Policy:po2105 Section: 2000 Program

# 2105 - MISSION STATEMENT OF THE HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The mission of the Hamtramck Public schools is to provide an appropriate educational program and learning environment which will effectively:

- A. meet the educational needs of all its students and citizens;
- B. help all its students accomplish educational goals which are significant, durable, transferable.

## **Explanation of Key Words and Phrases**

The following explanations are provided in order to facilitate a common understanding of the Mission Statement:

# ....appropriate educational program

The program will encompass those classroom, co-curricular, and extra—curricular activities specially designed for students whose needs are met through special education, vocational education, academic education, adult/community education and bilingual education.

### .....appropriate learning environment

Facilities and grounds which are conducive to acquiring knowledge, attitudes, and skills because students and staff are physically and psychologically safe and focused on accomplishing clearly-defined objectives and goals.

## ....meet the educational needs

Such needs consist of those learnings that each person must have to function as a responsible, productive member of society and to make it possible for the person to realize personal goals.

# ....students and citizens

Students are those who are enrolled in a regular program offered by the District or through the Auxiliary Services Program. Citizens are residents of the District who may wish to participate in a program offered by this District.

# ....goals which are significant, durable, and transferable

A **significant** educational goal is one in which the knowledge, skills and/or attitudes that are acquired will affect how a person will live his/her life.

A **durable** educational goal is one in which the knowledge, skills and/or attitudes that are acquired will be useful for much, if not all, of a person's lifetime.

A **transferable** educational goal is one in which the knowledge, skills and/or attitudes that are acquired can be applied directly to another educational program, to the world of work and/or to one's personal life.

## The District:

- A. affirms its belief that all students regardless of their abilities can learn;
- B. acknowledges the importance of the contribution of teachers to the education of all students;
- C. embraces the development of a sense of civic, economic, and social responsibilities as well as a sense of globalism in all students to prepare them to live in a rapidly changing world;
- D. is committed to providing excellence and equity in education to all students through keeping cooperative and communicative channels open among administrators, parents, teachers, and community leaders and agencies.

## © Neola 1991

Policy:po2110 Section: 2000 Program

### 2110 - STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education believes that the purpose of education is to facilitate the development of the potential of each student. In a free society, every individual has both the right and responsibility to make choices and decisions for himself/herself and for society. A prerequisite for every member of such a society in meeting those responsibilities is competence in the use of the rational thought processes needed to make intelligent, ethical choices and decisions. If our society, as originally conceived, is to survive and function effectively, its young people need to be prepared to exercise their rights and their responsibilities in ways that benefit them and the society. Likewise, if individuals are to be able to achieve their life goals in a free society, they need to be competent to choose among the myriad alternatives that are and continue to be available to them.

The enculturation process in our society focuses on preparing the young to meet certain expectations and to avail themselves of opportunities to attain personal goals within that society. The District's program should reflect the formal aspect of the enculturation process, and, therefore, needs to focus on both the areas of societal expectations and personal opportunity available in our society.

With regard to societal expectations, people in this society are expected to:

- A. be self-sufficient -- that is, to meet their own needs, to the extent they are able, in their own way and without inhibiting others' opportunity to do the same;
- B. fulfill their responsibilities to contribute to the "common good" by actively participating in affairs affecting all members of society.

Today there is ample evidence that some students are not learning how to make effective, rational, responsible, or ethical choices or decisions in regard to how they treat their minds and bodies, how they plan their futures, how they cope with frustration, or how they solve personal, social, and economic problems.

The Board and staff believe that the thought and action process involved in taking intelligent, ethical action can be learned just as any other set of procedures can be learned, provided students are given consistent, appropriate opportunities to:

- A. see the procedures modeled;
- B. learn what the procedures are;
- C. practice using the procedures and correct ineffective use of them;
- D. apply the procedures to a variety of relevant situations.

The District is committed to ensuring adequate provision for such opportunities and to the applications of these processes to achieving the other educational goals associated with the District's mission.

## Hamtramck Public Schools

The Hamtramck Public Schools believe that all students are entitled to the following services, regardless of gender, religion, race, color, national origin or ancestry, age, disability, marital status, place or residence within the district, social or economic status, height, weight and/or any other legally protected characteristic.

- A. Professional direction in developing to their fullest potential as individuals.
- B. Guidance in becoming responsible individuals and responsible members of society.
- C. Adequate preparation for meeting the challenges of today's and tomorrow's world.

The practical application of this philosophy necessitates a close adherence to the following objectives:

### A. For the Students:

- 1. to develop the knowledge, skills, habits and attitudes that will help them compete successfully in society;
- 2. to develop habits conducive to moral, mental and physical health;
- 3. to encourage a feeling of self-worth, dignity and place in life;
- 4. to provide an adequate program geared to the needs of each child;
- 5. to provide experiences that will offer opportunities to appreciate order, power and beauty in the arts and sciences;
- 6. to work cooperatively in solving problems of the city, the state and the nation;
- 7. to become aware that rights and responsibilities are equally important in a democratic society;
- 8. to become aware of the continuing need for objective re-examination of issues in light of new information and changing conditions in society;
- 9. to provide experiences that will contribute to worthwhile use of leisure time;
- 10. to provide opportunities for the adults of the community to further their education.

## B. For the School Personnel:

- 1. to encourage and provide for in-service education;
- 2. to improve and maintain a high morale by providing reasonable working conditions;
- 3. to provide for adequate and up-to-date physical plant, teaching aids, materials and equipment whenever possible;

# C. For the Community;

- 1. to make the most efficient use of the physical plant in order to enable the community to participate in social, cultural, educational and recreational activities;
- 2. to strive for better understanding, for example, of educational procedures, curriculum changes, and personnel changes.

# © Neola 1991

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **January 24, 2001** 

Policy:po2111 Section: 2000 Program

# 2111 - VALUE STATEMENTS FOR BOARD MEMBERS, DISTRICT PERSONNEL, AND STUDENTS

The Board of Education believes that good citizenship and ethical behavior are two important manifestations of an effective education. Both are based on values that have been traditionally held by Americans, regardless of background, religious belief, or political persuasion.

The Board adopts the following value statements as guides to ethical behavior and strongly encourages all members of the staff to do likewise, as a means of setting an example for District students. It also recommends that each student be given the opportunity to pledge himself/herself to demonstrating these ethical behaviors.

## Statement of Values for District Personnel, Board Members, and Educators

- A. I will accept responsibility for all my actions.
- B. I will respect the dignity and property of my fellow workers and will never seek to do them harm.
- C. I will keep all the promises I make, fulfilling the trust that other people place in me.
- D. I will complete projects which I have begun.
- E. I will strive for excellence in all my work and will respect achievement in my fellow workers.
- F. I will discipline myself to continue to listen, learn, and study, recognizing that long-run achievement is more important to my happiness than short-run pleasure.
- G. I will not use any substance which will destroy my health and undermine my dignity.
- H. I will respect duly-constituted authority, because that authority is necessary for the welfare of my family, School District, and community.
- I. I will train myself to be useful to others.
- J. I will work together with others to improve my School District, community, and world.

### Statement of Values for Students

- A. I will accept responsibility for all my actions.
- B. I will respect the dignity and property of my fellow students and will never seek to do them harm.
- C. I will keep all the promises I make, fulfilling the trust that other people place in me.

- D. I will complete projects and courses of study which I have begun.
- E. I will strive for excellence in all my work and will respect achievement in my fellow students.
- F. I will discipline myself to listen, learn, and study, recognizing that long-run achievement is more important to my happiness than short-run pleasure.
- G. I will not use any substance which will destroy my health and undermine my dignity.
- H. I will respect the authority of my parents and teachers, because that authority is necessary for the welfare of my family, school, and community.
- I. I will train myself to be useful to others.
- J. I will work together with others to improve my school, community, and world.

## © Neola 1996

Adoption Date: November 12, 1996

Policy:po2112 Section: 2000 Program

### 2112 - PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Board of Education 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 District policy, as well as the Parent and Family Engagement policy for each school in the District.

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 Involvement Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parent of each child in the District. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication. The Parental Involvement 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;
- 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 involvement activities.<sup>2</sup>

### **B. Effective Communication**

- 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; 1,2
- 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; 1,2
- 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>
- preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff.<sup>1,2</sup>

## C. Volunteer Opportunities

- 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 involvement events.<sup>2</sup>

## D. Learning at Home

- 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;
- 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 District-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 District 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 Superintendent 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 District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The District's plan, as well as each school'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 District 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 1118 parent involvement requirements

# © Neola 2018

Legal References:

Sec. 1112, 1118 ESEA

M.C.L. 380.1294

Adoption Date: June 01, 2005 Last Revised: February 13, 2019

Policy:po2120 Section: 2000 Program

### 2120 - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Board of Education supports the concept of school improvement as established by the State Board of Education and will seek to create and/or maintain effective schools as defined by State guidelines.

In addition to adopting a Mission Statement and Educational Philosophy for the District, the Board shall create, as needed, policies which support the School Improvement Process.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines which will ensure that the following objectives can be achieved:

- A. School improvement plans which are developed and implemented by school-based teams that work collaboratively so that both building level and District level goals for students can be identified and correlated, and then achieved through effective planning, problem-solving, and assessment. Each such team is to include professional and support staff, students, parents, and representatives of the community.
- B. A District-wide, school-improvement plan which provides for building-level decision-making regarding program assessment, curriculum review, determination of performance standards, budgetary review, staff development, and the monitoring and assessment of student outcomes.
- C. Periodic review and approval by the Superintendent and the Board of each school's modification and improvement of its program based on the school's assessment of student accomplishment of performance objectives and program goals.
- D. Collaboration at both the building and District levels with parents, relevant institutions and groups, especially those in the community, who can support and facilitate school improvement in the District.

Upon approval of a school's initial plan and its later revisions, the Board and Superintendent shall fully support, to the extent that resources allow, the school's educational improvement program.

This improvement program shall include co-curricular activities, extra-curricular activities.

# © Neola 1992

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1204(a), 380.1277

Policy:po2131 Section: 2000 Program

### 2131 - EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

During and upon completion of the educational program of the District, an educated student should achieve the following learning outcomes at desired levels of quality.

## A. Language and Thought

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- is independently efficient in solving life problems which require the use of both oral and written language;
- 2. can logically examine and subsequently use information from various appropriate resources;
- 3. understands and responds appropriately to the communication of others and to their feelings and attitudes ;
- 4. is capable of selecting, adopting, and using the most appropriate language forms to achieve his/her communication purpose.

# **B.** General Education

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- 1. has sufficient fundamental knowledge and skills in traditional school subjects to enable him/her to meet his/her responsibilities as a participating member of society;
- can establish and pursue educational, vocational, and/or avocational goals of his/her own;
- 3. seeks to learn continuously using appropriate informational resources.

## C. Pride and Ethics

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- has pride in his/her work, based on a realistic assessment of his/her abilities and accomplishments;
- 2. displays responsible, ethical, and moral behavior consistent with societal standards and reflecting a commitment to use his/her capabilities to achieve and maintain a purposeful and productive life.

# D. Interaction and Cooperation

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- interacts effectively with individuals, treating their ideas and ideals with thoughtfulness and respect;
- 2. is willing to cooperate with others to accomplish endeavors beneficial to society.

## E. Citizenship

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- understands and is committed to the ideas and ideals upon which our democratic society was founded;
- 2. considers it a responsibility and a privilege to participate, in appropriate ways, in democratic processes at local, State, and National levels.

### F. Arts and Culture

The student demonstrates that s/he appreciates and supports artistic endeavors and natural beauty.

## G. Social Change

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- 1. understands the nature of societal change;
- adjusts to change by evaluating current social conditions and events; assessing
  alternative courses of action in terms of feasibility and potential consequences;
  selecting or recommending those actions which permit him/her and others to function
  appropriately in society.

# H. Health

The student demonstrates that s/he understands and cares about his/her and other peoples physical and mental well- being through selected involvement in personal and public programs which promote acceptable levels of health and safety.

## I. Resource Management

The student demonstrates that s/he effectively manages money, property, and resources to meet his/her needs so as to contribute positively to meeting the economic and environmental needs of society.

# J. Career Planning

The student demonstrates that s/he:

- 1. effectively uses a variety of personal and public resources to further his/her knowledge of career opportunities;
- 2. is committed to developing the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to qualify for and perform effectively in his/her chosen employment.

# K. Leisure Time

The student demonstrates that s/he uses leisure time constructively to fully realize his/her physical, intellectual, and/or creative potentials.

# © Neola 1992

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1173, 380.1174, 37.1402(b)

Policy:po2132 Section: 2000 Program

### 2132 - EDUCATIONAL PROCESS GOALS

In order to achieve educational outcome goals, the Board of Education will establish policies which will authorize and encourage:

- A. instruction which bears a meaningful relationship to the present and future needs and/or interests of students;
- B. specialized and individualized kinds of educational experiences to meet the needs of each student;
- C. opportunities for professional staff members and students to make recommendations concerning the content and operation of District programs;
- D. an environment in which any interaction among individual students and groups of students helps them learn how and when competition and cooperation are appropriate and productive in accomplishing goals;
- E. efficient and effective use of educational resources;
- F. continued professional growth of staff members;
- G. constructive cooperation with parents and community groups.

The Hamtramck Schools shall be organized for instruction as follows:

Elementary Schools Grades K-5

Middle School Grades 6-8

High School Grades 9-12

The Board may, from time to time, find it necessary to change the organizational pattern to more economically and efficiently make use of available school facilities. In making changes, economic advantages will be carefully weighed against the educational welfare of all students.

#### © Neola 1991

Policy:po2210 Section: 2000 Program

## 2210 - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT - APPROVED COURSES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the quality of the educational program of the schools. To this end, the curriculum shall be developed, evaluated, and adopted on a continuing basis and in accordance with a plan for curriculum growth established by the Superintendent.

