration of an emergency medication may have such medication in accord with the Administrative Guidelines.

Students may possess and self-administer a metered dose or dry powder inhaler for relief of asthma (or before exercise to prevent onset of asthma symptoms), while at the Academy, on **academy**-sponsored transportation, or at any Academy-sponsored activity in accordance with the Administrative Guidelines, if all of the following conditions are met:

- A. There is written approval from the student's physician or other health care provider and the student's parent/guardian (if student is under eighteen (18) to possess and use the inhaler (Form 5330 F1c)  
and
- B. The building administrator has received a copy of the written approvals from the physician and the parent/guardian.  
and
- C. There is on file at the student's school a written emergency care plan prepared by a licensed physician in collaboration with the student and his/her parent/legal guardian. The plan shall contain specific instructions on the student's needs including what to do in the event of an emergency.

Students with a need for emergency medication may also be allowed to self possess and self administer such medication, provided that they meet the same conditions established above. Students who are prescribed epinephrine to treat anaphylaxis shall be allowed to self possess and administer the medication if they meet the conditions stated above.

**Students shall be permitted to possess and self-administer U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved, over-the-counter topical products while on academy property or at an academy-sponsored event provided the student has submitted prior written approval of his/her parent/guardian to the Director or other chief administrator of the student's academy.**

This policy and the Administrative Guidelines developed to establish appropriate procedures shall be implemented in such a manner to comply with Academy's obligations and the student's needs under any Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, or other legally required accommodation for individuals with disabilities.

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Reference: MCL 380.1166, 380.1278a(1), 380.1278a(2), 380.1278a(4)(c), 380.1279b  
M.C.L. 380.1278d, 380.1279h  
20 USC 1400 et seq.  
20 USC 1401 et seq.  
29 USC 794  
42 USC 12131 et seq.

It shall be the policy of the Board of Directors to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program or a personal curriculum appropriate to the achievement of Academy goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency, by the awarding of a diploma at graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this Academy who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board (see AG 5460), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and as provided by State law.

The Board shall annually notify each of its students and a parent or legal guardian of each of its high school students that all students are entitled to a personal curriculum. The annual notice shall include an explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a personal curriculum is requested, the Academy will grant that request. The Academy shall provide this annual notice to parent and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each high school student's home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook, or similar communication that is sent to a student's home, and also shall post the notice on the Academy's website.

Credit towards a high school diploma may be earned by:

- A. traditional course work;
- B. demonstrating mastery of subject area content expectations or guidelines for the credit;
- C. related course work in which content standards are embedded;
- D. non-traditional course work;
- E. independent teacher-guided study;
- F. testing out;
- G. Michigan Department of Education (MDE)-approved formal career and technical (CTE) program or curriculum; or
- H. online class.

**If a student successfully completes all of the following credit requirements while in grades 7 to 12, the Academy will notate on the student's transcript or diploma that the student has earned a STEM endorsement:**

- A. All applicable requirements of the Michigan merit standard for a high school diploma under sections M.C.L. 380.1278a and 1278b.**
- B. At least six (6) credits in mathematics. At least five (5) of these credits must be in courses that are either listed in section M.C.L. 380.1278a(1)(a)(i) or that cover the same content standards as a course listed in section 1278a(1)(a)(i), including a credit for pre-calculus or calculus.**
- C. At least six (6) credits in science. At least 4 of these credits must be in courses that are either listed in section M.C.L. 380.1278b(1)(b) or that cover the same content standards as a course listed in section 1278b(1)(b).**
- D. At least one-half (1/2) credit featuring significant course work involving technology activities and at least 1/2 credit featuring significant course work involving engineering activities. These credits may be gained through separate technology and engineering course work or in conjunction with course work associated with the credits required under subdivisions (b) and (c).**

High school special education students who properly complete the programs specified in their I.E.P., or in a personal curriculum, and meet the requirements for a high school diploma, and have received the recommendation of the I.E.P.C. may participate in graduation activities as recommended by the student's I.E.P.C. Reasonable accommodation shall be made for students with disabilities, as defined under State or Federal law, to assist them in taking any required tests or assessments for graduation.

For State-mandated curriculum requirements, a high school student shall be granted credit toward graduation if s/he successfully completes the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit. A high school student may also receive credit if s/he earns a qualifying score, as determined by the State on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the State or the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the Academy on one or more assessments developed or selected by the Academy that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit. For subject areas and courses in which a final examination is used as the assessment for successful attainment of the subject area content, a grade of C+ or better is required.

The Board shall grant credit toward high school graduation for any student who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State-mandated curriculum requirement, provided s/he completes the same content requirements as the high school subject area, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.

Such credit shall be counted toward the required number of credits needed for high school graduation. Mastery credits shall be counted toward any subject area requirement and any course sequence requirement. Once mastery credit is earned in a subject area, a student may not receive further credit for a lower sequence course in the same subject area.

A high school student shall be granted credit in any foreign language not offered by the Academy providing the student meets the competency criteria established by the Educational Service Provider.

**A high school student shall be granted credit for completion of an internship or work experience that meets all of the requirements of MCL 380.1279h, subject to the Board's right to deny credit for the reasons and in the manner set out in MCL 380.1279h. The appeal rights set out in this statute apply in the event of a denial.**

**A student engaging in an internship or work experience under M.C.L. 380.1279h must complete a reflection projection. The reflection project shall include:**

- A. A copy of the student's time card from the internship or work experience.**
- B. A resume that includes the internship or work experience.**
- C. A written summary of the internship or work experience.**

Many high school credit requirements may be fulfilled through state approved career and technical education programs (see AG 5460.01). The career and technical education credits may include work-based learning by a student working at a business or other work setting with appropriate oversight by the Academy over the student's experience and learning in the work setting in which the work-based learning occurs.

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements as certified by the Board. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation, however, when personal conduct so warrants.

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 9/8/15

For Board Approval



## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **ANTI-HARASSMENT**

Reference: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d et seq.  
20 U.S.C. 1400 ET SEQ., The Individuals with Disabilities Education improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)  
20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.  
29 U.S.C. 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
29 U.S.C. 6101, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.  
42 USC 2000e et seq.  
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended  
42 USC 1983  
42 USC 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act  
29 C.F.R. Part 1635  
Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681 et seq.  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 794  
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 USC 12101 et seq.  
The Handicappers' Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.1101 et seq.  
The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101, et seq.  
Policies on Bullying, Michigan State Board of Education, 7-19-01  
Model Anti-Bullying Policy, Michigan State Board of Education, 09-2006  
National School Boards Association Inquiry and Analysis – May 2008

### **General Policy Statement**

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

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

For purposes of this policy, "Academy community" means students, administrators, and professional and support staff, as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

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

Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

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

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

Definitions

Bullying

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

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

### Harassment

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

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

### Sexual Harassment

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

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

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

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

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

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, jokes or

- innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, which may embarrass or offend individuals.
  - F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
  - G. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
  - H. Remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
  - I. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a staff member or other adult member of the Academy community into a student's personal space and personal life.
  - J. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

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

[NOTE: Sexual conduct/relationships with students by Academy personnel or any other adult member of the Academy community is prohibited, and any teacher, administrator, coach, or other school authority who engages in sexual conduct with a student may also be guilty of the criminal charge of "sexual battery". The issue of consent is irrelevant in regard to such criminal charge and/or with respect to the application of this policy to Academy personnel or other adult members of the Academy community.]

#### Race/Color Harassment

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

#### Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose

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

#### National Origin Harassment

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

#### Disability Harassment

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

#### Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Students and other members of the Academy community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to a teacher, an administrator, supervisor or other Academy official so that the conduct may be addressed before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other Academy employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the Academy's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) school days.

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

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, the Director believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Director will report the act of bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, the Director shall

suspend his/her 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Director informed of the status of the 3362 investigation and provide him/her with a copy of the resulting written report.

#### Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the Academy. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers".

[NOTE: Academies are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer in order to provide Complainants with the option to report their concerns to an individual of the gender with which they feel most comfortable. In addition, the Compliance Officers may also serve as the Academy's Section 504 and Title IX Coordinators.]

Center Director  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269-353-4193

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the parent and staff handbooks.

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

Compliance Officers shall accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, or receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the person alleging the harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Educational Service Provider or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the Academy community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) business days of learning of the incident.

Academy personnel who directly observe unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Academy employee who observes an act of unlawful harassment is expected to intervene to stop the harassment, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Academy employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the harassment. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) school days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Compliance Officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

Any staff member who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Complaint Coordinators. Thereafter, the Complaint Coordinator must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the Complaint Coordinator or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

#### Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Any student who believes that s/he has been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of his/her complaint through either the informal or formal procedures as described below. Further, a process for investigating claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the claim of legally prohibited harassment or retaliation was substantiated are set forth below.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or retaliation, time lines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

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

#### Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to stop inappropriate behavior and to investigate and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

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

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving an Academy employee or any other adult member of the Academy community against a student will be formally investigated. Similarly, any allegations of sexual violence will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a student feels that s/he is being unlawfully harassed and s/he is able and feels safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Such direct communication should not be utilized in circumstances involving sexual violence. The complaining individual should address the

allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to inform the harasser of his/her complaint is not prohibited from otherwise filing an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A student who believes s/he has been unlawfully harassed may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Educational Service Provider; and/or (3) directly to one of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below on his/her own, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

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

- A. Advising the student about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the alleged harasser.
- B. Distributing a copy of the anti-harassment policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the individual whose behavior is being questioned works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting between the student claiming harassment and the individual accused of harassment to work out a mutual resolution. Such a meeting is not appropriate in circumstances involving sexual violence.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee will exercise his/her authority to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the informal complaint. Parties who are dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, parties may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

#### Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the student elects to file a formal complaint initially, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

A student who believes s/he has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant", may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, principal, or other Academy employee at the student's school, the Compliance Officer, Educational Service Provider, or another Academy employee who works



at another school. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, Educational Service Provider, or other Academy employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment or retaliation, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) business days.

