

**CHENANGO FORKS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PLAIN LANGUAGE VERSION  
CODE OF CONDUCT  
2017-2018**

**Code of Conduct**

The following Chenango Forks Student Discipline Code is being made available to all parents and students of the Chenango Forks School District in accordance with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education, Part 100. If there are questions or concerns regarding this Student Discipline Code, please feel free to contact the school at any time. The Student Discipline Code was formally adopted by the Board of Education on November 14, 1985 and took effect on January 1, 1986. *A complete copy of the District Code of Conduct is available upon request to the district office.*

**Student Searches and Interrogations**

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda"-type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student's parent before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell all students why they are being questioned.

A. Student Lockers, Desks and other School Storage Places

The rules in this code of conduct regarding searches of students and their belongings do not apply to student lockers, desks and other school storage places. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.

Additionally, it should be understood that random locker searches may be conducted for the purpose of school safety, to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff members, and to prevent disruptions to the learning environment.

**Prohibited Student Conduct**

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use discipline action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

A student may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.

4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.
3. Skipping detention

C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
2. Inappropriate public sexual contact.
3. Display or use of personal electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, digital tablets, digital projectors, digital cameras, in a manner that is in violation of district policy.

D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatening to use any weapon.
6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.

E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, physical or mental health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
2. Stealing or attempting to steal the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
4. Discrimination, which includes using race, color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sex, gender (identity and expression), sexual orientation, weight or disability to deny rights, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to others.
5. Harassment (or Bullying), is the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or threats, intimidation or abuse. (See policy, 0115, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention for a more complete definition.)
6. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.

7. Hazing, this includes an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment (see policy 0115 for a more complete definition).
  8. Selling, using, distributing or possessing obscene material.
  9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
  10. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette or any personal vapor producing device, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
  11. Possessing, consuming, selling, offering, manufacturing, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any synthetic version thereof, whether specifically illegal or not, commonly referred to as "designer drugs" which are substances designed and synthesized to mimic the intended effects and usages of, which are chemically substantially similar to, illegal drugs, which may or may not be labeled for human consumption.
  12. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
  13. Gambling.
  14. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
  15. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.
- G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Plagiarism
  2. Cheating.
  3. Copying.
  4. Altering records.
  5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- H. Engage in off-campus misconduct that interferes with, or can reasonably be expected to substantially disrupt the educational process in the school or a school function. Such misconduct includes, but isn't limited to, threatening or harassing students or school personnel through any means off-campus, including cyber bullying.

### **Definition of Bullying**

**Bullying:** Bullying, under the amended Dignity for All Students Act, has the same meaning as harassment (see below). The accompanying regulation provides more guidance regarding the definition and characteristics of bullying to help the school community recognize the behavior.

**Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying is defined as harassment (see below) through any form of electronic communication.

**Discrimination:** Discrimination is the act of denying rights, benefits, justice, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to all others, to an individual or group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs (as enumerated in the *Definitions* section, under Harassment, below).

**Hazing:** Hazing is an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule is likely to occur.

“**Sexting**” refers to an act of sending sexually explicit photos, images, text messages, or e-mails by using a cell phone or other electronic device.

**Harassment** has been defined in various ways in federal and state law and regulation. The Board recognizes that these definitions are important standards, but the Board’s goal is to prevent misbehavior from escalating in order to promote a positive school environment and to limit liability. The Dignity for All Students Act (§§10-18 of Education Law) defines harassment as the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. The harassing behavior may be based on any characteristic, including but not limited to a person’s actual or perceived:

- race,
- color,
- weight,
- national origin,
- ethnic group,
- religion,
- religious practice,
- disability,
- sex,
- sexual orientation, or
- gender (including gender identity and expression).

In some instances, bullying or harassment may constitute a violation of an individual’s civil rights. The district is mindful of its responsibilities under the law and in accordance with district policy regarding civil rights protections.

**District Bullying Prevention Rules:**

Rule 1: We will not bully others.

Rule 2: We will try to help students who are bullied.

Rule 3: We will try to include students who are left out.