For purposes of this policy and consistent communication throughout the District, curriculum shall be defined as:

- A. the courses of study, subjects, classes, and organized activities provided by the school;
- B. all the planned activities of the schools, including formal classroom instruction and out-of-class activity, both individual and group.

The Board directs that the curriculum of this District:

- A. provide grade-appropriate instruction on career development in each grade level from kindergarten through 12th;
- B. provides instruction in courses required by statute and State Department of Education regulations;
- C. ensures, to the extent feasible, that special learning needs of students are provided for in the context of the regular program or classroom and provides for effective coordination with programs or agencies that are needed to meet those needs that cannot be dealt with in the regular program or classroom;
- D. be consistent with the District's philosophy and goals and ensure the possibility of their achievement;
- E. allows for the development of individual talents and interests as well as recognizes that learning styles of students may differ;
- F. provides a strategy for continuous and cumulative learning through effective articulation at all levels, particularly of those skills identified as essential and life-role skills;
- G. utilizes a variety of learning resources to accomplish the educational goals;
- H. encourages students to utilize guidance and counseling services in their academic and career planning.

As educational leader of the District, the Superintendent shall be responsible to the Board for the development and evaluation of curriculum and the preparation of courses of study.

The Superintendent shall make progress reports to the Board periodically.

The Superintendent may conduct such innovative programs as are deemed to be necessary to the continuing growth of the instructional program and to better ensure accomplishment of the District's educational goals.

The Superintendent shall report each such innovative program to the Board along with its objectives, evaluative criteria, and costs before it is initiated.

## **Approved Courses**

The Board shall adopt a list of the individual courses that have been approved. The list shall include courses offered by the District for credit or grade promotion and shall be used when determining which courses may be included in membership for State aid purposes and for auditing purposes when examining the membership counted for State school aid on the count days. The list of approved courses shall include traditional offerings and courses offered through other means, such as experiential learning courses, online courses, and all courses offered in shared time programs under appropriate provisions of the State School Aid Act. (M.C.L. 388.1766b). The list of approved courses shall include all extended learning opportunities associated with each course and a description of each such opportunity. The list shall also include a description of the content of each approved course and documentation related to course approval (including the list of approved courses for membership purposes).

Unless the Board disapproves, the Superintendent may proceed to conduct the program.

The Board encourages, where it is feasible and in the best interests of the District, participation in programs of educational research.

The Board directs the Superintendent to pursue actively State and Federal aid in support of the District's innovative activities.

Revised 2/12/20

#### © Neola 2020

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1282, 380.1166a

Reference: Pupil Accounting Manual 2019-2020, Michigan

Department of Education

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **October 14, 2020** 

Policy:po2220 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2220 - COURSE PREPARATION

One of the desired educational outcomes of the District is for students to have the prerequisite knowledge, attitude, and skills with which to enter the world of work at some later time in their lives. Board of Education Policy 2220 directs that the administration and staff include as a learning outcome for each course of study that students can demonstrate both willingness and ability to be punctual, to be present regularly at the learning site, to participate in the learning activities, and to complete assignments on time and as directed.

For students to develop these basic "workplace behaviors", teaches will need to emphasize their importance as they conduct learning activities. Such reminders can be part of directions, assignments, learning reviews, and feedback sessions on how well students functioned during activities.

These attitudes and behaviors are to be made a part of the student's final grade in a course after principals and teachers determine the best method for grading such learnings and their weight relative to academic content of each program. It should be made clear to students at the beginning of each course and prior to the end of each marking period that the "workplace behaviors" will be part of the grade for the course.

The District has prepared a Form 2220 F1 which provides a list of workplace competencies that business and industry considers of primary importance. Surveys of employers indicate they are more interested in young people reflecting these behaviors than in technical knowledge and skill which can be developed by the employer. The form can be used, initially, to help staff formulate learning objectives for the courses of study which will produce the desired outcome. Additionally, the form facilitates the grading of each behavior. Form 2220 F2 has been designed for students to use to help them develop and maintain an awareness of these competencies and to assist teachers and counselors in their discussions with and evaluations of students.

Since the development of good work habits takes time, effort, and continued reinforcement, such learning should start at the elementary level and build with increasing emphasis through the high school programs. The relative grading weight for these behaviors should also increase commensurately.

Revised 7/8/09

## © Neola 2009

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: May 13, 2015

Policy:po2221 Section: 2000 Program

### 2221 - MANDATORY COURSES

In compliance with the Michigan School Code, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to prepare, implement, and supervise courses of instruction in the following areas:

- A. the Constitution of the United States and Michigan, and in the history and present form of government of the United States, and Michigan and its political subdivisions
- B. the principal modes by which communicable disease is spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases
- C. instruction in physiology and hygiene with special emphasis on drug abuse prevention
- D. the humane treatment and protection of animals and birds, and the important part they fulfill in the economy of nature
- E. Age and grade appropriate instruction in grades 8 through 12 about genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide

The Superintendent shall prepare appropriate guidelines relative to the planning, teaching, and evaluation of these courses.

## © Neola 2017

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1166, 1168, 1169, 1170

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: May 10, 2017

Policy:po2230 Section: 2000 Program

### 2230 - COURSE GUIDES

The Board of Education recognizes that there may be a need from time to time to augment one or more segments of a course of study with a guide in order to better accomplish learning results with students.

As appropriate to the course of study, each guide shall contain:

- A. the intended learning outcome(s);
- B. knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed to achieve those outcomes;
- C. learning activities needed to achieve the outcome;
- D. appropriate materials and resources;
- E. suggested methods of instruction;
- F. evaluation criteria, standards, and methods which will confirm the extent to which learning outcomes have been achieved;
- G. a list of supplemental materials for the guidance of teachers.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the preparation of course guides and shall establish administrative guidelines related to their preparation.

All new course guides and revisions of existing guides shall be submitted to the Board for approval before they are implemented.

Copies of all current course guides shall be kept on file in the office of the Superintendent.

### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1282

Policy:po2231 Section: 2000 Program

## 2231 - CORE CURRICULUM

In order to comply with State law, the Board shall adopt a core curriculum which is to be based on the Model Core Curriculum developed by the State Board of Education. The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines which will provide for a description of the courses that will comprise the core curriculum as well as the sequence, in grade clusters, in which such courses will be taught.

Should the core curriculum vary from the State model, the description of the core curriculum is to be accompanied by an explanation of the District's variations from the model.

The Superintendent's guidelines shall also provide for an explanation of the means by which the core curriculum will be implemented and evaluated based on the K - 12 Program Standards of Quality established by the State Board of Education.

A clearly defined core curriculum will provide the School District with direction and a solid foundation upon which their local curricula and instructional strategies can be structured. As a result of a K-12 education based on a well defined core curriculum, a Hamtramck student should strive to be:

- A. A person who makes decisions for successful living.
- B. A competent and productive participant in society.
- C. A caring, sensitive, and flexible human being.
- D. A creative person.
- E. A person capable of applying knowledge in diverse situations.
- F. A person able to communicate effectively in written and spoken language.
- G. A person capable of learning over a lifetime.

#### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1204(a), 380.1278

Policy:po2240 Section: 2000 Program

### 2240 - CONTROVERSIAL NONOFFENSIVE ISSUES

The Board of Education believes that the consideration of controversial issues has a legitimate place in the instructional program of the schools.

Properly introduced and conducted, the consideration of such issues can help students learn to identify important issues, explore fully and fairly all sides of an issue, weigh carefully the values and factors involved, and develop techniques for formulating and evaluating positions.

For purposes of this policy, a controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.

The Board will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program:

- A. is related to the instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students;
- B. does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view;
- C. encourages open-mindedness and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry.

Controversial issues related to the program may be initiated by the students, provided they are presented in the ordinary course of classroom instruction and are not substantially disruptive to the educational setting.

Controversial issues may not be initiated by a source outside the schools unless prior approval has been given by the principal.

When controversial issues have not been specified in the course of study, the Board will permit the instructional use of only those issues which have been approved by the principal.

In the discussion of any issue, a teacher may express a personal opinion, but shall identify it as such, and must not express such an opinion for the purpose of persuading students to his/her point of view.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for dealing with controversial issues.

# © Neola 1993

Policy:po2241 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2241 - CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS IN SCHOOLS

Within the limitations imposed by the level of intellectual and emotional maturity of the students to be addressed, faculty members may invite competent speakers to address their classes on subjects which are within the framework of the curriculum for the class and which are not prohibited by law. The Superintendent, other administrators and responsible faculty members shall determine the competence of any person invited to speak, and all speakers other than district personnel must have prior written approval from the building principal.

If the topic to be discussed is of a controversial nature, speakers representing various sides of the issue must be provided in order that various viewpoints are presented to the student.

Speakers should be informed in advance the framework within which they will operate and that the use of profanity and obscene expressions are considered inappropriate for use in the classrooms of the Hamtramck Schools

It should be clearly understood that an invitation to a speaker to address students does not necessarily imply an endorsement of the views expressed by the speaker, nor are the directors, administrative officers, or teachers of the School District, required to take a stand for or against the ideas presented by the speaker. They may do so provided that the policy on controversial issues (File 6144) is observed when the subject is of a controversial nature.

The School District assumes no obligation to provide an audience for outside speakers in its classrooms or activities. Requests by outside persons to speak to classes will be referred to the office of the Superintendent. Such request will be reviewed and may be referred to the appropriate building administrator or faculty member who may act upon such requests at his/her own discretion.

Policy:po2250 Section: 2000 Program

### 2250 - INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

The Board of Education wishes to promote the continued improvement of the instructional and curricular program of the schools through all appropriate means. The Board will encourage members of the school staff and of the student body who wish to pursue a promising program for school improvement.

An innovative program design shall address the steps below when appropriate to the project:

- A. rationale
- B. specific objectives
- C. supportive research
- D. budgeting
- E. in-service requirements
- F. plans for broader implementation
- G. methods for evaluation

Each innovative program shall be consistent with the District's objectives and long range plans. Programs designed for disabled students must comply with Federal and State guidelines.

## © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1282

Policy:po2260 Section: 2000 Program

# 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

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

As such, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

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

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

In order to achieve the aforesaid goal, the Superintendent shall:

### A. Curriculum Content

review current and proposed courses of study and textbooks to detect any bias based upon Protected Classes, 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 of bias based upon Protected Classes 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 the
  Protected Classes 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 School 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 District 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. District Support

verify that like aspects of the District 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.

## **Definitions:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **District Compliance Officers**

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

Director of Student Services 3201 Roosevelt St. Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-2037 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

Director of Human Resources 3201 Roosevelt St Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-3817 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

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

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

The Superintendent shall annually attempt to identify children with disabilities, ages 0-25, who reside in the District but do not receive public education.

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the Board operates a separate class or facility that is identifiable as being for persons with disabilities, the facility, program, and activities and services must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without a disability.

In addition, the Superintendent shall establish procedures to identify students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), including immigrant children and youth, to assess their ability to participate in District 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 District 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). The Superintendent is responsible for verifying that a concentration of students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) in one or more programs is not the result of discrimination.

# Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation

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

Members of the School District 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 Complainant'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 the 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 the Principal 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 reports of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community or a Third Party, or receive reports that are initially filled with another Board employee. Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination/retaliation, the CO will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and 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 the Complainant and the Respondent any person who files a complaint. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) 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/designee must contact the Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the Complainant parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age of eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

### **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

Except for sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities, any student who alleges to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims of discrimination/retaliation 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 are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) 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) 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; Web: http://www.ed.gov/ocr.

# **Informal Complaint Procedure**

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly 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 alleges unlawful discrimination or retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who participate in 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 District employee or any other adult member of the School District community and a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct is inappropriate and must stop. The Complainant should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel the Complainant when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination (e.g., sex discrimination), the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant who alleges unlawful discrimination/retaliation may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one 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 School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide the Complainant with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the Complainant's wishes, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- A. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate concerns to the Respondent.
- B. Distributing a copy of Policy 2260 Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.
- C. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and the Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

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

## **Formal Complaint Procedure**

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

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, Principal, or other District official at the student's school, the CO, Superintendent, or another District official who works at another school or at the District 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 formal complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a teacher, Principal, or other District official at the student's school, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination/retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO/designee within two (2) days.

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

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

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 Respondent. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) 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. The Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the CO.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the formal complaint within five (5) 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) 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/designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation of the Complainant. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances. 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 Superintendent.

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

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

If the Superintendent determines the Respondent engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation toward the Complainant, the Superintendent 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.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) 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) 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 parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

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

## **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent(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. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

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 is learned or provided 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 Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful 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 School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

## Retaliation

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

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

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

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

## **Education and Training**

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

The District will endeavor to assist the student and/or his/her parents in their access to District 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 District 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**

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

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/ statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/ complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the District's 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;
- 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;
- dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;
- N. documentation of any training provided to District 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 District 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;
- O. documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- P. copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- Q. copies of any notices sent to the Complainant and the Respondent in advance of any interview, meeting, or hearing;
- R. copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the Complainant or the Respondent.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

These investigative records and materials created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Revised 12/3/20 Revised 12/8/21 T.C. 7/25/22 T.C. 9/6/22 T.C. 9/28/22 T.C. 11/6/24

### © Neola 2021

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1146, 380.1704, 37.1101 et seq., 37.2402, 37.1402, 37.2101-37.2804

20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendments 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

29 C.F.R. Part 1635

29 U.S.C. Section 794, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93)

42 U.S.C. Section 2000 et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. Section 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

42 U.S.C. 6101 et seg., Age Discrimination Act of 1975

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

Vocational Education Program Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services, Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, March 1979

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **November 6, 2024** 

Policy:po2260.01 Section: 2000 Program

# 2260.01 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With respect to vocational education services, a qualified person with a disability means a person with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the vocational program or activity. The Board will not deny a student with disabilities access to its vocational education programs or courses due to architectural and/or equipment barriers, or because the student needs related aids or services to receive an appropriate education.

# **Compliance Officers**

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's 504 Compliance Officers/ADA Coordinators (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officers".