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

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent it is available: the identity of the individual believed to have engaged in, or be engaging in, offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based; a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the Complainant.

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

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the alleged harasser. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions s/he deem appropriate in consultation with the Educational Service Provider.

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

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the individual alleged to have engaged in the harassing or retaliatory conduct, hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent", that a complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant administrative guidelines, including the Board's Anti-Harassment policy. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

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

- A. interviews with the Complainant;
- B. interviews with the Respondent;
- C. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

- D. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the Complainant, Respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Educational Service Provider that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Complainant has been subjected to unlawful harassment. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Educational Service Provider.

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

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

A Complainant or Respondent who is dissatisfied with the final decision of the Educational Service Provider may appeal through a signed written statement to the Board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Educational Service Provider's final decision.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

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

#### Privacy/Confidentiality

The Academy will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related Administrative Procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. All Complainants proceeding through the formal investigation process will be advised that their identities may be disclosed to the Respondent.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will instruct all members of the Academy community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation.

### Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

### Retaliation

Any act of retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation is prohibited.

### Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any Academy teacher or Academy employee who knows or suspects that a student under the age of eighteen (18) **or that a person with a disability receiving services as a student from the academy regardless of age** has suffered or faces a threat of suffering a physical or mental wound, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the county children's services agency. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the Complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board Policy.

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

### Education and Training

In support of this Anti-Harassment Policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Educational

Service Provider or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the Academy community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for Academy students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as information provided regarding the Board's policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

### **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Academy personnel related to the investigation and/or the Academy's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;

- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;**
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the Academy to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the Academy at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);**
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;**
- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**

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

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

Adopted 2/11/14  
Revised 9/17/14

## **NEW POLICY- FALL 2018** **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

References      20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX)  
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education  
Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)  
42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq., Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.  
42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.  
42 U.S.C. 1983  
34 C.F.R. Part 106  
Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence (Office for Civil Rights, 2011)  
OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)

The Board of Directors does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its education programs and activities. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, interferes with students' rights to receive an education free from discrimination, and, in the case of sexual violence, is a crime. Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating sexual violence in all forms and will take appropriate action against any individual found responsible for violating this policy. To further its commitment against sexual violence, the Board provides reporting options, an investigative and disciplinary process, and other related services as appropriate.

This policy applies to all student complaints, whether filed by a student, his/her parent, an employee, or third party on the student's behalf. It applies to all Academy operations, programs, and activities, as well as to unlawful conduct occurring on academy property or during a Board-sponsored activity. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other academy personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment.

### **Definitions**

#### **Sexual Harassment**

As detailed further in Policy 5517, sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

**Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations;**

**Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact;**

**Threats or insinuations implying that a person's conditions of education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual**

advances;

- D. **unwelcome sexual verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; unwelcome sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls;**
- E. **sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature;**
- F. **unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures;**
- G. **a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;**
- H. **speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history;**
- I. **inappropriate boundary invasions into a student's personal space and personal life; and**
- J. **verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.**

### **Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence, as used in this policy, refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent (e.g., due to the student's age, intellectual or other disability, or use of drugs or alcohol).

Sexual violence includes rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence can be carried out by academy employees, other students, or third parties. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment and, in turn, sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

Harassing conduct creates a hostile environment when it interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the academy's program. A single or isolated incident of sexual harassment may create a hostile environment if the incident is sufficiently severe. For example, a single instance of rape is sufficiently severe to create a hostile environment.

### **Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the Academy. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers."

**[NOTE: For the complainant's comfort, Academies are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officers may also serve as the Academy's Section 504/ADA and Title IX Coordinators.]**

**Jason Walker**  
Director  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193  
[jwalker@ombudsman.com](mailto:jwalker@ombudsman.com)

**Lisa Thomas**  
Teacher  
6750 Chime Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-4193  
[lathomas@kalamazoopublicschool.net](mailto:lathomas@kalamazoopublicschool.net)

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

- A. in the student, parent and staff handbooks.
- B. on the Academy's Web site.

The Compliance Officers are available during regular academy/work hours to discuss Title IX questions, sexual violence concerns, and to assist students, other members of the Academy community, and third parties. Compliance Officers shall accept sexual violence complaints directly from any members of the Academy community or a visitor to the Academy, as well as those initially filed within an academy building administrator. Upon receiving a complaint, the Compliance Officer or designee will discuss confidentiality issues with the complainant (and his/her parent, if the complainant is a minor), and open an investigation as described below.

### Complaint Procedures

#### Reporting

Students and Board employees are required, and parents, community members, and third parties are encouraged, to report sexual violence promptly to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other academy official. Reports can be made orally or in writing, and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report shall identify the alleged victim, perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s). The Academy, however, will investigate and address all reports to the extent possible.

A student has a right to file criminal and/or Title IX complaints simultaneously. A student does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to sexual violence or any other Title IX concerns may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

[The Academy's harassment reporting form (Form 5517F1) is an optimal, but not required, way to report sexual harassment, including sexual violence. This form is available at the School Office.]

Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other academy employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the Academy's Compliance Officer within two (2) school days, and shall comply with his/her mandatory reporting



responsibilities. The Compliance Officer will oversee the Academy's investigation and response to any Title IX-related complaints, but s/he may delegate the investigative process to another individual ("Designee"). The Board reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy.

### **Confidentiality**

The Academy respects students' privacy and will only disclose information regarding alleged sexual violence to individuals who are responsible for handling the academy's response, the student's parents (if the student is a minor or is considered a dependent under Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code), or as otherwise required by law. During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer/designee will instruct all interviewees about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Interviewees will be directed not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation to third parties.

Students or their parents sometimes ask that the students' names not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrators or that no investigation or disciplinary action be pursued to address the alleged sexual violence. Upon such a request, the Compliance Officer/designee will inform the student and his/her parent that honoring the request may limit the Academy's ability to respond fully to the incident, including pursuing disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator. The official will also explain that Title IX includes protections against retaliation, and that academy officials will not only take steps to prevent retaliation but also take strong responsive action if it occurs.

Should the student or his/her parents continue to request complete confidentiality, the Compliance Officer/designee will balance the student's privacy request with the Academy's obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment for all students. Should the official determine that the Academy can honor the student's or parent's request and remain in compliance with its Federal and State obligations, the Academy may limit its investigation and/or formal action against the alleged perpetrator. The Academy will, however, take other action to address the sexual violence. This may include increasing monitoring and security, offering schedule changes, and conducting climate surveys.

If the Compliance Officer/designee determines that the Academy must disclose the student's identity to an alleged perpetrator, s/he will inform the student and his/her parents prior to disclosure. The Academy will then afford interim protection measures to the student as appropriate.

### **Investigation**

The Academy is committed to investigating all sexual violence complaints in an adequate, reliable, impartial, and prompt manner. The investigation will seek to determine whether the conduct occurred, and if so, what actions the academy will take to end the sexual violence, eliminate the hostile environment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

The investigation may include:

- A. interviewing the complainant, perpetrator, and any witnesses;

- B. reviewing law enforcement investigation documents;
- C. reviewing student and personnel files;
- D. gathering and examining other relevant documents or evidence; and
- E. providing a disciplinary hearing as needed.

The Academy affords both parties a balanced and fair process. Specifically, the complainant has the same rights throughout the proceeding as the alleged perpetrator. Both parties, for example, will have an equal opportunity to present relevant witnesses and other evidence at a disciplinary hearing. Likewise, the Academy's appeal process is available to both parties. The Academy, however, does not require complainants to be present for the hearing or appeal. Further, the Academy will not permit parties to personally question or cross-examine each other directly.

Additionally:

- A. The Academy permits both parties to have legal counsel or other advisors at any stage of the proceedings. Any restrictions on legal counsel participation apply to both parties equally.

In resolving a complaint, the Academy uses a preponderance of the evidence standard, determining whether it is more likely than not that sexual violence occurred.

#### Timeline

The Compliance Officer/designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) school days after receipt of a report of sexual violence to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct. The Compliance Officer/designee will also inform the alleged perpetrator of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days. The Academy's investigation, including a disciplinary hearing process (but not appeal), may take up to sixty (60) calendar days to complete. This timeframe may be extended on a case-by-case basis, depending on the complexity and severity of the matter, criminal investigation requirements, and academy breaks. During this period, the Academy will provide the complainant with periodic updates on the status of the investigation.