Director of Student Services 3201 Roosevelt St. Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-2037 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

Director of Human Resources 3201 Roosevelt St Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-3817 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

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

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

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

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

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

# **Training**

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

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

#### **Facilities**

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

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

#### **Education**

The Board is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For students with disabilities who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEIA, the special education and related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form 2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan. The quality of education services provided to students with disabilities will be equal to the quality of services provided to students without disabilities.

The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability who resides within the District with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the District places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home. If the Board operates a separate class or facility that is identifiable as being for persons with disabilities, the facility, program, and activities and services must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without a disability.

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

#### **Notice**

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in education practices and the identity of the District's Compliance Officer(s) will republished on the District's website and posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

# **Complaint Procedures**

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability, the person may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations ("Section 504"), parents and students will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of Section 504. In addition, students and their parents will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Finally, students and parents will be advised of their right to request a due process hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of persons with disabilities, and their right to examine relevant education records.

Internal complaints and requests for due process hearings must be put in writing and must identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint or the request for a hearing, and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint or request for due process hearing must be filed with a District Compliance Officer within specified time limits. The District's Compliance Officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint or request.

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

### **Internal Complaint Procedures**

An internal complaint may be filed by a student and/or parent. A student and/or parent may initiate the internal complaint procedure when s/he/they believe that a violation, misapplication or misinterpretation of Section 504 has occurred. Additionally, the following procedure may be used for any disagreement with respect to actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational program or placement of students who are identified as disabled or believed to be disabled pursuant to Section 504, and are not eligible under the IDEIA, except in the case of disciplinary actions where the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or requesting a due process hearing.

# Step 1

Investigation by the Building Compliance Officer: A student or parent may initiate an investigation by filing a written internal complaint with the Building Compliance Officer. The complaint should fully describe the circumstances giving rise to the dispute and how the child is adversely affected. The complaint must be filed as soon as possible, but not longer than thirty (30) days after disclosure of the facts giving rise to the complaint. The Building Compliance Officer shall conduct an impartial investigation of the complaint. As part of the investigation, the Building Compliance Officer shall permit the complainant to present witnesses and other evidence in support of the complaint. The investigation shall be completed within fifteen (15) days of the written complaint being filed. The Building Compliance Officer will notify the complainant in writing of his/her decision.

# Step 2

Appeal to the District Compliance Officer: If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily at Step 1, the student or parent may appeal the Building Compliance Officer's decision in writing to the District Compliance Officer. The appeal must be made within five (5) days following receipt of the Building Compliance Officer's decision. The District Compliance Officer will review the case, may conduct an informal hearing, and will notify all parties in writing of his/her decision within ten (10) days of receiving the appeal.

# Step 3

If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily at Step 2, the student or parent may request a due process hearing, provided the complaint involves an issue related to the identification, evaluation, or placement of the student.

If it is determined that the Complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the Building and District COs 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.

# **OCR Complaint**

At any time, if a student or parent believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The OCR can be reached at:

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Cleveland Office 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 325 Cleveland, Ohio 44115 (216) 522-4970

FAX: (216) 522-2573 TDD: (216) 522-4944

E-mail: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov Web: http://www.ed.gov/ocr

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the OCR does not review the result of individual placement and other educational decisions, so long as the District complies with the "process" requirements of Subpart D of Section 504.

# 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. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

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

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

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

Revised 7/21/10 Revised 6/11/14 T.C. 10/9/19 Revised 10/9/19 Revised 12/8/21 T.C. 11/6/24

# © Neola 2021

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended

34 C.F.R. Part 104

42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as

amended

Adoption Date: February 25, 2009 Last Revised: November 06, 2024

Policy:po2261 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2261 - TITLE I SERVICES

The Board of Education 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 Superintendent shall prepare and present to the State Department of Education a plan for the delivery of services which 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 District will periodically review and revise the plan, as necessary.

#### A. Assessment

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

# B. Scope

Each school shall determine whether the funds will be used to upgrade the educational program of an entire school in Title I schools 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, for an entire school and/or a Targeted Assistance School, shall include the components required by law as well as those agreed upon by participating staff and parents.

# C. Participation

The Title I program shall be developed and evaluated in consultation with parents and professional staff members, including teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, charter school leaders [in a District that has charter schools], administrators and other appropriate school 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.

# D. Comparability of Services

Title I funds will be used only to augment, not to replace, State and local funds. The District 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 school on the same basis, regardless of whether a school receives Title I funding. The Superintendent 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 schools 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 District.

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 a school year.

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

#### E. Professional Development

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

- 1. involve parents in the training, when appropriate;
- 2. combine and consolidate other available Federal and District funds;
- 3. foster cooperative training with institutions of higher learning and other educational organizations including other school districts;

- 4. allocate part of the staff development to the following types of strategies:
  - a. performance-based student assessment
  - b. use of technology
  - c. working effectively with parents
  - d. early childhood education
  - e. meeting children's special needs
  - f. fostering gender-equitable education
- 5. provide opportunities for paraprofessionals to work toward certification as professional educators.

# © Neola 2018

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.

34 C.F.R. Part 200, et seq.

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: March 13, 2019

Policy:po2261.01 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2261.01 - PARENT AND FAMILY MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN TITLE I PROGRAMS

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 Superintendent 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 Education and distributed to parents and family members of children receiving Title I services. The proposed policy must establish the District's expectation and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, and describe how the School District will:

- A. involve parents and family members in the development of the School District'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 schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement and school 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 schools, 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 school personnel and teachers; and
  - 3. strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- E. use the findings of the above-referenced evaluation to:
  - 1. design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement; and,
  - 2. revise the parent and family engagement policy, if necessary;

- F. involve parents in the activities of the District's Title I schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board that may be charged with developing, revising and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy;
- G. provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency and/or disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format, and to the extent practicable in a language, such parents can understand;
- H. conduct meetings with parents including provisions for flexible scheduling and assistance to parents to better assure their attendance at meetings;
- develop agendas for parent meetings to include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessments, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain;
- J. provide opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents, and participate appropriately in the decision-making about the program and revisions in the plan;
- K. involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program;
- L. communicate information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance to parents;
- M. assist parents in helping their children in achieving the objectives of the program by such means as ensuring regular attendance, monitoring television-watching, providing adequate time and the proper environment for homework; guiding nutritional and health practices, and the like;
- N. provide timely responses to parental questions, concerns, and recommendations;
- O. coordinate and provide technical assistance and other support necessary to assist Title I schools to develop effective parent participation activities to improve academic achievement;
- 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 schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for the District and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, 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 school.
- 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 schools to enable such schools 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 Superintendent must also assure that each Title I participating school develops a specific written plan, with parental involvement and agreement, which includes provisions regarding the following:

- A. Each principal 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 school'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 school parent and family engagement policy, and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan, if appropriate.
- D. Parents of participating students must be provided with:
  - 1. timely information about the Title I program and the school's parent and family engagement policy;
  - 2. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels expected;
  - 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 school must submit any parents' comments when it presents the plan to the Superintendent.
- F. As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, the principal for each school shall coordinate the development of a school-parent compact jointly with parents of children served under Title I which outlines how the school staff, the parents, and the students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high standards. The compact must:
  - 1. describe the school'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 school'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. School-level parent and family engagement policies must be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the schools.

In order to involve parents in the education of their children and to support a partnership among the school, parents and the community for improving student academic achievement, the Superintendent and building principals must include provisions in the School District and school-level 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, school leaders (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 school 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 School District's capacity for parent involvement, the Superintendent 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 District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions, including transportation and child care costs;
- D. train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- E. arrange school 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 school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- F. adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- G. establish a District-wide 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.

Revised 9/24/03

# © Neola 2018

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. 6318 et seq.

34 C.F.R. Part 200 et seq.

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: March 13, 2019

Policy:po2261.02 Section: 2000 Program

# 2261.02 - TITLE I - PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW

In accordance with the requirement of Section 1111 of Title I, for each school receiving Title I funds, the Superintendent shall make sure that all parents of students in that school are notified that they may request, and the District will provide the following information on the student's classroom teachers:

- A. whether the teacher(s) have met the State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas they are teaching
- B. whether the teacher(s) is teaching under any emergency or provisional status in which the State requirements have been waived
- C. the undergraduate major of the teacher(s) and the area of study and any certificates for any graduate degrees earned
- D. the qualifications of any paraprofessionals providing services to their child(ren)

In addition, the parents **shall** be provided:

- E. information on the level of achievement of their child(ren) on the required State academic assessments;
- F. timely notice if the student is assigned to a teacher who is not "highly qualified" as required, or if the student is taught for more than four (4) weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

The notices and information shall be provided in an understandable format, and to the extent possible, in a language the parent(s) understand.

### © Neola 2002

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. 6311, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

34 C.F.R. Part 200 et seq.

Adoption Date: September 24, 2003

Policy:po2261.03 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2261.03 - DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARD

Each School District that receives Title I, Part A funds must prepare and publicly disseminate a report card on the performance and operations of the District. 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 District 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 District 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 District compares to State as a whole and, for each school in the District, how that school compares to the District 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 District report card must include the remaining information required in the statute and applicable regulations. A District 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 District compares to State as a whole and, for each school in the District, how that school compares to the District and the State as a whole;
- B. percentages of students assessed and not assessed in each subject (i.e. participation rates on required assessments);
- 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);
- 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 extendedyear 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);
- 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 District as a whole and each school);
- 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 District 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;
- O. other information as required by the State Department of Education.

When presenting data on a report card, the District 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).

The District's annual report card information must be made publicly available through such means as posting on the District's web site and distribution to local media and public agencies.

The Board will provide the school level overview directly to all parents in each school served by the District annually.

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

#### © Neola 2018

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. 6314

34 C.F.R. 200.31(h)(1)

A.C. 3301-35-02, 3301-35-02 (B)

Adoption Date: March 13, 2019

Policy:po2262 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2262 - LATCH-KEY PROGRAMS

The Board of Education is concerned about the growing number of children who are receiving insufficient care, nurture, or supervision when not attending school. This has serious implications for their general well-being as well as for their ability to benefit from the school program to the extent they need or want to.

Since these children constitute a significant and growing portion of the student population, the Board shall seek to provide appropriate programs and services for these students, particularly in grades K through 6, through the use of District staff and facilities.

Any fee or tuition income from the program is to be deposited in a special fund and no funds shall be expended for the program from the General Fund other than for:

- A. facilities, if currently used for other purposes;
- B. utilities furnished in conjunction with the program;

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines that will ensure that:

- A. prior to the creation and approval of any latch-key program, parents and other members of the community are provided an opportunity to make recommendations on the operation and funding of the program;
- B. programs and services are available to participating students both prior to the start of the regular school day and after school. The time periods should be scheduled so that a student may participate from the time s/he leaves a supervised environment until s/he may return to one;
- C. the major emphasis is on providing educational programs and activities that help the students learn how to function more effectively as learners in the school setting while, at the same time, coping better with the out-of-school factors that are interfering with their educational program;

- D. adequate attention is given to ensuring the students are being clothed and fed properly, exercising regularly, and learning how to maintain good physical and mental health;
- E. parents are notified about the program and the procedures for enrollment;
- F. there is continuing assessment of the effectiveness of the program by staff, participating parents, and other concerned members of the public.

# © Neola 1996

Legal References:

R.C. 3313.207/208/209, 5104

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **January 24, 2001** 

Policy:po2265 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2265 - CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

#### **Background Checks**

All staff members employed by the District whose job responsibilities include working with children in the District's pre-school programs, and all other persons 18 years or older who provide unsupervised care or have unsupervised access to the children in the program(s) must consent to and complete a comprehensive background check compliant with the requirements of the Child Care Organizations Act.

Volunteers shall not engage in unsupervised care or supervision of the children or be provided unsupervised access to the children in the program(s).

All staff members and any volunteers who have contact with children in the program(s) at least four (4) hours per week for more than two (2) consecutive weeks must have test results on file with the District indicating that they are free from communicable tuberculosis. The test results must have been verified within one (1) year before employment or volunteering.

# **Supervision of Volunteers**

All persons who volunteer in the program(s), including the parents or guardians of a child receiving care or services, will be supervised by the District staff member(s) who are working in the program(s). District staff members will be informed of their supervisory roles including the requirement that volunteers shall not engage in unsupervised care or supervision of the children or be provided unsupervised access to the children in the program(s).

District staff members must report any issues or concerns of any nature relating to volunteers to the building principal at the first available opportunity. The Building Principal will promptly address all issues or concerns and determine whether any instruction, changes, corrective action or other remedies should be implemented.

All volunteers must comply with Board policies and District guidelines while acting as a volunteer and are subject to removal or prohibition from participating as a volunteer in the program(s).

#### © Neola 2019

Legal References:

M.C.L. 722.111, et seq.

Adoption Date: February 12, 2020

Policy:po2266 Section: 2000 Program

# 2266 - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction

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

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

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

# Coverage

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

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

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

#### **Definitions**

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

**Sexual Harassment:** "Sexual Harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- A. A Board employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (often called "quid pro quo" harassment);
- B. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, **and** objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
- C. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)A(v), or "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

"Sexual assault" means any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent, and the "nonforcible" sex offenses of Incest and Statutory Rape. Sexual assault includes rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, fondling, incest, and statutory rape.

- Rape is penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Attempted rape is included.
- 2. Sodomy is oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- 3. Sexual Assault with an Object is using an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. An "object" or "instrument" is anything used by the offender other than the offender's genitalia.
- 4. Fondling is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
- 5. *Incest* is sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by State law.
- 6. Statutory Rape is sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent as defined by State law.

- 7. Consent refers to words or actions that a reasonable person would understand as agreement to engage in the sexual conduct at issue. A person may be incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. A person who is incapacitated is not capable of giving consent.
- 8. Incapacitated refers to the state where a person does not understand and/or appreciate the nature or fact of sexual activity due to the effect of drugs or alcohol consumption, medical condition, disability, or due to a state of unconsciousness or sleep.
- D. "Domestic violence" includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:
  - 1. a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
  - 2. a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
  - 3. a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
  - 4. a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred; or
  - 5. any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.
- E. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- F. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.

**Complainant:** "Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

**Respondent:** "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

**Formal Complaint:** "Formal Complaint" means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation(s) of Sexual Harassment. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint with the District, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity. A "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal that the Board provides for this purpose) that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a Complainant or a party to the Formal Complaint and must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

**Actual Knowledge:** "Actual knowledge" means notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator, or any District official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the Board, or any Board employee. The mere ability or obligation to report Sexual Harassment or to inform a student about how to report Sexual Harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the District. "Notice" includes, but is not limited to, a report of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This standard is not met when the only District official with actual knowledge is the Respondent.

**Supportive Measures:** "Supportive measures" means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter Sexual Harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, school/campus escort services, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations), leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus (including school buildings and facilities), referral to Employee Assistance Program, and other similar measures.

**Education Program or Activity:** "Education program or activity" refers to all operations of the District, including but not limited to in-person and online educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all activity that occurs on school grounds or on other property owned or occupied by the Board. It also includes locations, events and circumstances that take place off-school property/grounds over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs.

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

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

**Inculpatory Evidence:** "Inculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to establish a Respondent's responsibility for alleged Sexual Harassment.

**Exculpatory Evidence:** "Exculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to clear or excuse a Respondent from allegations of Sexual Harassment.

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

**Eligible Student:** "Eligible Student" means a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

# Title IX Coordinator(s)

The Board of Education designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations:

Director of Student Services 3201 Roosevelt St. Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-2037 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

Director of Human Resources 3201 Roosevelt St Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-3817 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

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

The Superintendent shall notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board of the following information:

The Board of Education of the Hamtramck Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

Director of Student Services 3201 Roosevelt St. Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-2037 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

Director of Human Resources 3201 Roosevelt St Hamtramck, MI 48212 (313) 892-3817 TitleIX@hamtramckschools.org

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process is included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available on the District's website. The grievance process specifically addresses how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.

The Superintendent shall also prominently display the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information – including name(s) and/or title(s), phone number(s), office address(es), and e-mail address(es) – and this policy on the District's website and in each handbook or catalog that the Board makes available to applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements.

#### **Grievance Process**

The Board is committed to promptly and equitably resolving student and employee complaints alleging Sexual Harassment. The District's response to allegations of Sexual Harassment will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, including providing supportive measures to the Complainant and Respondent, as appropriate, and following this Grievance Process before imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions, other than supportive measures, against the Respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator(s), along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant or Respondent.

If a determination of responsibility for Sexual Harassment is made against the Respondent, the Board will provide remedies to the Complainant. The remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. Potential remedies include, but are not limited to, individualized services that constitute supportive measures. Remedies may also be disciplinary or punitive in nature and may burden the Respondent.

# Report of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment

Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information listed above, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's oral or written report. Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours), by using the telephone number(s) or electronic mail address(es), or by mail to the office address(es), listed for the Title IX Coordinator(s). Anonymous reports may be submitted using OK@Say or call 1-855-565-2729.

Board employees are required, and students, Board Members and other members of the School District community, and Third Parties) are encouraged, to report allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment promptly to the/a Title IX Coordinator or to any Board employee, who will in turn notify the/a Title IX Coordinator. Reports can be made orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a report involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the person making the report should submit it to the Superintendent, or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for purposes of addressing that report of Sexual Harassment.

The Board does business with various vendors, contractors, and other third-parties who are not students or employees of the Board. Notwithstanding any rights that a given vendor, contractor, or third-party Respondent may have under this policy, the Board retains the right to limit any vendor's, contractor's, or third-party's access to school grounds for any reason. The Board further retains all rights it enjoys by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any vendor, contractor, or third-party irrespective of any process or outcome under this policy.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a Formal Complaint. A person does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to Title IX may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at any time.

Any allegations of Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity not involving Sexual Harassment will be addressed through the procedures outlined in Board policies the applicable Student Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

Because the Board is considered to have actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment if any Board employee has such knowledge, and because the Board must take specific actions when it has notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment, a Board employee who has independent knowledge of or receives a report involving allegations of sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment must notify the/a Title IX Coordinator within two (2) days of learning the information or receiving the report. The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to M.C.L. 722.623 and Policy 8462 – Student Abuse and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention and the reporting individual submitted a written complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator.

If a Board employee fails to report an incident of Sexual Harassment of which the Board employee is aware, the Board employee may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

When a report of Sexual Harassment is made, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) days of the Title IX Coordinator's receipt of the report of Sexual Harassment) contact the Complainant (including the parent/guardian if the Complainant is under 18 years of age or under guardianship) to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any supportive measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

**Emergency Removal:** Subject to limitations and/or procedures imposed by State and/or Federal law, the District may remove a student Respondent from its education program or activity on an emergency basis after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis. The purposes of the individualized safety and risk analysis is to determine whether the student Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment that justifies removal. If the District determines the student Respondent poses such a threat, it will so notify the student Respondent and the student Respondent will have an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. See Policy 5610 – Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights.

If the Respondent is a non-student employee, the District may place the Respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

For all other Respondents, including other members of the School District community and Third Parties, the Board retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its school grounds and other properties at any time and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment or otherwise.

# **Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment**

A Formal Complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information set forth above. If a Formal Complaint involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the Complainant should submit the Formal Complaint to the Superintendent, who will designate another person to serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for the limited purpose of implementing the grievance process with respect to that Formal Complaint.

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a Formal Complaint or signs a Formal Complaint, the District will follow its Grievance Process, as set forth herein. Specifically, the District will undertake an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

It is a violation of this policy for a Complainant(s), Respondent(s), and/or witness(es) to knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process, including intentionally making a false report of Sexual Harassment or submitting a false Formal Complaint. The Board will not tolerate such conduct, which is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

The Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

#### **Timeline**

The District will seek to conclude the grievance process, including resolving any appeals, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator offers informal resolution processes, the informal resolution processes may not be used by the Complainant or Respondent to unduly delay the investigation and determination of responsibility. The timeline, however, may be subject to a temporary delay of the grievance process or a limited extension for good cause with written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; and the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of the following to the parties who are known:

- A. Notice of the Board's grievance process, including any informal resolution processes;
- B. Notice of the allegations of misconduct that potentially constitutes Sexual Harassment as defined in this policy, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice must:
  - include a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;

- 2. inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence.
- 3. inform the parties of any provision in the Student Code of Conduct, that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, during the course of the investigation, the investigator becomes aware of allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the original notice provided to the parties, the investigator will notify the Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether the investigator should investigate the additional allegations; if the Title IX Coordinator decides to include the new allegations as part of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

# Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The District shall investigate the allegations in a Formal Complaint, *unless* the conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint:

- A. would not constitute Sexual Harassment (as defined in this policy) even if proved;
- B. did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or
- C. did not occur against a person in the United States.

If one of the preceding circumstances exist, the Title IX Coordinator *shall* dismiss the Formal Complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses the Formal Complaint due to one of the preceding reasons, the District may still investigate and take action with respect to such alleged misconduct pursuant to another provision of an applicable code of conduct, Board policy, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

The Title IX Coordinator *may* dismiss a Formal Complaint, or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation:

- A. a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein;
- B. the Respondent is no longer enrolled in the District or employed by the Board; or
- C. specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.

If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a Formal Complaint or allegations therein, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.

# **Consolidation of Formal Complaints**

The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of Sexual Harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of Sexual Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Where a grievance process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this policy to the singular "party," "Complainant," or "Respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

### **Informal Resolution Process**

Under no circumstances shall a Complainant be required as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, to waive any right to an investigation and adjudication of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. Similarly, no party shall be required to participate in an informal resolution process.

If a Formal Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator may offer to the parties an informal resolution process. If the parties mutually agree to participate in the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall designate a trained individual to facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication. The informal resolution process may be used at any time prior to the decision-maker(s) reaching a determination regarding responsibility.

If the Title IX Coordinator is going to propose an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide to the parties a written notice disclosing:

- A. the allegations;
- B. the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations; and
- C. any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the Formal Complaint.

Before commencing the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall obtain from the parties their voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.

During the pendency of the informal resolution process, the investigation and adjudication processes that would otherwise occur have stayed and all related deadlines are suspended.

The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations that a Board employee or another adult member of the School District community or Third Party sexually harassed a student.

The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations involving a sexual assault involving a student Complainant and a student Respondent.

# **Investigation of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment**

In conducting the investigation of a Formal Complaint and throughout the grievance process, the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility is on the District, not the parties.

In making the determination of responsibility, the decision-maker(s) is(are) directed to use the preponderance of the evidence standard. The decision-maker(s) is charged with considering the totality of all available evidence, from all relevant sources.

The District is not permitted to access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the party provides the District with voluntary, written consent to do so; if a student party is not an Eligible Student, the District must obtain the voluntary, written consent of a parent.

Similarly, the investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) may not require, allow, rely upon or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege in writing.

As part of the investigation, the parties have the right to:

- A. present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence; and
- B. have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The District may not limit the choice or presence of an advisor for either the Complainant or Respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding.

Neither party shall be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

The District will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. The investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) must provide a minimum of three (3) days' notice with respect to investigative interviews and other meetings.

Both parties shall have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and send the report to each party and the party's advisor, if any, for their review and written response. The investigator will send the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the decision-maker(s) issuing a determination regarding responsibility.

# **Determination of Responsibility**

The Title IX Coordinator shall appoint a decision-maker(s) to issue a determination of responsibility. The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator(s) or the investigator(s).

After the investigator sends the investigative report to the parties and the decision-maker(s), and before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

**Determination regarding responsibility:** The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker(s) must apply the preponderance of the evidence standard.

The written determination will include the following content:

- A. identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment pursuant to this policy;
- B. a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, [and] methods used to gather other evidence;
- C. findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. Conclusions regarding the application of the applicable code of conduct to the facts;
- E. a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the decision-maker(s) is recommending that the District impose on the Respondent(s), and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity should be provided by the District to the Complainant(s); and
- F. the procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) to appeal.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a student Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. Informal Discipline
  - 1. writing assignments;
  - 2. changing of seating or location:
  - 3. pre-school, lunchtime, after-school detention;
  - 4. in-school discipline;
  - 5. Saturday school;

# B. Formal Discipline

- 1. suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges;
- 2. removal from co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activity(ies), including athletics;
- 3. emergency removal;
- 4. suspension for up to ten (10) school days;
- 5. long-term suspension or expulsion;
- 6. any other sanction authorized by the Student Code of Conduct.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the student Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedy(ies) in compliance with Policy 5600 – Student Discipline, Policy 5605 – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities, Policy 5610 – Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students, Policy 5610.02 - In-School Discipline, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights. Discipline of a student Respondent must comply with the applicable provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, and their respective implementing regulations.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on an employee Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. oral or written warning;
- B. written reprimands;
- C. performance improvement plan;
- D. required counseling;
- E. required training or education;
- F. demotion;
- G. suspension with pay;
- H. suspension without pay;
- I. termination, and any other sanction authorized by any applicable Employee/Administrator Handbook and/or collective bargaining agreement.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the employee Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedy(ies) in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual.

Discipline of an employee will be implemented in accordance with Federal and State law, Board policy, and applicable provisions of any relevant collective bargaining agreement.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a non-student/non-employee member of the School District community or Third Party who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. oral or written warning;
- suspension or termination/cancellation of the Board's contract with the third-party vendor or contractor;
- C. mandatory monitoring of the third-party while on school property and/or while working/interacting with students;
- D. restriction/prohibition on the third-party's ability to be on school property; and
- E. any combination of the same.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the third-party Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including imposition of sanctions. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so appropriate action can be taken.

The decision-maker(s) will provide the written determination to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.

In ultimately, imposing a disciplinary sanction/consequence, the Superintendent will consider the severity of the incident, previous disciplinary violations (if any), and any mitigating circumstances.

The District's resolution of a Formal Complaint ordinarily will not be impacted by the fact that criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

At any point in the grievance process, the Superintendent may involve local law enforcement and/or file criminal charges related to allegations of Sexual Harassment that involve a sexual assault.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

#### Appeal

Both parties have the right to file an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, or from the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- A. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter (e.g., material deviation from established procedures);
- B. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- C. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) that affected the outcome of the matter.

The Complainant(s) may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed.

Any party wishing to appeal the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility, or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, must submit a written appeal to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) days after receipt of the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein.

Nothing herein shall prevent the Superintendent from implementing appropriate remedies, however, excluding disciplinary sanction, while the appeal is pending.

As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not be the same person(s) as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator(s). The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) and shall receive the same training as required of other decision-makers.

Both parties shall have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall determine when each party's written statement is due.

The parties' written statements in support of, or challenging, the determination of responsibility must be submitted within five (5) days after the Title IX Coordinator provides notice to the non-appealing party of the appeal.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The original decision-makers(s') determination of responsibility will stand if the appeal request is not filed in a timely manner or the appealing party fails to show clear error and/or a compelling rationale for overturning or modifying the original determination.

The determination of responsibility associated with a Formal Complaint, including any recommendations for remedies/disciplinary sanctions, becomes final when the time for filing an appeal has passed or, if an appeal is filed, at the point when the decision-maker(s) for the appeal's decision is delivered to the Complainant and the Respondent. No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

### Retaliation

Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a report of Sexual Harassment, filing a Formal Complaint, or participating in an investigation, is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance process set forth above.

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

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy shall not constitute retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

# Confidentiality

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the Complainant's and Respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigative record and determination of responsibility).

## **Application of the First Amendment**

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In no case will a Respondent be found to have committed Sexual Harassment based on expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment.