#### Interim Measures

During the investigation, the Academy will take interim steps to facilitate the complainant's equal access to its education programs. These steps may include, but are not limited to: 1) notifying the complainant of his/her options to avoid contact with the alleged perpetrator; 2) allowing the complainant to change his/her academic, extracurricular, transportation, dining, and working situation as appropriate; and 3) informing complainant of other available resources, such as counseling, legal assistance, and victim advocacy. Specific interim measures will be considered and offered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Notice**

Upon completing its investigation, the Academy will notify both parties in writing about the outcome of the complaint and any appeal. Specifically, the Academy will notify the complainant: 1) as to whether the investigation substantiated the allegations; 2) of individual remedies offered to the complainant; 3) of sanctions imposed on the perpetrator that directly relate to the complainant; and 4) other steps the Academy has taken to eliminate the hostile environment and prevent recurrence. The alleged perpetrator will be notified of the investigation's result and disciplinary consequence to him/her, if any. The Academy will not notify the alleged perpetrator about the individual remedies afforded to the complainant. All aforementioned notifications will comply with Federal and State privacy laws, including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### **Remedies**

The Academy will provide a prompt and equitable resolution. If the investigation substantiates the complaint, the Academy will take steps to end the sexual violence, eliminate the hostile environment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. In addition to imposing disciplinary consequences on the perpetrator, the Academy will consider the following individual and global remedies, on a case-by-case basis:

- A. providing medical, counseling, and academic support services to the complainant and/or perpetrator;
- B. re-arranging schedules at the complainant's request;
- C. affording the complainant extra time to complete or retake classes without academic penalty;
- D. reviewing any disciplinary proceedings against the complainant;
- E. training or retraining employees;
- F. developing materials on sexual violence;
- G. conducting sexual violence prevention programs; and
- H. conducting climate checks.

The Academy will not offer mediation in cases involving sexual violence. Disciplinary consequences against offenders may include suspension, expulsion, termination, and any other sanctions the Board deems appropriate. Any discipline meted out to offenders will comply with special education and Section 504 laws and regulations.

### **Appeals Process**

Both complainants and perpetrators may appeal the outcome of the investigation. Any appeal opportunities afforded to the alleged perpetrator are also afforded to the complainant. Any party wishing to appeal the outcome of the investigation must submit a written appeal to the Board within ten (10) school days after receipt of the written notice of the outcome of the investigation. The Board shall, within twenty (20) work days, conduct a hearing concerning the appeal. The Board shall provide a

written decision to the appealing individual within ten (10) work days following completion of the hearing.

### **Retaliation**

Federal law strictly prohibits retaliation against a complainant or witness. The Academy will inform complainant of this prohibition and direct him/her to report retaliation, whether by students or academy officials, to the Compliance Officer. Upon learning of retaliation, academy officials will take strong responsive action as appropriate.

### **Training**

All staff will be trained so they know to report harassment to appropriate academy officials. This training will include practical information about how to identify and report sexual harassment, including sexual violence. The training will be provided to any employees likely to witness or receive complaints involving sexual harassment and/or sexual violence, including teachers, academy law enforcement unit employees or academy resource officers, academy administrators, academy counselors, and health personnel. Further, academy administrators responsible for investigating allegations of sexual harassment and sexual violence will be trained how to conduct such investigations and respond properly to such charges.

### **Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials**

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by Academy personnel related to the investigation and/or the Academy's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is

otherwise memorialized in other documents;

- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the Academy to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the Academy at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- N. documentation of any training provided to Academy personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all Academy personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; [REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]

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

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310,

**Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the Academy's records retention schedule.**

FOR BOARD APPROVAL

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS**

Reference: MCL 722.627  
Attorney General's Opinion No 6869, September 6, 1995

The Board of Directors is committed to protecting students from harm that may or may not be directly associated with the **academy** environment but also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement State's child protection agency.

Whenever it has been determined that an agency has a legitimate purpose in interrogating a student within the confines of the Academy, the Director or representative shall be present throughout the proceedings. S/He should also verify that the student(s) has been informed of his/her rights to refuse to answer questions, to be informed that anything s/he says may be used against him/her in court, and to consult with and be advised by legal counsel.

Such agencies should be encouraged to investigate alleged violations of the law off **academy** property if at all possible. An investigation can take place immediately on **academy** property at the request of the **Educational Service Provider** if the alleged violation of law took place on **academy** property or in emergency situations.

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

**The Educational Service Provider shall ask the investigator whether s/he may contact the parents prior to the interview and document the response. Unless the investigator specifically requests that s/he not contact the parents, the Educational Service Provider shall attempt to contact the parents prior to questioning.**

Before the student(s) is (are) questioned as a witness to or suspect in an alleged violation of law, the building administrator shall attempt to contact the parent prior to questioning and shall request to remain in the room during the questioning.

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

If the student is the subject of a child abuse/neglect investigation, the Administrator shall attempt to contact the parent prior to questioning, and s/he will make every effort to remain in the room during questioning. If an agency investigating child abuse/neglect indicates that the parent or a family member is believed to be the perpetrator, the **Educational Service Provider** will not contact either parent prior to the interview if so requested by the investigator. All attempts to notify the parents should be documented.

When an *authorized law enforcement officer or child protection agency removes a student*, the Administrator will record the name of the investigator, the public agency involved and the destination of the student if possible. S/he shall also notify the parent.

No school official may release personally identifiable student information in education records to the police or children's services agency without prior written permission of the parent, a

lawfully-issued subpoena, or a court order, unless it is an emergency situation involving the health or safety of the involved student or other students. Proper directory information may be disclosed upon request. (See Board Policy 8330).

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised**

For Board Approval



## **REPLACEMENT POLICY – FALL 2018** **EMERGENCY REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS**

Reference: M.C.L. 380.1301, 380.1309, 380.1310d, 380.1311  
20 U.S.C. 3351  
State Board of Education, Resolution to Address School Discipline Issues  
Impacting Student Outcomes, Adopted June 12, 2012

The Board of Directors is continually concerned about the safety and welfare of Academy students and staff and, therefore, will not tolerate behavior that creates an unsafe environment, a threat to safety or undue disruption of the educational environment.

### **Factors to be Considered Before Suspending or Expelling a Student**

The Board of Directors also recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the academy's is a severe sanction that should only be imposed after careful and appropriate consideration. Except as otherwise noted below with respect to possession of a firearm in a weapon free school zone, if suspension or expulsion of a student is considered, the Educational Service Provider shall consider the following factors prior to making a determination of whether to suspend or expel:

- A. the student's age
- B. the student's disciplinary history
- C. whether the student has a disability
- D. the seriousness of the violation or behavior
- E. whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatened the safety of any student or staff member
- F. whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior
- G. whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior

The Educational Service Provider will exercise discretion over whether or not to suspend or expel a student. In exercising that discretion for a suspension of more than ten (10) days or expulsion, there is a rebuttable presumption that a suspension or expulsion is not justified unless the Educational Service Provider can demonstrate that it considered each of the factors listed above. For a suspension of ten (10) days or fewer, there is no rebuttable presumption, but the Educational Service Provider will still consider these factors in making the determination.

### **Restorative Practices**

The Educational Service Provider shall consider using restorative practices as an alternative to or in addition to suspension or expulsion. If the Academy determines

that it will utilize restorative practices in addition to or as an alternative to suspension or expulsion of a student, it will engage in restorative practices which emphasize repairing the harm to the victim and academy community caused by the student's misconduct.

Restorative practices should be the first consideration to remediate offenses such as interpersonal conflicts, bullying, verbal and physical conflicts, theft, damage to property, class disruption and harassment and cyberbullying.

If the Educational Service Provider decides to utilize restorative practices as an alternative to or in addition to suspension or expulsion, the restorative practices may include victim-offender conferences that:

- A. are initiated by the victim;
- B. are approved by the victim's parent or legal guardian or, if the victim is at least fifteen (15), by the victim;
- C. are attended voluntarily by the victim, a victim advocate, the offender, members of the academy community, and supporters of the victim and the offender (the "restorative practices team");
- D. would provide an opportunity for the offender to accept responsibility for the harm caused to those affected, and to participate in setting consequences to repair the harm, such as requiring the student to apologize; participate in community service, restoration of emotional or material losses, or counseling; pay restitution; or any combination of these.

The selected consequences and time limits for their completion will be incorporated into an agreement to be signed by all participants.

### Due Process

The Board recognizes exclusion from the educational programs of the Academy, whether by suspension or expulsion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student and is one that cannot be imposed without appropriate due process, since exclusion deprives a child of the right to an education. The Board also recognizes that it may be necessary for a teacher to remove a student from class for conduct disruptive to the learning environment, and that such removals are not subject to a prior hearing, provided the removal is for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours. However, if an emergency removal may result in a suspension, then due process must be ensured.

In all cases resulting in short-term suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion, appropriate due process rights described in Policy 5611 and AG 5610 must be observed. The Director shall check to make sure the student is not classified as disabled under Section 504. Students with disabilities under IDEA or Section 504 shall be expelled only in accordance with their rights under Federal law.

For purposes of this policy, suspension shall be either short-term (not more than ten (10) days) or long-term (for more than ten (10) days but less than permanent

expulsion) removal of a student from a regular Academy program. The Educational Service Provider may suspend a student for a period not to exceed 10 school days.

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise defined in Federal and/or State law, expulsion is defined as the permanent exclusion of a student from the Academy. Students who are expelled may petition for reinstatement as provided below.

#### **Emergency Removal or Short-Term Suspension**

A student may be removed from a class, subject, or activity for one (1) day by his/her teacher for certain conduct as specified in the Code of Conduct, or he/she may be given a short-term suspension by the Educational Service Provider. A student so removed may be allowed to attend other classes taught by other teachers during the term of the one (1) day removal. A student removed from the same class for ten (10) days will be entitled to the process for short-term suspensions outlined in AG 5610. A student removed from the same class for more than ten (10) days will be entitled to the process for long-term suspensions outlined in AG 5610. The Board designates the Educational Service Provider as its representative at any hearings regarding the appeal of a suspension.