### **Training**

The District's Title IX Coordinator, along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, must receive training on:

- A. the definition of Sexual Harassment (as that term is used in this policy);
- B. the scope of the District's education program or activity;
- C. how to conduct an investigation and implement the grievance process, appeals and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and
- D. how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interests, and bias.

All Board employees will be trained concerning their legal obligation to report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This training will include practical information about how to identify and report Sexual Harassment.

# Recordkeeping

As part of its response to alleged violations of this policy, the District shall create, and maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. In each instance, the District shall document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. If the District does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the District in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

The District shall maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years the following records:

- A. each Sexual Harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions recommended and/or imposed on the Respondent(s), and any remedies provided to the Complainant(s) designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity
- B. any appeal and the result therefrom
- C. any informal resolution and the result therefrom, and
- D. all materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.

The District will make its training materials publicly available on its website.

### Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this policy, including, but not limited to, Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor, to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

# **Discretion in Application**

The Board retains discretion to interpret and apply this policy in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable, even if the Board's interpretation or application differs from the interpretation of any specific Complainant and/or Respondent.

Despite the Board's reasonable efforts to anticipate all eventualities in drafting this policy, it is possible unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances may not be specifically or reasonably addressed by the express policy language, in which case the Board retains discretion to respond to the unanticipated or extraordinary circumstance in a way that is not clearly unreasonable.

The provisions of this policy are not contractual in nature, whether in their own right, or as part of any other express or implied contract. Accordingly, the Board retains discretion to revise this policy at any time, and for any reason. The Board may apply policy revisions to an active case provided that doing so is not clearly unreasonable.

T.C. 9/28/22 T.C. 11/6/24

### © Neola 2021

Legal 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

OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)

20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)

34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30)

Adoption Date: **September 09, 2020** Last Revised: **November 06, 2024** 

Policy:po2270 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2270 - RELIGION IN THE CURRICULUM

Based on the First Amendment protection against the establishment of religion in the schools, no Board of Education employee will promote religion in the classroom or in the District's curriculum, or compel or pressure any student to participate in devotional exercises. Displays of a religious character must conform with Policy 8800 and AG 8800A, AG 8800B, AG 8800C, and AG 8800D. Instructional activities shall not be permitted to advance or inhibit any particular religion or religious generally.

An understanding of religions and their effects on civilization is essential to the thorough education of young people and to their appreciation of a pluralistic society. To that end, curriculum may include as appropriate to the various ages and attainments of the students, instruction about the religions of the world.

The Board acknowledges the degree to which a religious consciousness has permeated the arts, literature, music, and issues of morality. The instructional and resource materials approved for use in the District's schools frequently contain religious references or concern moral issues that have traditionally been the focus of religious concern. That such materials may be religious in nature shall not, by itself, bar their use by the District. The Board directs that professional staff members employing such materials be neutral in their approach and avoid using them to advance or inhibit religion in any way.

The Board recognizes that on occasion there may be classes or portions of classes which conflict with the religious beliefs of certain individuals and the religious organizations to which they belong. It shall therefore be the policy of the Board to excuse a student from participation in such classes or portions of classes if in the judgment of the Superintendent such objections are legitimate. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board.

Such objections should be legitimate based upon the basic beliefs as set forth by the religious organization to which the individual or his/her parent or guardian belongs and should be verified in writing by an official of the organization.

Only rarely shall the objection of an individual be considered when such objections are not verified by his/her religious affiliation. In such instances, a rationale must be presented which would justify excusing the student from a particular activity. In making the decision in marginal situations the Superintendent shall give consideration to what would be of greatest benefit to the student.

The Board recognizes that religious traditions vary in their perceptions and doctrines regarding the natural world and its processes. The curriculum is chosen for its place in the education of the District's students, not for its conformity to religious principles. Students should receive unbiased instruction in the schools, so they may privately accept or reject the knowledge thus gained, in accordance with their own religious tenets.

Accordingly, no student shall be exempted from attendance in a required course of study on the grounds that the instruction therein interferes with the free exercise of his/her religion. However, if after careful, personal review of the program's lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or activities conflict with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from particular class periods for specified reasons. The student will be provided with alternate learning activities during the times of such parent requested absence.

No classroom teacher shall be prohibited from providing reasonable periods of time for activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No student shall be required to participate in such activities if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the student or his/her parents or guardians.

The Board acknowledges that it may not adopt any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs. However, such exercise or expression may be limited to lunch periods or other noninstructional time periods when students are free to associate.

### See References:

Policy 8800 AG 8800A AG 8800B AG 8800C AG 8800D

#### © Neola 2013

Legal References: M.C.L. 380.1187

U.S. Constitutional Amendment 1

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: June 12, 2013

Policy:po2271 Section: 2000 Program

# 2271 - POSTSECONDARY (DUAL) ENROLLMENT OPTION PROGRAM

The Board of Education recognizes the value to students and to the District 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 MCL 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 the Superintendent's guidelines to enroll in eligible postsecondary courses while in attendance in the District. The Superintendent 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 District'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 Superintendent 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 Superintendent shall also establish guidelines and procedures for the awarding of 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 District shall either pay the bill or the prorated percentage of the State portion of the foundation allowance for that student, whichever is lower. If charges exceed such payment, the District shall make an additional payment to the institution from the General Fund, if funds are available, and if the student is receiving high school credit for the course.

Such an additional payment may include charges for tuition, mandatory course fees, and any late fees caused by the District's failure to make the required payment on time. The student and his/her parents will be responsible for the student's transportation costs, parking fees, or any activity fees. The student and his/her parents are responsible for the remaining charges.

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 District for such charges incurred by the District for such enrollment. In the event reimbursement is not made in a reasonable period of time, the Superintendent is authorized to file claim against the student and/or his/her parents in Small Claims Court for collection.

The Superintendent 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 District's enrollment represented by eligible students both in the aggregate and by grade level
- D. the total number of postsecondary courses for which the District 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

Revised 11/12/96 Revised 1/24/01 Revised 1/21/09 Revised 1/15/2013

Legal References:

#### © Neola 2018

M.C.L. 380.1279g, 380.1473, 380.1481, 388.513, 388.513a,

388.514, 388.1930a,

M.C.L. 388.1621(b)

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: March 13, 2019

Policy:po2330 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2330 - **HOMEWORK**

The Board of Education acknowledges the educational validity of out-of-school assignments as adjuncts to and extensions of the instructional program of the schools.

"Homework" shall refer to those assignments to be prepared outside of the school by the student.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the assignment of homework according to these guidelines:

- A. Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum to extend and reinforce the learning experience of the school.
- B. Homework should help students learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering, and integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems.
- C. Homework should help develop the student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment.
- D. The number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the ability and needs of the student and take into account other activities which make a legitimate claim on the student's time.
- E. As a valid educational tool, homework should be assigned with clear direction and its product carefully evaluated.
- F. The schools should recognize the role of parents by suggesting ways in which parents can assist the school in helping a student carry out assigned responsibilities.
- G. Homework should always serve a valid learning purpose; it should never be used as a punitive measure.

Though long term reports may be assigned and may be worked on during vacation periods and/or weekends at the option of the student, extensive homework assignments or reports should not be given immediately before such a period to be due at the completion of such periods.

## © Neola 1991

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Policy:po2340 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2340 - FIELD AND OTHER DISTRICT-SPONSORED TRIPS

The Board of Education recognizes that field trips, when used for teaching and learning integral to the curriculum, are an educationally sound and important ingredient in the instructional program of the schools. Properly planned and executed field trips should:

- A. supplement and enrich classroom procedures by providing learning experiences in an environment outside the schools;
- B. arouse new interests among students;
- C. help students relate school experiences to the reality of the world outside of school;
- D. bring the resources of the community natural, cultural, artistic, industrial, commercial, governmental, educational within the student's learning experience;
- E. afford students the opportunity to study real things and real processes in their actual environment.

For purposes of this policy, a field trip shall be defined as any planned journey by one or more students away from District premises, which is under the supervision of a professional staff member, or other adult person as approved by the principal or director and an integral part of a course of study.

Other District-sponsored trips shall be defined as any planned, student—travel activity which is approved as part of the District's total educational program.

The Board of Education shall approve those field trips and other District-sponsored trips which are planned to keep students out of the District overnight or longer or out of the State.

The Superintendent shall approve all other such trips.

The Board shall assume the costs of field trips; no regularly enrolled student shall be charged a fee for participation in field trips. Students may be charged fees, however, for other District-sponsored trips which are not part of a course of study.

Students may be charged fees for District-sponsored trips, but no student shall be denied participation for financial inability, nor shall nonparticipation be penalized academically.

Students on all District-sponsored trips remain under the supervision of this Board and are subject to the District's administrative guidelines.

The Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability in any way for any staff member, volunteer, or parent of the District who takes students on trips not approved by the Board or Superintendent. No staff member may solicit students of this District for such trips within the facilities or on the school grounds of the District without permission from the Superintendent. Permission to solicit neither grants nor implies approval of the trip. Such approval must be obtained in accordance with the District's Administrative Guidelines for Extended Trips.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines for the operation of both field and other District-sponsored trips, including athletic trips, which shall ensure that:

- A. the safety and well-being of students is protected at all times;
- B. parental permission is sought and obtained before any student leaves the District on a trip;
- C. each trip is properly planned, and if a field trip, is integrated with the curriculum, evaluated, and followed up by appropriate activities which enhance its usefulness;
- D. the effectiveness of field trip activities is judged in terms of demonstrated learning outcomes;
- E. each trip is properly monitored;
- F. student behavior while on all field trips complies with the Student Code of Conduct.

It shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to inform the trip supervisor of any relevant information on his/her child prior to the trip.

A professional staff member shall not change a planned itinerary while the trip is in progress, except where the health, safety, or welfare of the students in his/her charge is imperiled.

In any instance in which the itinerary of a trip is altered, the professional staff member in charge shall notify the administrative superior immediately.

#### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1282, 380.1331

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Policy:po2370 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2370 - EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to provide alternative means by which students achieve the goals of the District.

An optional plan to meet the recognized educational needs of a student shall be approved by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall prepare a plan of educational options for use in meeting special needs.

Such options may include, but not be limited to, tutorial programs, independent study, correspondence courses, educational travel, mentorship programs, summer school, early college entrance, internet, digital broadcasting, or satellite course work offered by the school or any regionally accredited college or Michigan Virtual High School.

Credit may be granted to the student upon complete evaluation of the program.

The credit shall be placed on the student's transcript. The amount of credit counting toward graduation shall comply with the District graduation requirements.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines whereby each educational option is properly analyzed, planned, and implemented and complies with all applicable requirements of the State.

#### © Neola 2000

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1481, 388.1621(b)

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **January 24, 2001** 

Policy:po2370.01 Section: 2000 Program

### 2370.01 - ON-LINE/BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM

The District shall provide eligible students the option of participating in on-line or blended learning courses. The purpose of the program is to make instruction available to eligible students using on-line and distance education technology in both traditional and nontraditional classroom settings. The District must make all eligible students and their parents or guardians aware of this program.

#### A. Definitions

- On-Line Learning Means a course of study that is capable of generating a credit or a grade, that is provided in an interactive internet-connected learning environment, in which students and their teachers are separated by time or location, or both, and in which the teacher is responsible for determining appropriate instructional methods for each student, diagnosing learning needs, assessing student learning, prescribing intervention strategies, reporting outcomes, and evaluating the effects of instruction and support strategies.
- Blended Learning A hybrid instructional delivery model where students are
  provided content, instruction, and assessment in part at the classroom, with a teacher,
  and in part through internet-connected learning environments with some degree of
  student control over time, location, and pace of instruction.

# **B. Program Eligibility**

The District shall offer a program for students in Grades 6-12.

The District may offer a full time or part time program for grade 9-12 students enrolled in dropout prevention, academic intervention, core courses to meet graduation requirements, or dual enrollment programs.

### C. Student Eligibility

- 1. Students eligible for the District on-line/blended learning program must meet at least one of the following conditions:
  - a. The student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a public school in this State and was enrolled and reported by a public school district.
  - b. The student is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was transferred within the last twelve (12) months to Michigan from another state or foreign country pursuant to the parent's permanent change of station orders.
- Only students enrolled in grades 6 to 12 are eligible to enroll in an On-Line Learning course. Students in grades K-5 are only eligible to participate in Blended Learning Courses.

## D. Course Availability and Access

- The District shall provide access to enroll and participate in the available courses and shall award credit, as may be appropriate, for successful completion. Access shall be available to eligible students during or after the school day and during summer school enrollment. The District will provide On-line Learning, pursuant to the requirements set forth in Pupil Accounting Manual 5-O-D.
- 2. The District shall enroll an eligible student in up to two (2) on-line courses as requested by the student during an academic term, semester, or trimester. Consent from the student's parent or legal guardian must be obtained for students under the age of eighteen (18).
- 3. The District will provide two (2) or fewer courses per semester in Grades K-5 and one (1) or more courses per semester in Grades 6-12. If students are taking more than two (2) courses per semester, the guidance found in the Pupil Accounting Manual 5-0-B shall be followed and seat time waivers obtained.
- 4. An eligible student may enroll in an on-line course published in the District on-line course syllabus, as described in section 8 below, or the statewide catalog of on-line courses maintained by the Michigan virtual university.
- 5. The District may deny a student enrollment in an on-line course if any of the following apply, as determined by the District:
  - a. The student has previously gained the credits provided from the completion of the on-line course.
  - b. The on-line course is not capable of generating academic credit.
  - c. The on-line course is inconsistent with the remaining graduation requirements or career interests of the student.
  - d. The student does not possess the prerequisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the on-line course or has demonstrated failure in previous on-line coursework in the same subject.
  - e. The on-line course is of insufficient quality or rigor. If the District denies a student enrollment for this reason, the District shall make a reasonable effort to assist the student to find an alternative course in the same or a similar subject that is of acceptable rigor and quality.
  - f. If a student is denied enrollment in an on-line course by the District, the student may appeal the denial by submitting a letter to the Principal. The appeal must include the reason provided by the District for not enrolling the student and the reason why the student is claiming that the enrollment should be approved.

The Principal shall respond to the appeal within five (5) days after it is received. If the Principal determines that the denial of enrollment does not meet one (1) or more of the reasons specified in subsection 4(E)i.-vi., the District shall allow the student to enroll in the on-line course.

6. An on-line learning student shall have the same rights and access to technology in his/her District's school facilities as all other students enrolled in that District.

- 7. If a student successfully completes an on-line course, as determined by the District, the District shall grant appropriate academic credit for completion of the course and shall count that credit toward completion of graduation and subject area requirements. A student's school record and transcript shall identify the on-line course title as it appears in the on-line course syllabus.
- 8. The enrollment of a student in one (1) or more on-line courses shall not result in a student being counted as more than 1.0 full-time equivalent student under this act.

### **E. Nonresident Applicants**

- 1. The District shall determine whether or not it has capacity to accept applications for enrollment from nonresident applicants in on-line courses and may use that limit as the reason for refusal to enroll an applicant.
- 2. If the number of nonresident applicants eligible for acceptance in an on-line course does not exceed the capacity of the District to provide the on-line course, the District shall accept for enrollment all of the nonresident applicants eligible for acceptance.
- 3. If the number of nonresident applicants exceeds the District's capacity to provide the on-line course, the District shall use a random draw system.

# F. Requirements Specific to On-Line Learning Courses

To offer an on-line course, the District must:

- 1. Provide the Michigan virtual university with the course syllabus in a form and method prescribed by the Michigan virtual university for inclusion in a statewide on-line course catalog.
- 2. Provide on its publicly accessible website a link to the course syllabi for all of the online courses offered by the District, as described in section 8, and a link to the statewide catalog of on- line courses maintained by the Michigan virtual university.
- 3. Offer the on-line course on an open entry and exit method, or aligned to a semester, trimester, or accelerated academic term format.

## G. On-line Course Syllabus

The District must publish an on-line course syllabus for each on-line course offered. The on-line course syllabus must include:

- 1. State academic standards addressed in an on-line course.
- 2. On-line course content outline.
- 3. On-line course required assessments.
- 4. On-line course prerequisites.
- 5. Expectations for actual teacher contact time with the on-line learning student and other student-to-teacher communications.

- 6. Academic support available to the on-line learning student.
- 7. On-line course learning outcomes and objectives.
- 8. Name of the institution or organization providing the on-line instructor.
- Number of eligible nonresident students that will be accepted by the District in the online course.
- 10. Results of the on-line course quality review using the guidelines and model review process published by the Michigan virtual university.

Revised 6/11/14

## © Neola 2014

Legal References: M.C.L. 388.1621f

Michigan Department of Education Guidance on Best Practices as

Defined in M.C.L. 388.1622f

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: May 13, 2015

Policy:po2410 Section: 2000 Program

# 2410 - PROHIBITION OF REFERRAL OR ASSISTANCE

In accordance with Michigan statute, any school official, member of the Board of Education, or employee of the Board who is not the parent or the legal guardian of the student involved is prohibited from referring a student for an abortion or assisting a student in obtaining an abortion. Any school official, member of the Board, or employee of the Board who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

Any alleged violation of this policy shall be reported to the Superintendent, who shall follow the procedures set out in Policy 1439, Policy 3139, Policy 4139 or the current negotiated bargaining agreement, whichever is applicable, to investigate the allegation. If the allegation relates to a school official, member of the Board, or employee of the Board to whom Policy 1439, Policy 3139, Policy 4139 or a current negotiated bargaining agreement does not apply, the Superintendent shall conduct an investigation, as appropriate to the situation, including providing the person with reasonable notice and the opportunity to respond. All disciplinary measures available under Board Policy 1439, Policy 3139 or Policy 4139 may be utilized, as appropriate, if the Superintendent determines that a violation of this policy occurred.

#### © Neola 2019

Legal References:

M.C.L. 388.1766

Adoption Date: **November 08, 2017** Last Revised: **February 12, 2020** 

Policy:po2411 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2411 - GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The Board of Education requires that a planned program of guidance and counseling be an integral part of the educational program of the District. Such a program should:

- A. assist students in achieving their optimum growth;
- B. enable students to draw the greatest benefit from the offerings of the instructional program of the schools;
- C. assist students in career awareness and planning and in the selection of appropriate post secondary educational opportunities;
- D. help integrate all the student's experience so that s/he can better relate school activity to life outside the school;
- E. help students learn to make their own decisions and solve problems independently;
- F. help students enhance cross-cultural differences and special needs populations;
- G. develop on appropriate post-graduate follow-up service that also includes such services for student drop-outs.

The Superintendent is directed to implement the counseling and guidance program which carries out these purposes and:

- A. involves appropriate staff members at every level:
- B. honors the individuality of each student;
- C. is integrated with the total educational program;
- D. is coordinated with available resources of the community;
- E. cooperates with parents and recognizes their concern and ideas for the development of their children;
- F. provides means for such sharing of information among such appropriate staff members as may be in the best interests of the student;

- G. provides that an appropriate amount of time and effort shall be given to providing guidance and counseling services to those students sixteen (16) to nineteen (19) years of age who do not intend to enroll in an institution of higher education after graduating from high school or who require or desire employment in connection with their continued education;
- H. establishes a referral system which utilizes all the aid the schools and community offer, guards the privacy of the student, and monitors the effectiveness of such referrals.

## © Neola 1990

Legal References: M.C.L. 380.1233A, 380.1172

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** 

Policy:po2412 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2412 - HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Board of Education shall provide, pursuant to requirements of the State Board of Education, individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability.

Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician or physician's assistant (licensed to practice in this State), parent, student, or other care giver. A physician or physician's assistant must:

- A. certify the nature and existence of a medical condition;
- B. state the probable duration of the confinement;
- C. request such instruction;
- D. present evidence of the student's ability to participate in an educational program.

Applications must be approved by the Director of Student Services.

The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five (5) days.

The program of homebound or hospitalized instruction given each student shall be in accordance with regulations of the State Board of Education with such exceptions as may be recommended by the physician. Teachers of homebound special education students shall hold a Michigan teaching certificate appropriate for the level of instruction for which the assignment is made or for the type of instruction called for by an I.E.P.C. Teachers of nondisabled students must hold a valid teaching certificate.

The District reserves the right to withhold recommendation for homebound instruction when:

- A. the instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher;
- B. a parent or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of instruction;
- C. the condition of the student is such as to preclude his/her benefit from such instruction.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for implementing the policy.

Revised 1/21/09

### © Neola 2020

Legal References:

M.C.L. 388.1606, 388.1709

Reference: Pupil Accounting Manual 2019-2020, Michigan

Department of Education

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **October 14, 2020** 

Policy:po2413 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2413 - COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Board of Education, in compliance with State law, has adopted a comprehensive program of health education, known as the Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education for grades K through 6 which will prepare students to maintain good health and enable them to adapt to changing health problems of our society.

The Board recognizes that this program, like others the District offers, may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. The District shall notify the parents, in advance of the instruction, and about the content of the instruction, give the parents an opportunity to review the materials to be used, and advise the parents of their right to have their child excused from the instruction. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and materials, a parent files a complaint in accordance with Board Policy 9130 regarding either content or activities that conflict with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from particular classes for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternative learning activities during times of parent requested absences.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines that will ensure the health education program includes appropriate learning experiences related to such topics as use, abuse, and effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; mental, physical, and dental health; disease prevention and control; accident prevention; and related health and safety topics periodic evaluation of student understanding and continual analysis of the effectiveness of the programs and the accuracy, completeness, and relevancy of the information and instructional procedures.

In implementing these programs, the Superintendent may use whatever District and outside resources, including Department of Education and Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency, hereinafter referred to as RESA, guidelines and consultants, s/he deems appropriate.

#### © Neola 1994

Legal References:

M.C.L. 388.381 et seg., 380.1170, 380.1506/1507

A.C. Rule 388.271 et seq.

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: June 10, 1994

Policy:po2414 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2414 - REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

The Board of Education directs that instruction be provided on the principal modes by which dangerous communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS, are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases. The instruction shall stress that abstinence from sex is the only protection that is 100% effective against unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, and that abstinence is a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.

No person shall dispense or otherwise distribute in a District school or on District school property a family planning drug or device. Additionally, any school official, member of the Board, or employee of the Board who is not the parent or the legal guardian of the student involved is prohibited from referring a student for an abortion or assisting a student in obtaining an abortion.

Each person who teaches K to 12 students about human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome shall have training in human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome education for young people. Licensed health care professionals who have received training on human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome are exempt from this requirement.

The District shall notify the parents, in advance of the instruction and about the content of the instruction, give the parents an opportunity, prior to instruction, to review the materials to be used (other than tests), as well as the opportunity to observe the instruction, and advise the parents of their right to have their child excused from the instruction.

Before any revisions to the curriculum on the subjects taught pursuant to M.C.L. 380.1169 are implemented, the Board shall hold at least two (2) public hearings on the proposed revisions. The hearings shall be held at least one (1) week apart and public notice of the hearings shall be given in the manner required for board meetings. A public hearing held pursuant to this section may be held in conjunction with a public hearing held pursuant to M.C.L. 380.1507.

Revised 6/10/94 Revised 6/05 Revised 11/8/17 Revised 2/12/20

© Neola 2020

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1169, 380.1507, 388.1766

A.C. Rule 388.273 et seg.

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **October 14, 2020** 

Policy:po2416 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2416 - STUDENT PRIVACY AND PARENTAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Board of Education respects the privacy rights of parents and their children. No student shall be required as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student, (if an adult or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- C. sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally-recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

The Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

To insure the right of parents, the Board directs building and program administrators to:

- A. Notify parents in writing of any surveys, analyses, or evaluations, which may reveal any of the information, as identified in A-H above, in a timely manner, and which allows interested parties to request an opportunity to inspect the survey, analysis, or evaluation; and the administrator to arrange for inspection prior to initiating the activity with students.
- B. Allow the parent the option of excluding their student from the activity.
- C. Report collected data in a summarized fashion which does not permit one to make a connection between the data and individual students or small groups of students.
- D. Treat information as identified in A-H above as any other confidential information in accordance with Policy 8350.

Additionally, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum of the student. The parent will have access to the instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal. The term instructional material means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, including printed and representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or assessments.

The Board will not allow the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).

The Superintendent is directed to provide notice directly to parents of students enrolled in the District of the substantive content of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in this policy. In addition, the Superintendent is directed to notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- B. The administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

For purposes of this policy, the term "parent" includes 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 welfare of the child).

#### © Neola 2002

Legal References:

20 USC 1232(a)(b)(g)(h)

Adoption Date: **January 24, 2001** Last Revised: **September 24, 2003** 

Policy:po2418 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2418 - SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with the Michigan statute, the Board of Education authorizes instruction in sex education. Such instruction may include family planning, human sexuality, and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic, and social aspects of family life. Instruction may also include the subjects of reproductive health and the recognition, prevention, and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

The instruction described in this policy shall stress that abstinence from sex is a responsible and effective method of preventing unplanned or out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease and is a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.

Such instruction shall be elective and not a requirement for graduation.

A student shall not be enrolled in a class in which the subjects of family planning or reproductive health are discussed unless the student's parent or guardian is notified in advance of the course and the content of the course, is given a prior opportunity to review the materials to be used in the course and is notified in advance of his or her right to have the student excused from the class. The Michigan Board of Education shall determine the form and content of the notice required in this policy.

Upon the written request of a student or the student's parent or legal guardian, the student shall be excused, without penalty or loss of academic credit, from attending a class described in this policy. If a parent or guardian submits a continuing written notice, the student will not be enrolled in a class described in this policy unless the parent or guardian submits a written authorization for that enrollment.

The District shall provide instruction by teachers qualified to teach health education. The Board shall establish a sex education advisory board and shall determine terms of service for the sex education advisory board, the number of members to serve on the advisory board, and a membership selection process that reasonably reflects the District's population. The Board shall appoint two (2) co-chairs for the advisory board, at least one (1) of whom is a parent of a child attending a District school. At least (one-half) 1/2 of the members of the sex education advisory board shall be parents who have a child attending a District school, and a majority of these parent members shall be individuals who are not employed by a District. The sex education advisory board shall include students of the District, educators, local clergy, and community health professionals. Written or electronic notice of a sex education advisory board meeting shall be sent to each member at least two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting.

The sex education advisory board shall:

- A. Establish program goals and objectives for student knowledge and skills that are likely to reduce the rates of sex, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Additional program goals and objectives may be established by the sex education advisory board that are not contrary to Michigan law.
- B. Review the materials and methods of instruction used and make recommendations to the Board for implementation. The advisory board shall take into consideration the District's needs, demographics, and trends, including, but not limited to, teenage pregnancy rates, sexually transmitted disease rates, and incidents of student sexual violence and harassment.
- C. At least once every two (2) years, evaluate, measure, and report the attainment of program goals and objectives established by the advisory board. The Board shall make the resulting report available to parents in the District.

Before adopting any revisions in the materials or methods used in instruction under this policy, including, but not limited to, revisions to provide for the teaching of abstinence from sex as a method of preventing unplanned or out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, the Board shall hold at least two (2) public hearings on the proposed revisions. The hearings shall be held at least one (1) week apart and public notice of the hearings shall be given in the manner required for Board meetings. A public hearing held pursuant to this section may be held in conjunction with a public hearing held pursuant to M.C.L. 380.1169.

Each person who provides instruction to K to 12 students in accordance with this policy shall receive training based on District approved standards and in accordance with training requirements of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

No person shall dispense or otherwise distribute in a District school or on District school property a family planning drug or device. Additionally, any school official, member of the Board, or employee of the Board who is not the parent or legal guardian of the student involved is prohibited from referring a student for an abortion or assisting a student in obtaining an abortion.