#### **Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion**

Due process set out in Policy 5611 and AG 5610 shall be followed in all circumstances in which a student may be expelled or suspended for a period of more than ten (10) days.

The Educational Service Provider may recommend to the Board a long-term suspension or that a student be expelled.

In all cases resulting in short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion, appropriate due process rights must be observed.

The Educational Service Provider shall develop procedures to implement this policy that shall include the following:

- A. strategies for providing special assistance to students in danger of being expelled and not achieving the academic outcomes of the Academy's core curriculum;
- B. standards of behavior for all students in accordance with Academy Board policy on student discipline;
- C. procedures that ensure due process; and
- D. provision for make-up work at home, when appropriate.

#### **Persistent Disobedience or Gross Misconduct/CSC Against Another Academy Student**

Any student may be removed from the classroom, and/or, after consideration of the factors identified above, suspended or expelled for persistent disobedience or gross misconduct or if the student commits criminal sexual conduct against another student enrolled in the Academy regardless of the location of the conduct. A student may not

be expelled or excluded from the regular academy program based on pregnancy status.

In recognition of the negative impact on a student's education, the Board encourages the Academy's administrators to view suspensions, particularly those over ten (10) days, and permanent expulsions as discipline of last resort, except where these disciplines are required by law. Alternatives to avoid or to improve undesirable behaviors should be explored when possible prior to implementing or requesting a suspension or expulsion.

### **Physical and Verbal Assault**

Unless a different determination is made after consideration of the factors identified above, the Academy shall permanently expel a student in grade six or above if that student commits physical assault at the Academy against a staff member, a volunteer, or a contractor.

Unless a different determination is made after consideration of the factors identified above, the Academy shall suspend or expel a student in grade six or above for up to 180 school days if the student commits physical assault at the Academy against another student.

Physical assault is defined as "intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence."

Unless a different determination is made after consideration of the factors identified above, the Academy shall suspend or expel a student in grade six or above and may discipline, suspend or expel a student in grade five and below for a period of time as determined at the Board's discretion if the student commits verbal assault at the Academy against a Academy employee, volunteer, or contractor or makes a bomb threat or similar threat directed at an academy building, property, or at an academy-related activity.

Verbal assault is a communicated intent to inflict physical or other harm on another person, with a present intent and ability to act on the threat.

"At the Academy" means in a classroom, elsewhere on academy premises, on an academy bus or other academy-related vehicle, or at an academy-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on academy premises.

The Academy may provide appropriate instructional services at home for an expelled student not placed in an Alternative Education Program. The instructional services provided shall be similar to those provided to homebound or hospitalized students and shall be contracted for in the same manner.

### **Weapons, Arson, Criminal Sexual Conduct**

In compliance with State and Federal law, and unless a different determination is made after consideration of the factors identified above, the Academy shall expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, in the Academy's weapon-free school zone (except as noted below), commits either arson or criminal sexual conduct in an academy building or on academy property, including academy

buses and other Academy transportation, or pleads to, is convicted of or is adjudicated of criminal sexual conduct against another student enrolled in the Academy.

In compliance with State and Federal law, the Academy shall expel any student who possesses a firearm in the Academy's weapon-free school zone in violation of State law, unless the student can establish the mitigating factors relating to possession of a dangerous weapon set out below, by clear and convincing evidence.

For purposes of this policy, a "dangerous weapon" is defined by law as a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles. This definition also includes other devices designed to (or likely to) inflict bodily harm, including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices. The term "firearm" is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of the explosive, the frame, or the bearer of any such weapon, as well as a firearm muffler, firearm silencer, or any such destructive device.

The Academy need not expel a student for possession of a dangerous weapon, including a firearm, if the student can establish in a clear and convincing manner the following mitigating factor(s) to the satisfaction of the Board the:

- A. object or instrument was not possessed for use as a weapon, or for direct (or indirect) delivery to another person for use as a weapon; or
- B. weapon was not knowingly possessed; or
- C. student did not know (or have reason to know) that the object or instrument in his/her possession constituted a dangerous weapon; or
- D. weapon was possessed at the suggestion, request, direction of, or with the express permission of the Educational Service Provider or the police.

There is a rebuttable presumption that expulsion for possessing the weapon is not justified if the Educational Service Provider determines in writing that the student has established that he or she fits under one of the exceptions above by clear and convincing evidence, and that the student has no previous history of suspension or expulsion.

For expulsions for dangerous weapons, arson, criminal sexual conduct or assault upon an employee, volunteer or contractor, the Educational Service Provider shall provide that the expulsion is duly noted in the student's record, the student is referred to the Department of Human Services or Department of Community Health within three (3) school days after the expulsion, and the parents are informed of the referral. Furthermore, if a student who is expelled is below the age of sixteen (16), the Educational Service Provider shall ensure notification of the expulsion is given to the Juvenile Division of the Probate Court. In compliance with Federal law, the Educational Service Provider shall also refer any student (regardless of age) expelled for possession of a dangerous weapon to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system serving the Academy. In addition, the Educational Service Provider shall send a copy of this policy to the State Department of Education and shall include a description of the circumstances surrounding the expulsion of the student for possessing a firearm or weapon in the Academy's weapon-free school zone, together

with the name of the Academy, the number of students so expelled, and the types of firearms or weapons brought into the weapon-free school zone.

A student expelled under this policy for dangerous weapons, arson, criminal sexual conduct or assault upon an employee, volunteer or contractor may apply for reinstatement in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. If the student is in grade five (5) or below at the time of the expulsion and was expelled for possessing a firearm or threatening another person with a dangerous weapon, the parents, legal guardian, adult student, or emancipated minor may submit a request for reinstatement after sixty (60) school days from the date of expulsion, but the student may not be reinstated before ninety (90) school days from the expulsion date.
- B. If the student is in grade five (5) or below at the time of the expulsion and was expelled for a reason other than possessing a firearm or threatening another person with a dangerous weapon, the parents, legal guardian, or emancipated minor may submit a request for reinstatement at any time, but the student may not be reinstated before ten (10) school days from the expulsion date.
- C. If the student is in grade six (6) or above at the time of the expulsion, the parents, legal guardian, adult student, or emancipated minor may submit a request for reinstatement after one hundred and fifty (150) school days from the date of the expulsion, but the student may not be reinstated before one hundred eighty (180) school days from the expulsion date.
- D. The parent, adult student, or emancipated minor shall submit the request for reinstatement to the Educational Service Provider.
- E. Within ten (10) school days after receiving the petition, the Board shall appoint a committee consisting of two (2) Board members, an academy administrator, a teacher, and an academy-parent representative. During this time period, the Educational Service Provider shall prepare and submit for consideration by the committee information concerning the circumstances of the expulsion and any factors mitigating for or against reinstatement.
- F. Within ten (10) school days after being appointed, the committee shall review all pertinent information and submit its recommendation to the Board. The recommendation may be for unconditional reinstatement, conditional reinstatement, or non-reinstatement, based on the committee's consideration of the following:
  1. extent to which reinstatement would create a risk of harm to students or academy staff;
  2. extent to which reinstatement would create a risk of academy or individual liability for the Board or academy staff;

3. age and maturity of the student;
4. student's academy record before the expulsion incident;
5. student's attitude concerning the expulsion incident;
6. student's behavior since the expulsion and the prospects for remediation;
7. The degree of cooperation and support the parent has provided and will provide if the student is reinstated (if the request was filed by a parent), including, but not limited to the parent's receptiveness toward any conditions placed on the reinstatement. Such conditions, for example, might include a written agreement by the student and/or a parent who filed the reinstatement request to accomplish the following:
  - a. abide by a behavior contract involving the student, his/her parents, and an outside agency;
  - b. participate in an anger management program or other counseling activities;
  - c. cooperate in processing and discussing periodic progress reviews;
  - d. meet other conditions deemed appropriate by the committee;
  - e. accept the consequences for not fulfilling the agreed upon conditions.
8. student's behavior since the expulsion and the prospects for remediation.

The Board shall make its decision no later than the next regular Board meeting following the committee's submission of its recommendations. The Board's decision shall be final and is not subject to appeal.

In the event a student who has been permanently expelled from another academy requests admission to this Academy, in making its decision, the Board shall follow the same procedure it has established in paragraphs A-F, above, for the reinstatement of a student.

Students expelled for reasons other than dangerous weapons, arson, criminal sexual conduct or assault upon an employee, volunteer or contractor may also petition the Board for reinstatement. The Board may, at its discretion, consider the petition upon any standards and with any procedures it determines appropriate under the circumstances.

The Educational Service Provider shall ensure Board policies and procedures regarding a student's rights to due process are followed when dealing with a possible suspension or expulsion under this policy.

### **In-School Discipline**

The purpose of this policy is to provide an alternative to out of school suspension. The availability of in-school discipline options is dependent upon the financial ability of the Board to support such a program.

In-school discipline will only be offered at the discretion of the Educational Service Provider for offenses found in the Student Code of Conduct.

The Educational Service Provider is to establish procedures for the proper operation of such a program and to ensure appropriate due-process procedures are followed as applicable. (See Policy 5630.01)

### **Due Process Rights**

The Board recognizes the importance of safeguarding a student's constitutional rights, particularly when subject to the Academy's disciplinary procedures.

To better ensure appropriate due-process is provided a student, the Board establishes the following:

#### **A. Students Subject to Short-Term Suspension**

Except when emergency removal is warranted, a student must be given at least oral notice of the charges against him/her and the opportunity to respond prior to the implementation of a suspension. When emergency removal has been implemented, notice and opportunity to respond shall occur as soon as reasonably possible. The Educational Service Provider or other designated administrator shall provide the opportunity to be heard and shall be responsible for making the suspension decision. An appeal may be addressed to the Educational Service Provider whose decision will be final.

#### **B. Students Subject to Long-Term Suspension and Expulsion**

A student and his/her parent or guardian must be given written notice of the intention to suspend or expel and the reasons therefore, and must also be given an opportunity to appear before the Board with a representative to answer the charges. The student and/or his/her guardian must also be provided a brief description of the student's rights and the hearing procedure, a list of the witnesses who will provide testimony to the Board, and a summary of the facts to which the witnesses will testify. At the student/parent's request, the hearing shall be held in closed session, but the Board must act publicly. The Board shall act by providing a written decision on any appeal of an expulsion, a request for reinstatement, or a request for admission after permanent expulsion from another academy.

The Educational Service Provider shall develop procedures to ensure all members of the staff use the above guidelines when dealing with students. In addition, this statement of due process rights shall be placed in all student handbooks, in a manner that facilitates understanding by students and their parents.



### **Corporal Punishment**

While recognizing that students may require disciplinary action in various forms, the Board does not condone the use of unreasonable force and fear as an appropriate procedure in student discipline.

Staff shall not use physical force or violence to compel obedience. If all other means fail, staff members may always resort to the removal of the student from the classroom or Academy through suspension or expulsion procedures.

Within the scope of their employment, all staff may use reasonable force and apply restraint to accomplish the following:

- A. restrain or remove a student who refuses to comply with a request to behave or report to the office;
- B. quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to self or others;
- C. obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the student, for either self-defense; or
- D. the protection of persons or property.

In accordance with State law, corporal punishment shall not be permitted. If any staff member (full-time, part-time, or substitute) deliberately inflicts, or causes to be inflicted, physical pain upon the student (by hitting, paddling, spanking, slapping or any other kind of physical force) as a means of discipline, the staff member may be subject to discipline and possibly criminal assault charges. This prohibition also applies to volunteers and those with whom the Academy contracts for services.

The Educational Service Provider shall provide guidelines, including a list of alternatives to corporal punishment.

### **Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities**

The Academy shall abide by Federal and State laws in matters relating to discipline, suspension, and expulsion of disabled students.

Adopted 2/11/14  
Revised 12/12/17

## **NEW POLICY- FALL 2018** **DUE PROCESS RIGHTS**

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of safeguarding a student's constitutional rights, particularly when subject to the Academy's disciplinary procedures.

To better ensure appropriate due-process is provided a student, the Board establishes the following guidelines:

**A. Students subject to short-term suspension:**

Except when emergency removal is warranted, a student must be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and the opportunity to respond prior to the implementation of a suspension. When emergency removal has been implemented, notice and opportunity to respond shall occur as soon as reasonably possible. The Director or other designated administrator shall provide the opportunity to be heard and shall be responsible for making the suspension decision. An appeal may be addressed to the Educational Service Provider whose decision will be final.

**B. Students subject to long-term suspension and expulsion:**

A student and his/her parent or guardian must be given written notice of the intention to suspend or expel and the reasons therefore, and an opportunity to appear with a representative before the Educational Service Provider to answer the charges. The student and/or his/her guardian must also be provided a brief description of the student's rights and of the hearing procedure, a list of the witnesses who will provide testimony to the Educational Service Provider, and a summary of the facts to which the witnesses will testify. At the student's request, the hearing may be private, but the Educational Service Provider must act publicly. The Board shall act on any appeal, which must be submitted in writing, to an expulsion, to a request for reinstatement, or to a request for admission after being permanently expelled from another district (Policy 5610).

The Educational Service Provider shall establish procedures so that all members of the staff use the above guidelines when dealing with students. In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **STUDENT SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT**

This policy is intended to provide the framework for organizational supports that result in effective interventions based on team-based leadership, data-based decision-making, continuous monitoring of student behavior, regular universal screening and effective on-going professional development. The Academy is committed to investing in prevention efforts and to teach, practice and reinforce behaviors that result in positive academic and social outcomes for students.

In the event that staff members need to restrain and/or seclude students, it must be done in accordance with this policy, which is intended to:

- A. promote the care, safety, welfare and security of the **academy** community and the dignity of each student;
- B. encourage the use of proactive, effective, evidence and research based strategies and best practices to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviors, eliminate the use of seclusion and restraint, and increase meaningful instructional time for all students; and
- C. ensure that seclusion and restraint are used only as a last resort in an emergency situation and are subject to diligent assessment, monitoring, documentation and reporting by trained personnel.

In furtherance of these objectives, the Academy will utilize Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to enhance academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. PBIS implemented by the Academy will include socially valued and measurable outcomes, empirically validated and practical practices, systems that efficiently and effectively support implementation of these practices, and continuous collection and use of data for decision-making.

### **EMERGENCY SECLUSION**

- A. Prohibited Practices and Limitations on Use

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

1. confinement of students who are severely self-injurious or suicidal
2. corporal punishment, as defined in M.C.L. 380.1312(1) of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451
3. the deprivation of basic needs
4. anything constituting child abuse
5. seclusion of pre-school children
6. seclusion that is used for the convenience of **academy** personnel

7. seclusion as a substitute for an educational program
8. seclusion as a form of discipline or punishment
9. seclusion as a substitute for less restrictive alternatives, adequate staffing or **academy** personnel training in PBIS
10. when contraindicated based on (as documented in a record or records made available to the **academy**) a student's disability, health care needs, or medical or psychiatric condition

B. Definition of Emergency Seclusion

Seclusion means the confinement of a student in a room or other space from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include the general confinement of students if that confinement is an integral part of an emergency lockdown drill required under Section 19(5) of the Fire Prevention Code, 1941 PA 207, M.C.L. 29.19, or of another emergency security procedure that is necessary to protect the safety of students.

Emergency seclusion is a last resort emergency safety intervention involving seclusion that is necessitated by an ongoing emergency situation and that provides an opportunity for the student to regain self-control while maintaining the safety of the student and others.

To qualify as emergency seclusion, there must be continuous observation by **academy** personnel of the student and the room or area used for confinement:

1. must not be locked
2. must not prevent the student from exiting the area should staff become incapacitated or leave that area
3. must provide for adequate space, lighting, ventilation, viewing, and the safety of the student
4. must comply with State and local fire and building codes

C. Time and Duration Emergency seclusion should not be used any longer than necessary, based on research and evidence, to allow a student to regain control of his/her behavior to the point that the emergency situation necessitating the use of emergency seclusion is ended, but generally no longer than:

1. fifteen (15) minutes for an elementary school student;
2. twenty (20) minutes for a middle school or high school student

If an emergency seclusion lasts longer than the suggested maximum times above, the following are required:

- a. additional support (which may include change of staff, introducing a nurse or specialist, or additional key identified personnel)
- b. documentation to explain the extension beyond the time limit

Additional procedures and requirements applicable to both seclusion and restraint are set out below.

A. Prohibited Practices

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

1. mechanical restraint
2. chemical restraint
3. corporal punishment as defined in 380.1312(1) of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, otherwise known as the Corporal Punishment Act
4. the deprivation of basic needs
5. anything constituting child abuse
6. restraint that is used for the convenience of **academy** personnel
7. restraint as a substitute for an educational program
8. restraint as a form of discipline or punishment
9. restraint as a substitute for less restrictive alternatives, adequate staffing or **academy** personnel training in PBIS
10. when contraindicated based on (as documented in a record or records made available to the **academy**) a student's disability, health care needs, or medical or psychiatric condition
11. any restraint that negatively impacts breathing, including any positions, whether on the floor, facedown, seated or kneeling, in which the student's physical position (e.g., bent over) is such that it is difficult to breathe, including situations that involve sitting or lying across an individual's back or stomach
12. prone restraint (the restraint of a person face down)

NOTE: **Academy** personnel who find themselves involved in the use of a prone restraint as the result of responding to an emergency must take immediate steps to end the prone restraint.

13. the intentional application of any noxious substance(s) or stimuli that results in physical pain or extreme discomfort

A noxious substance or stimuli can either be generally acknowledged or specific to the student.

14. physical restraint, other than emergency physical restraint
15. any other type of restraint not expressly allowed

B. Definition of Restraint

Restraint means an action that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement. Physical restraint is intended for the purposes of emergency situations only, in which a student's behavior poses imminent risk to the safety of the individual student or to the safety of others. An emergency situation requires an immediate intervention.

Emergency physical restraint is a last resort emergency safety intervention involving physical restraint that is necessitated by an ongoing emergency situation and that provide an opportunity for the student to retain self-control while maintaining the safety of the student and others. An emergency situation requires an immediate intervention. Emergency physical restraint may not be used in place of appropriate less restrictive interventions.

There are three (3) types of restraint: physical, chemical, and mechanical.