For purposes of this policy, "family planning" means the use of a range of methods of fertility regulation to help individuals or couples avoid unplanned pregnancies; bring about wanted births; regulate the intervals between pregnancies; and plan the time at which births occur in relation to the age of parents. It may include the study of fetology. It may include marital and genetic information. Clinical abortion shall not be considered a method of family planning, nor shall abortion be taught as a method of reproductive health.

#### © Neola 2019

Legal References: M.C.L. 380.1507, 380.1169, 388.1766

Adoption Date: February 12, 2020

Policy:po2421 Section: 2000 Program

## 2421 - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Board of Education agrees to coordinate and cooperate with intermediate, State, and Federal educational agencies in an effort to establish Career and Technical Education (CTE) in school districts.

Through participation in the State Aid categorical of Added Cost (61a) and Federal legislation including the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act, and in cooperation with public secondary and postsecondary educational agencies, the Board will seek to provide funding to support career-related education opportunities for both youth and adults in the service area.

The Superintendent and staff will work and plan in cooperation with business, industry, and labor to reflect their changing needs for trained personnel.

#### © Neola 2007

Legal References:

Public Law 103-239, School-to-Work Initiatives Act of 1994

Public Law 109-270 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education

Improvement Act of 2006

M.C.L. 388.1913

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **January 21, 2009** 

Policy:po2421.01 Section: 2000 Program

### 2421.01 - STUDENTS AS TRAINEES

The Board of Education recognizes the value of providing students with experiences as part of their preparation for productive employment and appreciates the cooperation of local employers in accommodating such training activities at their places of business.

Board Policy 2421 authorizes the Superintendent to develop work-site training programs as part of the vocational education curriculum. S/He shall develop administrative guidelines whereby all such programs are reviewed to determine whether or not an employer relationship has been established according to criteria established by the Supreme Court in adjudicating cases related to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Particular attention should be paid to community-based programs for special education students and to vocational education programs in which students are producing goods or services for sale and the District is the recipient of the income therefrom.

### © Neola 1993

Legal References:

29 USC 201-219

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Policy:po2430 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2430 - DISTRICT-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

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

The purpose of curricular-related activities shall be to enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than may be available in the District's courses of study but are directly related to accomplishing the educational outcomes for students as adopted by the Board in Policy 2131.

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

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

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

No curricular-related activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it meets one (1) or more of the criteria stated above and has been approved by the Superintendent.

The Board shall allow Nondistrict-Sponsored student clubs and activities to occur during noninstructional time in accordance with the provisions in Policy 5730 -Equal Access For Noncurricular Clubs and Activities.

Noncurricular activities for students that are initiated by parents or other members of the community may be allowed under the provisions of Policy 7510 - Use of District Facilities. The Board, however:

- A. will not assume any responsibility for the planning, conduct, or evaluation of such activities;
- B. will not provide any funds or other resources;
- C. will not allow any member of the District's staff to assist in the planning, conduct, or evaluation of such an activity during the hours s/he is functioning as a member of the staff.

No nondistrict-sponsored organization may use the name of the School District or any other name which would associate an activity with the District.

In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any athletic or other extra-curricular activity, a student must have maintained at least a 2.0 grade-point average for one (1) semester prior to the semester in which s/he wishes to participate.

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

Students shall be fully informed of the curricular-related activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in these activities. District-sponsored activities shall be available to all students who elect to participate and who meet eligibility standards.

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

### © Neola 1994

Legal References: M.C.L. 380.1282, 380.1300, 380.1316

P.L. 98-377

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: June 10, 1994

Policy:po2430.01 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2430.01 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Education believes in providing opportunities for students to enhance their education through a variety of appropriate co- curricular and extra-curricular activities. The Board recognizes that the community itself can be an excellent resource for such activities and welcomes the participation of community members who have special knowledge and skills that can add to the District's program.

In order to ensure that activities recommended by or involving community volunteers in an instructional role are in keeping with District philosophy and will help students better accomplish the learning goals of the District's program, the Board establishes the following guidelines for the approval of any activity involving community volunteers:

- A. Any suggested activity must be presented to the Superintendent, in writing, at least twenty (20) work days prior to the planned starting date.
- B. Each request must include:
  - the purpose of the activity;
  - 2. the students for whom the activity is planned;
  - 3. the intended learning outcomes;
  - 4. an explanation of how the intended learning outcomes contribute to the accomplishment of District goals;
  - 5. the names and qualifications of those community volunteers who will be participating in any aspect of the activity;
  - 6. the number of hours and total duration of the activity;
  - 7. an itemization of the District resources (staff, facilities, equipment, etc.) that will be needed and their estimated cost.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the responsibility for approving each requested activity based on its educational merits and relationship to the total District program.

In addition to those established for all regular co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, the Superintendent will prepare any special administrative guidelines required for the proper conduct and evaluation of activities involving community volunteers.

# © Neola 1991

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Policy:po2431 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2431 - INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for as many students as feasible.

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

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

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

The Board believes that it is the purpose of an interscholastic program to provide the benefits of an athletic experience to as large a number of students as feasible within the District.

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletics Association (MHSAA) and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play, and fair competition, rather than on winning, particularly at sub-varsity levels. The Superintendent is to develop guidelines for coaches to follow which will ensure that as many team members as possible get the chance to play, so they have the opportunity to benefit from the learning experience.

Use of a performance-enhancing substance by a student is a violation that will affect a student's athletic eligibility and extra-curricular participation, as determined by the Board.

A list of performance-enhancing substances developed by the Department of Community Health can be found in AG 2431. This list will be distributed to parents.

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

- A. Prior to enrolling in the sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a licensed physician and/or parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.
- B. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate.
- C. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have written approval by a physician prior to the student's return to participation.

A female student shall be permitted to compete for a position in all interscholastic athletic activities. If the District has a girl's team in an interscholastic athletic activity, a female shall be permitted to compete for a position on any other team for that activity.

The Board requires that each student enrolling in one of the District's interscholastic athletic programs agree to sign an enrollment application by which they agree to participate in a random and reasonable suspicion drug-testing program, conducted and paid for by the District, during the term of the athletic program in which the student will be participating.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines which provide for a drug-testing procedure that will produce consistently- reliable test results and protects the student's rights to privacy.

Any athlete who tests positive for any drug other than a prescribed medication shall be disciplined in accordance with due process and the Discipline Code adopted by the Board.

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

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

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches should never dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include the MHSAA's set of expectations for each type of participant as well as the Sportsmanship Code of Conduct which each type of participant is to follow. The Superintendent is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate this Code of Conduct.

Revised 1/24/01

## © Neola 2007

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1289, 380.1318

Good Sportsmanship Campaign, Michigan High School Athletic

Association

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: March 14, 2007

Policy:po2432 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2432 - DRIVER EDUCATION

The Board of Education shall make available a program in driver education for eligible students in order to prepare them for the responsibility for operating a motor vehicle in a proper manner.

For a student to be eligible, s/he must be between the ages of fifteen (15) and nineteen (19) and meet the academic requirements the Board has approved for participation in the District's interscholastic athletic program as well as other requirements set forth in the administrative guidelines for implementing this policy.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines which ensure that the driver education program complies with the requirements set forth by the State of Michigan and is of the same quality as the District's other educational programs.

#### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1302

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Policy:po2440 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2440 - SUMMER SCHOOL

The Board of Education shall conduct a summer program of academic instruction, at the 6-12 levels for resident students of this District and such other students as the Board may admit.

Summer school instruction shall be designed to provide opportunities for students to:

- A. improve a poor grade;
- B. improve learning skills;
- C. make up a failed course;
- D. enrich a scholastic program;
- E. explore new academic areas.

The Board shall annually approve a self sustaining summer school program. In order to support such a program of summer instruction, the Board will:

- A. employ teaching and administrative staff;
- B. purchase such books, materials, supplies, and equipment as may be necessary;
- C. make available school facilities as required;
- D. provide necessary custodial services.

Tuition fees shall be charged to students domiciled within the District.

Tuition shall be charged for nonresident students at rates as determined by the Board.

With regard to transportation, the Board accepts responsibility for disabled and disadvantaged students if I.E.P.C. so determines.

A class may be cancelled due to a lack of a sufficient number of students.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing administrative guidelines for the operation of the summer program which shall be consistent with Board policies and not conflict in any way with the administration of the regular school sessions of the District.

### © Neola 1993

Legal References: M.C.L. 380.1282, 380.1401

Policy:po2441 Section: 2000 Program

### 2441 - PUBLIC RECREATION PROGRAM

The Board of Education shall conduct a public recreation program under the general supervision of the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent may delegate to the Director of Recreation and his/her assistants such duties and responsibilities as s/he deems desirable which do not conflict with state law or Board of Education policies. The Director of Recreation will implement an industry aligned, researched based, continuous improvement process under the guidance of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Director of Recreation will be directly responsible to the District Superintendent.

The Director of Recreation will receive an annual performance evaluation by the Superintendent.

An annual Recreation Department report submitted on or before June 30th will highlight the following:

- · Number of programs offered annually
- Number of participates per class, sport, etc.
- Number of recreation aides assigned to each activity, class, etc.
- Assessment of total cost per class, sport, etc. offered
- Evaluation from each participant of class or sport, et al they were involved in recommendations for next year
- And other items as determined by the Superintendent of Schools

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **November 09, 2016** 

Policy:po2450 Section: 2000 Program

### 2450 - COMMUNITY AND ADULT EDUCATION

The Board of Education believes that education is a continuous process throughout life and supports the position that the District should cooperate with other community agencies in providing educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for all of its citizens. The school, in this setting, becomes a force for community service and improvement; and the values the community seeks for children in the regular school program are, thus, available for all citizens through the community and/or adult program.

With regard to community education, the Board shall provide programs in the evening and day for the purpose of meeting the avocational, recreational, and cultural interests of the community, as well as the vocational/technical training and retraining needs of local workers.

With regard to adult education, the Board also shall provide a basic high school continuation program for anyone over the age of sixteen (16) who is not attending high school in the schools of this District as an opportunity to complete the requirements for a high school diploma.

The Board may also maintain an Americanization program of instruction for the benefit of foreign-born residents of the District.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative guidelines whereby the schools are available to residents of the District for the above-stated purposes and such programs have equal access to the District's facilities and its instructional equipment, materials, and supplies.

### © Neola 2019

Legal References:

A.C. Rule 388.281 et seq.

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: July 14, 2020

Policy:po2451 Section: 2000 Program

### 2451 - ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education recognizes that the regular high school program may not be appropriate for all students. There are those who need an education but are unable or unwilling to participate properly in the District's established program.

The Board shall provide an alternative high school education program for all students who, in the opinion of the Superintendent, will benefit from this special program.

### © Neola 1997

Adoption Date: January 24, 2001

Policy:po2460 Section: 2000 Program

### 2460 - SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Board of Education shall and with other districts enter into an agreement with the Wayne County RESA Intermediate School District to provide a comprehensive, free, and appropriate educational program to all eligible disabled persons ages zero (0) through twenty-five (25) which complies with Federal and State laws and guidelines.

The Superintendent shall prepare whatever administrative guidelines are necessary to ensure effective implementation of the special education program.

### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1751

A.C. Rule 340.1721A et seq., 340.1861 et seq.

Policy:po2460.02 Section: 2000 Program

### 2460.02 - LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT POSITION STATEMENT

It is the philosophy and position of the Board of Education and its administration that the primary responsibility for the administration and delivery of special education programs and services should be within the District and at the school a student would regularly attend, whenever appropriate.

Further, the Board endorses a commitment to the provision of a continuum of special education programs and services to disabled students in cooperation with the Wayne County RESA and other Districts. Placement options shall follow a continuum of services model to ensure that each disabled person is provided a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). To that end, every attempt will be made to first serve disabled students in the context of a regular education classroom. Other more restrictive environments such as: resource rooms, self-contained categorical classrooms, or settings outside of a District school will be considered only after consideration has been given by the IEPC as to the feasibility of placement in the regular classroom.

### © Neola 1990

Policy:po2461 Section: 2000 Program

### 2461 - RECORDING OF DISTRICT MEETINGS INVOLVING STUDENTS AND/OR PARENTS

### **Recording of IEP Team and 504 Meetings**

In order to facilitate parents' ability to fully participate in the IEP and/or 504 process, parents of students with disabilities are ordinarily permitted to audio record IEP Team meetings and 504 Team meetings in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. Parents wishing to audio record an IEP Team meeting or 504 Team meeting must utilize their own recording device and provide notice to the District prior to the date of the scheduled IEP Team or 504 Team meeting.
- B. If parent(s) elects to audio record an IEP Team meeting, the District will also record the meeting.

### Recording of Other District Meetings Involving Students and/or Parents (e.g., Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Parents are permitted to audio record meetings with the District provided they notify the District prior to the date of the scheduled meeting of their intent to record the meeting. If a parent provides the requisite notice and is permitted to audio record the meeting, s/he must use his/her own recording device and the District will similarly record the meeting.

Video recording any District meeting is strictly prohibited, with the exception of meetings open to the public under the Open Meetings Act.

Parents and students are expressly prohibited from using covert means to listen-in or make a recording (audio or video) of any meeting or activity at school. This includes placing recording devices, or other devices with one- or two-way audio communication technology (i.e., technology that allows a person off-site to listen to live conversations and sounds taking place in the location where the device is located), within a student's book bag, on the student's person or otherwise in an area capable of listening in or recording without express written consent of the Superintendent. Any requests to place a recording device or other device with one- or two-way audio communication technology within a student's book bag or on a student's person shall be submitted, in writing, to the Principal. The District representative shall notify the parent(s), in writing, whether such request is denied or granted within five (5) days.

If the District audio records any meeting, the resulting recording shall become a part of the student's educational record and will be maintained in accordance with State and Federal law.