1. Physical restraint involves direct physical contact.

Restraint does not include actions undertaken for the following reasons:

- a. to break up a fight
- b. to take a weapon away from a student
- c. to briefly hold the student (by an adult) in order to calm or comfort him/her
- d. to have the minimum contact necessary to physically escort a student from one area to another
- e. to assist a student in completing a task/response if the student does not resist or if resistance is minimal in intensity or duration
- f. to hold a student for a brief time in order to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (e.g., running in front of a car)
- g. to stop a physical assault as defined in M.C.L. 380.1310
- h. actions that are an integral part of a sporting event, such as a referee pulling football players off from a pile or similar action

2. Chemical Restraint is the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint.

Restraint does not include administration of medication prescribed by and administered in accordance with the directions of a physician.

3. Mechanical Restraint means the use of any device, article, garment, or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body to perform restraint.

Restraint does not include the following:

- a. an adaptive or protective device recommended by a physician or therapist (when it is used as recommended)
- b. safety equipment used by the general student population as intended (e.g., seat belts, safety harness on **academy** transportation)

C. Time and Duration

Restraint should not be used:

1. any longer than necessary, based on research and evidence, to allow students to regain control of their behavior to the point that the emergency situation necessitating the use of emergency physical restraint is ended; and
2. generally no longer than ten (10) minutes.

If an emergency restraint lasts longer than ten (10) minutes, all of the following are required:

1. additional support, which may include a change of staff, or introducing a nurse, specialist, or additional key identified personnel
2. documentation to explain the extension beyond the time limit

Additional procedures and requirements applicable to both seclusion and restraint are set out below.

USE OF EMERGENCY SECLUSION/RESTRAINT

A. When to Use Emergency Seclusion/Restraint

Seclusion/restraint must be used only under emergency situations and if essential. Emergency situation means a situation in which a student's behavior poses imminent risk to the safety of the individual student or to the safety of others. An emergency situation requires an immediate intervention.

B. General Procedures for Emergency Seclusion/Restraint:

1. An emergency seclusion/restraint may not be used in place of appropriate, less restrictive interventions.
2. Emergency seclusion/restraint shall be performed in a manner that is:
  - a. safe;
  - b. appropriate; and
  - c. proportionate to and sensitive to the student's:
    - 1) severity of behavior;
    - 2) chronological and developmental age;
    - 3) physical size;
    - 4) gender;
    - 5) physical condition;
    - 6) medical condition;
    - 7) psychiatric condition; and
    - 8) personal history, including any history of physical or sexual abuse or other trauma.
3. **Academy** personnel shall call key identified personnel for help from within the **academy** building either immediately at the onset of an emergency situation or, if it is reasonable under the particular circumstances for **academy** personnel to believe that diverting their attention to calling for help would increase the risk to the safety of the student or to the safety of others, as soon as possible once the circumstances no longer support such a belief.
4. While using emergency seclusion/restraint, staff must do all of the following:
  - a. involve key identified personnel to protect the care, welfare, dignity, and safety of the student
  - b. continually observe the student in emergency seclusion for indications of physical distress and seek medical assistance if there is a concern
  - c. document observations
  - d. ensure to the extent practicable, in light of the ongoing emergency situation, that the emergency seclusion/restraint



- does not interfere with the student's ability to communicate using the student's primary mode of communication
- e. ensure that at all times during the use of emergency seclusion/restraint there are **academy** personnel present who can communicate with the student using the student's primary mode of communication
5. Each use of an emergency seclusion/restraint and the reason for each use shall be documented and reported according to the following procedures:
    - a. document in writing and report in writing or orally to the building administration immediately
    - b. report in writing or orally to the parent or guardian immediately
    - c. a report shall be written for each use of seclusion/restraint (including multiple uses within a given day) and the written report(s) provided to the parent or guardian within the earlier of one (1) school day or seven (7) calendar days
  6. After any use of an emergency seclusion/restraint, staff must make reasonable efforts to debrief and consult with the parent or guardian, or the parent or guardian and the student (as appropriate) regarding the determination of future actions.
- C. Students Exhibiting a Pattern of Behavior
1. If a student exhibits a pattern of behavior that poses a substantial risk of creating an emergency situation in the future that could result in the use of emergency seclusion/restraint, **academy** personnel should do the following:
    - a. conduct a functional behavioral assessment
    - b. develop or revise a PBIS plan to facilitate the reduction or elimination of the use of seclusion/restraint
    - c. develop an assessment and planning process conducted by a team knowledgeable about the student, including at least:
      - 1) the parent or guardian
      - 2) the student (if appropriate)
      - 3) people who are responsible for implementation of the PBIS plan
      - 4) people who are knowledgeable in PBIS

- d. develop a written emergency intervention plan ("EIP") to protect the health, safety, and dignity of the student. An EIP may not expand the legally permissible use of emergency seclusion/restraint.

The EIP should be developed by a team in partnership with the parent or guardian. The team shall include:

- 1) a teacher;
- 2) an individual knowledgeable about legally permissible use of seclusion/restraint; and
- 3) an individual knowledgeable about the use of PBIS to eliminate the use of seclusion/restraint.

The EIP should be developed and implemented by taking all of the following documented steps:

- a. describe in detail the emergency intervention procedures
- b. describe in detail the legal limits on the use of emergency seclusion/restraint, including examples of legally permissible and prohibited uses
- c. inquire of the student's medical personnel (with parent or guardian consent) regarding any known medical or health contraindications for the use of seclusion/restraint
- d. conduct a peer review by knowledgeable staff
- e. provide the parent or guardian with all of the following, in writing and orally:
  - 1) A detailed explanation of the PBIS strategies that will reduce the risk of the student's behavior creating an emergency situation.
  - 2) An explanation of what constitutes an emergency, including examples of situations that would fall within and outside of the definition.
  - 3) A detailed explanation of the intervention procedures to be followed in an emergency situation, including the potential use of emergency seclusion/restraint.
  - 4) A description of possible discomforts or risks.
  - 5) A detailed explanation of the legal limits on the use of emergency seclusion/restraint, including examples of legally permissible and prohibited uses.

6) Answers to any questions.

A student who is the subject of an EIP should be told or shown the circumstances under which emergency intervention could be used.

D. Data Collection and Reporting

1. The building administrator shall develop a system of data collection, collect the data and forward all incident reports and data regarding the use of seclusion/restraint to the Administrator/Educational Service Provider.

The data must:

- a. be analyzed to determine the efficacy of the **academy's academy-wide** system of behavioral support;
- b. be analyzed in the context of suspension, expulsion, and dropout data;
- c. be analyzed for the purposes of continuous improvement of training and technical assistance toward the reduction or elimination of seclusion/restraint;
- d. be analyzed on a schedule determined by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE);
- e. be reported to the MDE, if and as required;
- f. include a list of appropriately trained, identified personnel and their levels of:
  - 1) education;
  - 2) training; and
  - 3) knowledge.

NOTE: The Academy must report to the MDE on the use of seclusion and restraint periodically. MDE will develop guidelines that outline the process for reporting redacted, aggregated data regarding the emergency use of seclusion and restraint.

Training Framework

A comprehensive training framework will be implemented which includes the following:

- A. awareness training for all **academy** personnel who have regular contact with students; and
- B. comprehensive training for key identified personnel.

All substitute teachers must be informed of and understand the procedures regarding the use of emergency seclusion and emergency restraint. This requirement may be satisfied using

online training developed or approved by MDE and online acknowledgement of understanding and completion of the training by the substitute teacher.

Comprehensive Training for Identified Personnel

Each building administrator will identify sufficient key personnel to ensure that trained personnel are generally available for an emergency situation. Before using emergency seclusion or emergency physical restraint with students, key identified personnel who may have to respond to an emergency safety situation must be trained in all of the following:

- A. proactive practices and strategies that ensure the dignity of students
- B. conflict resolution
- C. mediation
- D. social skills training
- E. de-escalation techniques
- F. positive behavioral intervention and support strategies
- G. techniques to identify student behaviors that may trigger emergency safety situations
- H. related safety considerations, including information regarding the increased risk of injury to students and staff when seclusion or restraint is used
- I. instruction in the use of emergency seclusion and emergency physical restraint
- J. identification of events and environmental factors that may trigger emergency safety situations
- K. instruction on the State policy on the use of seclusion and restraint
- L. description and identification of dangerous behaviors
- M. methods for evaluating the risk of harm to determine whether the use of emergency seclusion or emergency physical restraint is warranted
- N. types of seclusion
- O. types of restraint
- P. the risk of using seclusion and restraint in consideration of a student's known and unknown medical or psychological limitations
- Q. cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid
- R. the effects of seclusion and restraint on all students

- S. how to monitor for and identify physical signs of distress and the implications for students generally and for students with particular physical or mental health conditions or psychological limitations
- T. ways to obtain appropriate medical assistance

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**"Academy Personnel" includes all individuals employed in a public school or assigned to regularly and continuously work under contract or under agreement in a public school, or public school personnel providing service at a nonpublic school. Except for the obligations set out above to document seclusion or restraint, report to/consult with parents, undertake the required actions if a student shows a pattern of behavior, and collect and report data to the state, academy personnel does not include a law enforcement officer (as defined above) assigned to regularly and continuously work under contract or under agreement in a public school.**

"Chemical Restraint" means the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint.

"De-escalation Techniques" means evidence- and research-based strategically employed verbal or nonverbal interventions used to reduce the intensity of threatening behavior before, during, and after a crisis situation occurs.

"Documentation" means documentation developed by the Michigan Department of Education that is uniform across the State.

"Emergency Situation" means a situation in which a student's behavior poses imminent risk to the safety of the individual student or to the safety of others. An emergency situation requires an immediate intervention.

"Functional Behavioral Assessment" means an evidence- and research-based systematic process for identifying the events that trigger and maintain problem behavior in an educational setting. A functional behavioral assessment shall describe specific problematic behaviors, report the frequency of the behaviors, assess environmental and other setting conditions where problematic behaviors occur, and identify the factors that are maintaining the behaviors over time.

"Key Identified Personnel" means those individuals who have received the mandatory training described in M.C.L. 380.1307G(B)(I) to (XVI), listed under Comprehensive Training for Identified Personnel above.

**"Law Enforcement Officer" means an individual licensed under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards Act, M.C.L. 28.601 to 28.615.**

"Mechanical Restraint" means the use of any device, article, garment, or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body to perform restraint.

"Physical Restraint" means restraint involving direct physical contact.

"Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS)" means a framework to assist **academy** personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum of intensifying supports based on student need that unites examination

of the function of the problem behavior and the teaching of alternative skill repertoires to enhance academic and social behavior outcomes for all students.

"Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Plan" means a student-specific support plan composed of individualized, functional behavioral assessment-based intervention strategies, including, as appropriate to the student, guidance or instruction for the student to use new skills as a replacement for problem behaviors, some rearrangement of the antecedent environment so that problems can be prevented and desirable behaviors can be encouraged, and procedures for monitoring, evaluating, and modifying the plan as necessary.

"Prone Restraint" means the restraint of an individual face down.

"Regularly and Continuously Work Under Contract" means that term as defined in section M.C.L. 380.1230.

"Restraint" means an action that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement. Restraint does not include the brief holding of a student in order to calm or comfort, the minimum contact necessary to physically escort a student from one area to another, the minimum contact necessary to assist a student in completing a task or response if the student does not resist or resistance is minimal in intensity or duration, or the holding of a student for a brief time in order to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety, such as running in front of a car. Restraint does not include the administration of medication prescribed by and administered in accordance with the directions of a physician, an adaptive or protective device recommended by a physician or therapist when it is used as recommended, or safety equipment used by the general student population as intended, such as a seat belt or safety harness on **academy** transportation. Restraint does not include necessary actions taken to break up a fight, to stop a physical assault, as defined in M.C.L. 380.1310, or to take a weapon from a student. Restraint does not include actions that are an integral part of a sporting event, such as a referee pulling football players off of a pile or a similar action.

Restraint that negatively impacts breathing means any restraint that inhibits breathing, including floor restraints, facedown position, or any position in which an individual is bent over in such a way that it is difficult to breathe. This includes a seated or kneeling position in which an individual being restrained is bent over at the waist and restraint that involves sitting or lying across an individual's back or stomach.

"Seclusion" means the confinement of a student in a room or other space from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include the general confinement of students if that confinement is an integral part of an emergency lockdown drill required under Section 19(5) of the Fire Prevention Code, 1941 PA 207, M.C.L. 29.19, or of another emergency security procedure that is necessary to protect the safety of student.

Adapted from Michigan State Board of Education Policy for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint adopted in March of 2017

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised** 12/12/17

6000 **FINANCES**

6107	Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and to Use Electronic Signatures	BP
6110	Grant Funds	BP
6111	Internal Controls	BP
6112	Best Practice	BP
6114	Cost Principles	BP
6116	Time & Effort Reporting	BP
<b>6144</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>L</b>
6152	Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies	BP
6210	Fiscal Planning	BP
6220	Budget Preparation	BP
6230	Budget Hearing	BP
6231	Budget Implementation	BP
<b>6320</b>	<b>Purchasing</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>6321</b>	<b>New School Construction</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>6325</b>	<b>Procurement--Federal Grants/Funds</b>	<b>L**</b>
<b>6420</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest – Legal Counsel, Advisors, or Consultants</b>	<b>L</b>
6440	Cooperative Purchasing	BP
6460	Vendor Relations	BP
6470	Payment of Claims	BP
6510	Payroll Authorization	BP
<b>6550</b>	<b>Travel Payment &amp; Reimbursement</b>	<b>L</b>
6800	System of Accounting	BP
<b>6850</b>	<b>Public Disclosure and Reporting</b>	<b>L</b>

\*\* Legally Required for Schools receiving funds under ESEA.

Adopted 2/11/14

Revised 3/8/16; 7/12/16

## **NEW POLICY FOR YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY – FALL 2018**

### **NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION**

Source: MCL 380.1267

Before beginning construction of a new school building, or an addition, repair or renovation of an existing school building, except emergency repairs, the Board of Education, shall obtain competitive bids on all the material and labor required for the complete construction of a proposed new building or addition to or repair or renovation of an existing school building which exceeds the State statutory limit.

This policy does not apply to buildings, renovations, or repairs costing less than the statutory limit or to repair work normally performed by School employees.

The Board shall advertise for the bids required under subsection:

- A. By placing an advertisement for bids at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the building or addition is to be constructed or where the repair or renovation of an existing building is to take place and by posting an advertisement for bids for at least two (2) weeks on the Department of Management and Budget website on a page on the website maintained for this purpose or on a website maintained by a school organization and designated by the Department of Management and Budget for this purpose.
- B. By submitting the request for bids for placement on the Michigan Department of Management and Budget's website for school organizations, including a link to the School's website.
- C. The advertisement for bids shall do all of the following:
  1. specify the date and time by which all bids must be received by the Board at a designated location;
  2. state that the Board will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission;
  3. identify the time, date, and place of a public meeting at which the Board or its designee will open and read aloud each bid received by the Board by the date and time specified in advertisement;
  4. state that the bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Administrator of the School. A Board shall not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.
- D. The Board shall require each bidder for a contract under this policy, to file with the Board security in an amount not less than 1/20 of the amount of the bid conditioned to secure the School from loss or



damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or by the failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance, if the bid is accepted by the Board.

- E. The Board shall not open, consider, or accept a bid that the Board receives after the date and time specified for bid submission in the advertisement for bids as described in subsection C of this policy.
- F. At a public meeting identified in the advertisement for bids described in subsection C of this policy, the Board or its designee shall open and read aloud each bid that the Board received at or before the time and date for bid submission specified in the advertisement for bids. The Board may reject any or all bids, and if all bids are rejected, shall re-advertise in the manner required by this policy.
- G. The competitive bid threshold amount specified in this policy (\$24,459 for 2019) is adjusted each year by multiplying the amount for the immediately preceding year by the percentage by which the average consumer price index for all items for the twelve (12) months ending August 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the adjustment is made differs from that index's average for the twelve (12) months ending on August 31<sup>st</sup> of the immediately preceding year and adding that product to the maximum amount that applied in the immediately preceding year, rounding to the nearest whole dollar. The current exempt amount must be confirmed with the Michigan Department of Education prior to issuing contracts for construction, renovation, or repairs which exceed the amount listed in this policy.

FOR BOARD REVIEW

## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **PROCUREMENT – FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS**

Reference: 2 C.F.R. 200.317 - .326

Procurement of all supplies, materials, equipment, and services paid for from Federal funds or Academy matching funds shall be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and/or regulations, the terms and conditions of the Federal grant, Board policies, and administrative procedures.

The Educational Service Provider shall maintain a procurement and contract administration system in accordance with the USDOE requirements (2 CFR 200.317-.326) for the administration and management of Federal grants and Federally-funded programs. The Educational Service Provider shall maintain a contract administration system that requires contractors to perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. Except as otherwise noted, procurement transactions shall conform to the provisions of the Academy's documented general purchasing Policy 6320 and AG 6320.

All Academy employees, whether employed by the Board or by an Educational Service Provider, all officers of the Academy, and all agents of the Academy who have purchasing authority shall abide by the standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees, whether employed by the Board or by an Educational Service Provider, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts as established in Policy 1130, Policy 3110 and Policy 4110 – Conflict of Interest.

The Academy will avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Additionally, consideration shall be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. And, where appropriate, an analysis shall be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach. These considerations are given as part of the process to determine the allowability of each purchase made with Federal funds.

To foster greater economy and efficiency, the Academy may enter into State and local intergovernmental agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services.

### **Competition**

All procurement transactions **paid for from Federal funds or Academy matching funds** shall be conducted in a manner that encourages full and open competition and that is in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgement. In order to promote objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, the Academy shall exclude any contractor that has developed or drafted specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals from competition for such procurements.

Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business;

- B. unnecessary experience and excessive bonding requirements;
- C. noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;
- D. organizational conflicts of interest;
- E. specification of only a “brand name” product instead of allowing for an “*or equal*” product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
- F. any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

Further, the Academy does not use statutorily or administratively imposed State, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, unless (1) an applicable Federal statute expressly mandates or encourages a geographic preference; or (2) the Academy is contracting for architectural and engineering services, in which case geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

To the extent that the Academy uses a pre-qualified list of persons, firms or products to acquire goods and services **that are subject to this policy**, the pre-qualified list includes enough qualified sources as to ensure maximum open and free competition. The Academy allows vendors to apply for consideration to be placed on the list continuously.

#### Solicitation Language

The Academy shall require that all solicitations **made pursuant to this policy** incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description shall not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, shall set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it shall conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible.

When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a “brand name or equivalent” description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which shall be met by offers shall be clearly stated; and identify all requirements which the offerors shall fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

The Academy will not approve any expenditure for an unauthorized purchase or contract.

#### Procurement Methods

The Academy shall utilize the following methods of procurement:

- A. Micro-purchases

Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed **\$10,000**. To the extent practicable, the Academy shall distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be made without soliciting

competitive quotations if Educational Service Provider considers the price to be reasonable. The Academy maintains evidence of this reasonableness in the records of all purchases made by this method.