### © Neola 2017

Adoption Date: May 10, 2017

Policy:po2464 Section: 2000 Program

### 2464 - PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

In accordance with the philosophy of the Board of Education to develop the special abilities of each student, the Board requires that appropriate instructional offerings be conducted to meet the needs of gifted students in grades K-12.

Gifted students shall be considered those who, through valid assessment and/or through direct recommendation of administrative and instructional staff show one (1) or more of the following abilities:

- A. specific academic ability superior to that of children of the same age or grade level
- B. creative ability in a particular area superior to that of his/her peers
- C. superior leadership ability to that of his/her peers

The learning outcomes of a program for gifted students shall be related to:

- A. expansion of academic attainments and intellectual skills;
- B. stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence, and responsibility;
- C. development of originality and creativity;
- D. development of positive attitude toward self and
- E. development of desirable social and leadership skills;
- F. career exploration and awareness.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines which shall include those for valid identification, curriculum development and implementation, and assessment of the learning outcomes.

### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1282

Policy:po2510 Section: 2000 Program

### **2510 - ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS**

The Board of Education shall approve all textbooks used as part of the educational program of this District. "Textbook", for purposes of this policy, shall mean the principal source of instructional material for any given course of study, in whatever form the material may be presented, that is available or distributed to every student enrolled in the course.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the selection and recommendation of textbooks for Board consideration. In considering the approval of any proposed textbook, the Board will weigh its decisions based on recommendations related to:

- A. suitability for the maturity level and educational accomplishment of the students who will be using the material;
- B. freedom from bias:
- C. relationship to the curriculum adopted by the Board;
- D. relationship to a continuous multigrade program;
- E. impact on community standards;
- F. manner of selection;
- G. cost;
- H. appearance and durability.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the selection of textbooks that includes effective consultation with professional staff members at all appropriate levels.

### © Neola 1993

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1421 et seq.

Policy:po2521 Section: 2000 Program

### 2521 - SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

The Board of Education shall provide instructional materials and equipment, within budgetary constraints, to implement the District's educational goals and objectives and to meet students' needs. The primary objective of such instructional materials and equipment shall be to enrich, support, and implement the educational program of the school.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the selection and maintenance of all educational and instructional equipment. In addition s/he shall periodically, provide for a systematic review, by the Board, of the District's educational resources in order to ensure that they are appropriate for the current educational program. Any revisions that occur should be a result of the school-improvement process.

Students shall be held responsible for the cost of replacing any materials or properties which are lost or damaged through their negligence.

Cost of materials used in those activities beyond the basic curriculum in which a student elects to participate, particularly in shop activities where the product becomes the property of the student may be changed.

### © Neola 1991

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1274, 380.1277

Policy:po2531 Section: 2000 Program

### **2531 - COPYRIGHTED WORKS**

The Board of Education directs its staff to use copyrighted works only to the extent that the law permits. The Board recognizes that Federal law applies to public school districts and the staff must, therefore, avoid acts of copyright infringement under penalty of law.

In order to help the staff abide by the laws set forth in Title 17 of the United States Code, the Board directs the Superintendent to provide administrative guidelines regarding the copying and distribution of copyrighted materials for instructional purposes.

### © Neola 2002

Legal References:

17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **September 24, 2003** 

Policy:po2540 Section: 2000 Program

### 2540 - LIBRARIES

The Board shall provide library facilities in each building and update and maintain them to acceptable standards within financial resources of the district. Proper supervision shall be provided in the libraries and the libraries shall be made available to students to the maximum extent possible.

Policy:po2575 Section: 2000 Program

### 2575 - COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE MICHIGAN MERIT AWARD

The Board of Education believes that actively participating in community service will enhance students' interpersonal skills and self esteem, enable them to connect their academic learning to the real world, and make them aware of the wide range of opportunities for service that exist in any community. The Board further believes that devoting time during a student's school years to serve others or the community as a whole may engender a life-long commitment to service, and thereby make this community or any community where our graduates eventually live, a better place.

Accordingly, the Board directs the Superintendent to provide opportunities for student performance of forty (40) hours of community service during a four (4) year high school career to meet one of the requirements for the Michigan Merit Award. Such learning through community service may be for credit in conjunction with co-curricular and academic programs of the District if approved by the District and if in compliance with requirements set by the Michigan Merit Award Board. The student may not be compensated for the service. The service is to be for individuals not related to the student, and is to be for charitable purposes, not political purposes.

There are no exceptions to the forty (40) hour community service requirements if a student wishes to earn a Michigan Merit Award.

Students are responsible for maintaining records to keep track of hours of community service and report this information to the school. Students' completion of the community service requirement will be reported through the Michigan Merit Award Status List.

Any community service work done with the expectation of credit toward class requirements or graduation must have prior written approval from the principal.

This policy may be revised at any time as long as the requirements of the Michigan Merit Award Board Resolution 2004-1 are met.

The Superintendent will develop administrative guidelines to support this policy.

© Neola 1997

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.11a, 390.1458

Michigan Merit Award Board Resolution 2004-1

Adoption Date: January 21, 2009

Policy:po2605 Section: 2000 Program

#### 2605 - PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION

The Board of Education believes that effective education includes proper evaluation of the results produced from the educational resources provided by the community and the government. As the governing body of the District, the Board has the responsibility for assessing how well goals are being accomplished.

The Board shall fulfill this responsibility by establishing a means for the continued evaluation of results which shall be systematic and specific.

The following elements will be included in its accountability program:

- A. clear statements of expectations and purposes for each program coupled with specifications of how their successful achievement will be determined
- B. provisions for staff, resources, and support necessary to achieve each program's purposes
- C. evaluation of each program to assess the extent to which each program's purposes and objectives are being achieved
- D. recommendations for revisions and modifications needed to better fulfill expectations and purposes

The Superintendent shall maintain a calendar of assessment activities and shall make periodic evaluation reports to the Board. Findings of the assessment program may be used to evaluate the progress of students and the effectiveness of the curriculum, and the effectiveness of a school's delivery system.

The Superintendent shall recommend improvements in the educational program annually, based on the evaluation of the District's program. Such improvements shall reflect the plans for improvement of the educational program submitted by each school principal. Each school's improvement plan shall be based on staff's findings from program evaluations at each level as well as on the evaluations provided by the school improvement team (see Policy 2120).

The Board reserves the right to employ experts from outside the District to serve in the evaluation process.

The Board will annually make available to the public the progress of the student body toward the goals of the District.

Assessment results obtained under this policy shall not be used for comparison purposes except as required by statute and State Department of Education regulations or internally, as authorized by the Superintendent or Board.

#### © Neola 1990

Policy:po2623 Section: 2000 Program

### **2623 - STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

The Board of Education shall, in compliance with law and rules of the State Board of Education, assess student achievement and needs in designated subject areas in order to determine the progress of students and to assist them in attaining District goals.

Each student's proficiencies and needs will be assessed by staff members upon his/her entrance into the District and annually or more frequently, as required by law, thereafter. Procedures for such assessments will include, but need not be limited to, teacher observation techniques, cumulative student records, student performance data collected through standard testing programs and/or diagnostic reading assessment systems, student portfolios, and physical examinations.

The Superintendent shall develop and present to the Board annually and the Board shall approve a program of testing and assessment that includes:

- A. the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) ,the Michigan Merit Examination ("MME") (or other readiness assessment program approved by the State Superintendent) the PSAT and MI-Access Alternate Assessments administered each year in accordance with the schedule established by statute and the State Department of Education;
  - M-STEP includes summative assessments designed to measure student growth effectively for today's students. English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades 3–8, science in grades 4 and 7, and social studies in grades 5 and 8. It also includes the Michigan Merit Examination in 11th grade, which consists of the SAT with essay, ACT WorkKeys, and M-STEP summative in science, and social studies.
- B. a valid and reliable screening, formative, and diagnostic third grade reading assessment system from the assessment systems approved by the Michigan Department of Education.
- C. criteria-based written and oral examinations which include use of alternative questions, demonstrations, writing exercises, individual and group projects, performances, portfolios, and samples of best work;
- D. selection of assessment instrument, data, and other District criteria that will be used to assess educational achievement of each student in grades 1 5;
  - Third grade students who do not meet the District's and State's established assessment criteria may be offered the opportunity to attend summer school.
- E. assessment tests;
- F. achievement tests.

### The Board requires that:

- A. any assessment tests used shall not be a psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment; or a psychological examination, testing, or treatment in which the primary purpose is to reveal information concerning:
  - 1. political affiliations;
  - mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his/her family;
  - 3. sexual behavior and attitude;
  - 4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
  - critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - legally-recognized, privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  - 7. income without the prior consent of the adult student or without the prior written consent of the parent;
- B. any personality testing complies with Department of Education guidelines.

The Board also requires that parents be informed of the testing program of the schools and of the special tests that are to be administered to their children.

All eleventh grade students shall participate in the Michigan Merit Examination, unless excluded under the guidelines established by the State Department of Education.

A student who wants to repeat a State approved readiness assessment (other than the Michigan Merit Examination and any component) may repeat the assessment in the next school year or after graduation on a date when the District is administering the assessment. Only this type of repeat assessment testing will be without charge to the student.

The District shall administer the complete Michigan Merit Examination to a student only once and shall not administer the complete Michigan Merit Examination to the same student more than once if the student has valid scores in some or all MME components. If a student does not take the complete Michigan Merit Examination in grade 11, the District shall administer the complete Michigan Merit Examination to the student in grade 12. If a student chooses to retake the college entrance examination component of the Michigan Merit Examination, the student may do so through the provider of the college entrance examination component and the cost of the retake is the responsibility of the student unless all of the following are met:

- A. the student has taken the complete Michigan Merit Examination
- B. the student did not qualify for a Michigan promise grant based on the student's performance on the complete Michigan Merit Examination

- C. the student meets the Federal income eligibility criteria for free breakfast, lunch, or milk
- D. the student has applied to the provider of the college entrance examination component for a scholarship or fee waiver to cover the cost of the retake and that application has been denied
- E. after taking the complete Michigan Merit Examination, the student has not already received a free retake of the college entrance examination component paid for either by the State of Michigan, or through a scholarship or fee waiver by the provider

In addition to the testing programs, the Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines whereby a portfolio is developed and maintained for each student.

Revised 1/8/02 Revised 1/21/09 Revised 6/10/09 evised 7/21/10 Revised 4/13/16

### © Neola 2017

M.C.L. 380.1278a, 380.1279, 380.1279g, 390.1451 et seq.,

Legal References: 380.1280b, 380.1280f

A.C. Rule 340.1101 et seq.

Adoption Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revised: May 10, 2017

Policy:po2628 Section: 2000 Program

### **2628 - STATE AID INCENTIVES**

The Board of Education, in its efforts to provide a quality education for the students of this District, shall review annually the State School Aid Act to determine any programs or incentives that offer additional revenues.

The Superintendent shall examine the requirements for each of the programs or incentives to determine which are feasible for this District and provide the Board with the necessary resolutions for those selected.

### At Risk Funding

The State School Aid Act provides Section 31a funding for instructional and student support services who meet the at-risk identification characteristics specified in Section 31a(20).

At-risk characteristics include low achievement on State- or local-administered assessments in mathematics, English language arts, social studies or science; failure to meet proficiency standards in reading by the end of 3rd grade or career and college readiness for high school students at the end of 12th grade; a victim of child abuse or neglect; is a pregnant teenager or teenage parent; has a family history of school failure, incarceration or substance abuse; is economically disadvantaged; is an English learner (EL); is chronically absent as defined and reported to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI); is an immigrant who has immigrated within the immediately preceding three (3) years; and in the absence of State or local assessment data, meets at least two (2) or more identified risk factors.

Section 31a funds are limited to instructional services and direct non-instructional services to students. They may not be used for administration or other related costs. The District shall implement multi-tiered systems of support, as required, in order to access such funding.

Annually, the Superintendent shall allocate such funding to appropriate programs and services based on District priorities. Section 31a funds may be used to provide an anti-bullying or crisis intervention program.

Revised 11/9/16

© Neola 2019

Legal References:

State School-Aid Act

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **February 12, 2020** 

Policy:po2629 Section: 2000 Program

### 2629 - HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM INCENTIVES

The Board of Education supports the implementation of the more extensive graduation requirements specified in the State School Aid Act of 1979.

The Board adopts the provisions of subdivision (a) and (b) as graduation requirements for all students:

Four (4) years of English

Two (2) years of mathematics

Two (2) years of science

Two (2) years of social science

One (1) year of health or physical education, or both

Two (2) years of foreign language, fine or performing arts, vocational education or practical arts, or any combination thereof

One (1) semester of computer education

Six (6) classes satisfying minimum time allocations for students in grades 9 - 12

The Board also requires that all students, prior to graduation, take an employability skills test.

The Superintendent shall prepare and submit for Board approval the plans necessary to meet the State requirements described in this section of the Act.

Legal References:

M.C.L. 388.1621

Policy:po2700 Section: 2000 Program

### 2700 - P.A. 25 ANNUAL REPORT

The District 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 District and each individual school 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 school or thirty (30) students across each grade level tested.
- C. Percentage of students not tested, disaggregated by each group (if statistically sound).
- D. Most recent two (2) year trend in achievement for each subject area and grade level.
- E. Report of the school'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 (P.A. 25).

### **School Programs**

- A. Accreditation status. Public Act 25 (P.A. 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 (P.A. 25).
- B. District student retention data, in addition to the data on graduation rate referenced earlier (P.A. 25).
- C. Number and percentage of students enrolled in postsecondary programs and/or college level equivalent courses, if the school has a high school (dual enrollment) (P.A. 25).
- D. The status of the core curriculum and the School Improvement Plan (P.A. 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 P.A. 25.
- B. Dissemination of the District's and school's parent involvement policy.

The school may include additional data if it chooses.

Revised 1/24/01 Revised 9/24/03 Revised 1/21/09

### © Neola 2018

Legal References:

M.C.L. 380.1204a(1)

Adoption Date: **September 14, 1993** Last Revised: **March 13, 2019**