B. Small Purchases

Small purchase procedures provide for relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, and other property that does not exceed the State of Michigan competitive bid threshold, established in sections 623a, 1267, and 1274 of the Revised School Code, adjusted annually in the Consumer Price Index. Small purchase procedures require that price or rate quotations shall be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.

C. Sealed Bids

Sealed, competitive bids shall be obtained when the purchase of, and contract for, single items of supplies, materials, or equipment which amounts **more than** to the amount allowed by Michigan statute and when the Board determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish a **academy** building/facility the cost of which will exceed the amount allowed by Michigan statute.

In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions shall be present:

1. a complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
2. two (2) or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
3. the procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

When sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

1. Bids shall be solicited in accordance with the provisions of State law and Policy 6320. Bids shall be solicited from an adequate number of qualified suppliers, providing sufficient response time prior to the date set for the opening of bids. The invitation to bid shall be publicly advertised.
2. The invitation for bids will include product/contract specifications and pertinent attachments and shall define the items and/or services required in order for the bidder to properly respond.
3. All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids; bids will be opened publicly.

4. A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs shall be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts may only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken.
5. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids for sound documented reason.

D. Competitive Proposals

Procurement by competitive proposal, normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids or in the case of a recognized exception to the sealed bid method. (See Policy 6320 for competitive bid procedures.)]

If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

1. Requests for proposals shall be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to the publicized requests for proposals shall be considered to the maximum extent practical.
2. Proposals shall be solicited from an adequate number of sources.
3. The Academy shall use its written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients.
4. Contracts shall be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

The Academy may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E that firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

E. Noncompetitive Proposals

Procurement by noncompetitive proposals allows for solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

1. the item is available only from a single source
2. the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation

3. the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the Academy
4. after solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined to be inadequate

#### Contract/Price Analysis

The Academy shall perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of **\$250,000**, including contract modifications. A cost analysis generally means evaluating the separate cost elements that make up the total price, while a price analysis means evaluating the total price, without looking at the individual cost elements.

The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation; however, the Academy shall come to an independent estimate prior to receiving bids or proposals.

When performing a cost analysis, the Academy shall negotiate profit as a separate element of the price. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration is given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

#### Time and Materials Contracts

The Academy uses a time and materials type contract only (1) after a determination that no other contract is suitable; and (2) if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time and materials type contract means a contract whose cost to the Academy is the sum of the actual costs of materials, and direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, the Academy sets a ceiling price for each contract that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the Academy shall assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

#### Suspension and Debarment

The Academy will award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement. All purchasing decisions shall be made in the best interests of the Academy and shall seek to obtain the maximum value for each dollar expended. When making a purchasing decision, the Academy shall consider such factors as (1) contractor integrity; (2) compliance with public policy; (3) record of past performance; and (4) financial and technical resources.

The Educational Service Provider shall have the authority to suspend or debar a person/corporation, for cause, from consideration or award of further contracts. The Academy is subject to and shall abide by the nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, 2 CFR Part 180.

Suspension is an action taken by the Academy that immediately prohibits a person from participating in covered transactions and transactions covered under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR chapter 1) for a temporary period, pending completion of an agency investigation and any judicial or administrative proceedings that may ensue. A person so excluded is suspended. (2 CFR Part 180 Subpart G)

Debarment is an action taken by the Educational Service Provider to exclude a person from participating in covered transactions and transactions covered under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR chapter 1). A person so excluded is debarred. (2 CFR Part 180 Subpart H)

The Academy shall not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For contracts over \$25,000, the Academy shall confirm that the vendor is not debarred or suspended by either checking the Federal government's System for Award Management, which maintains a list of such debarred or suspended vendors at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov); collecting a certification from the vendor; or adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that vendor. (2 CFR Part 180 Subpart C)

#### Bid Protest

The Academy maintains the following protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to procurements and, in all instances, discloses information regarding the protest to the awarding agency.

A bidder who wishes to file a bid protest shall file such notice and follow procedures prescribed by the Request For Proposals (RFPs) or the individual bid specifications package, for resolution. Bid protests shall be filed in writing with the Educational Service Provider within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of the bids in protest.

Within five (5) days of receipt of a protest, the Educational Service Provider shall review the protest as submitted and render a decision regarding the merits of the protest and any impact on the acceptance and rejection of bids submitted. Notice of the filing of a bid protest shall be communicated to the Board and shall be so noted in any subsequent recommendation for the acceptance of bids and awarding of contracts.

Failure to file a notice of intent to protest, or failure to file a formal written protest within the time prescribed, shall constitute a waiver of proceedings.

#### Maintenance of Procurement Records

The Academy maintains records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis).

Adopted 7/12/16  
**Revised**

8000 **OPERATIONS**

<b>8120</b>	<b>Iran Economic Sanctions Act Compliance</b>	L
<b>8142</b>	<b>Criminal History Record Check</b>	L
8142.01	Weapons	BP
8210	Academy Calendar	
8220	Academy Day	
<b>8310</b>	<b>Public Records</b>	L
8320	Personnel Files	BP
<b>8321</b>	<b>Criminal Justice Information Security</b>	L
8300	Continuity of Organizational Operations	BP
8305	Information Security	BP
<b>8330</b>	<b>Student Records</b>	L
<b>8340</b>	<b>Letters of Reference</b>	L
8350	Confidentiality	BP
8351	Breach of Confidential Information	BP
<b>8390</b>	<b>Animals on Academy Property</b>	L
<b>8400</b>	<b>Academy Safety Information</b>	L
<b>8401</b>	<b>Fire Safety and Fire Department Notification</b>	L
8405	Environmental Health and Safety Issues	BP
<b>8405.01</b>	<b>Integrated Pest Management</b>	L
8410	Crisis Intervention	BP
8420	Emergency Situations at the Academy	BP
<b>8431</b>	<b>Preparedness for Toxic Hazards and Asbestos Hazard</b>	L
8442	Reporting Accidents	BP
8450	Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases	BP
8450.01	Pediculosis (Head Lice)	BP
8453	Direct Contact Communicable Diseases	BP
8453.01	Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens	BP
8462	Student Abuse and Neglect	BP
8531	Free and Reduced-Priced Meals	BP
<b>8540</b>	<b>Vending Machines</b>	L*
8660	Transportation by Private Vehicle	BP
8710	Insurance	BP
8740	Bonding	BP
8800	Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances	BP

Adopted 2/11/14

**Revised** 3/11/14; 9/17/14; 3/10/15; 9/8/15; 3/8/16; 7/12/16; 1/10/17; 12/12/17

\*These policies are only legally required if the Academy serves food to students and receives direct or indirect federal aid for the program.



## **REVISED POLICY – FALL 2018** **ACADEMY CALENDAR**

Reference: MCL 380.1284, 1284(a), 1284(b), 1175, 388.1701  
AC Rule R340.10 et. seq.

The Board of Directors, shall ensure that its school calendar complies with the common calendar adopted by the Kalamazoo Intermediate School District (ISD), unless the Academy is statutorily exempt from this requirement or receives a waiver from the Superintendent of Public Instruction in compliance with State law. The common calendar will identify the specific dates for each school year when the Academy will not be in session for at least a winter holiday break, and a spring break for at least the next five (5) school years, and may further describe them more generally for subsequent school years as long as the dates can be readily determined. This calendar shall be posted on the Academy's web site and distributed to the Academy's constituents. The calendar shall provide for the instructional program of the academies, for orderly educational planning, and for the efficient operation of the Academy.

The Board shall determine annually the total number of days the Academy will be in session for instructional purposes. **To avoid withholding of State school aid payments**, the number of days and hours will be in accordance with Michigan law. The Board shall ensure the Academy is not in session for students before Labor Day, **unless the Academy is statutorily exempt from this requirement or receives a waiver from the Superintendent of Public Instruction in compliance with State law.**

If the Academy receives services from the Intermediate School District and is located within the ISD, then beginning with the 2010-2011 school year the board shall ensure that the Academy calendar complies with the common school calendar adopted by the ISD. The Administration is authorized to work with the ISD on the development of a common calendar for all of the public schools in the Intermediate School District.

A school session shall not be held on the following public holidays in Michigan Public Schools: January 1 (New Year's Day); the last Monday of May (Memorial or Decoration Day); July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day; the first Monday in September (Labor Day); the fourth Thursday of November (Thanksgiving Day); and December 25 (Christmas Day).

If any of these days falls on Sunday, the Monday following shall be a public holiday in the public schools.

The Academy shall provide at least 1,098 hours **during 180 days** of pupil instruction per school year, **unless it obtains a waiver from this requirement.**

No more than **six (6) days** of student instruction lost due to conditions not within the control of the Academy such as severe storms, fires, epidemics, and health conditions can be counted as a part of the required minimum hours of instruction. **With the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, not more than three (3) additional days or the equivalent number of additional hours for which instruction is not provided due to unusual and extenuating occurrences resulting from conditions not within the control of academy authorities (such as those conditions described above) shall be counted.**

Hours lost due to strikes by Academy staff or to teacher conferences shall not be counted as hours of instruction.

The Administration shall certify to the Department of Education by no later than August 1st of each year, the number of hours of student instruction during the previous school year.

Adopted 2/11/14  
**Revised**

For Board Approval