Rule 4: If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Olweus Bully Prevention Program

**Reporting Procedures**

Although it can be difficult to step forward, the district can’t effectively address bullying if incidents are not reported. Students who have been bullied, parents whose children have been bullied or other students or staff who observe bullying behavior are encouraged and expected to make a verbal and/or written complaint to any school personnel in accordance with the training and guidelines provided. Students are to report any incidents of discrimination, harassment, bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, or sexting by completing a “Harassment/Bullying Prevention Form”. These forms are located in the school library, the guidance office and in the building’s main office. Forms can also be accessed and completed online on the District’s homepage. Forms can be deposited into any specified drop boxes in the building or turned into the main office. Online forms can be e-mailed directly to the appropriate building administrator.

### **Dignity Act Coordinator**

The Board of Education has designated the following individuals as the Dignity Act Coordinator who has been thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex. These people will serve as a resource and be responsible for the oversight of investigatory procedures of all allegations of bullying. The Dignity Act Coordinators are:

Name: Nelson Torres  
Title: School Resource Officer  
Building: Chenango Forks Central School District  
Address: One Gordon Drive, Binghamton, New York 13901  
Phone Number: (607) 648-7544      Email: [torresn@cforks.org](mailto:torresn@cforks.org)

Name: John Hillis  
Title: High School Principal  
Building: Chenango Forks Central School District High School  
Address: One Gordon Drive, Binghamton, New York 13901  
Phone Number: (607) 648-7544      Email: [hillisj@cforks.org](mailto:hillisj@cforks.org)

Name: Andrew Rullo  
Title: Middle School Principal  
Building: Chenango Forks Central School District Middle School  
Address: One Gordon Drive, Binghamton, New York 13901  
Phone Number: (607) 648-7576      Email: [rullod@cforks.org](mailto:rullod@cforks.org)

Name: Catherine Kacyvenski  
Title: Elementary Principal  
Building: Chenango Forks Central School District Elementary School  
Address: 6 Patch Road, Binghamton, New York 13901  
Phone Number: (607) 648-7580      Email: [kacyvenskic@cforks.org](mailto:kacyvenskic@cforks.org)

### **Off Campus Act Coordinator**

Students may be disciplined for violations of school district policies and the Code of Conduct when there is a connection to or impact, effect on school students, personnel, activities, functions or property. Examples of misconduct include but are not limited to: cyber-bullying, sexting, threatening or harassing students or school personnel through the use of electronic devices.

### **Penalties**

The range of penalties which may be imposed for the conduct set forth above is as follows:

1. Verbal warning;
2. Written warning;
3. Written notification to parent;
4. Probation
5. Reprimand
6. Confiscation of electronic devices until the student's parent/guardian retrieves the device from the building administrator or is/her designee;
7. Detention;
8. Suspension from transportation;
9. Suspension from athletic participation;
10. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities;
11. Removal from classroom by teacher;
12. Alternate Instruction (In-School-Suspension);
13. Short-term (five days or less) suspension upon instruction
14. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school;
15. Permanent suspension from school.

### **Remedial Consequences**

Remedial responses which may be utilized for, but not limited to, instances of discrimination and harassment of students by students and/or employees may include:

1. Peer support groups; corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience;
2. Supportive intervention;
3. Behavioral assessment or evaluation;
4. Behavioral management plans, with benchmarks that are closely monitored;
5. Student counseling and parent conferences.

When the student repeatedly is substantially disruptive of the educational process (q) or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom (r), or is violent (s) the minimum period is suspension upon instruction for five school days as well as suspension from athletic participation and social or extracurricular activities for the period of suspension upon instruction. The suspending authority may reduce the period of suspension as specified in this paragraph for good cause shown, on a case by case basis, in a manner consistent with state or federal law. Students who commit violent acts other than bringing a weapon to school shall be subject to suspension from school at least five days unless otherwise determined by the superintendent.

"Repeatedly substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from the classroom pursuant to Education Law §3214 and this code on multiple occasions.

Any suspension from attendance upon instruction for violation of any section may be imposed only in accordance with Education Law § 3214(3).

The type and extent of punishment for violations of all sections except section (g) and beyond the minimum in relation to sections (q), (r), and (s) shall be determined by the building principal or superintendent. Disciplinary measures shall be appropriate to the seriousness of the offense and, where applicable, to the previous disciplinary record of the student.

In accordance with the Gun-Free Schools Law (20 U.S.C.A. § 3351), the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C.A. § 8921), New York State Education Law § 3214 (3), and this Board policy, the punishment for violation of Section (g) shall be a suspension from attendance upon instruction for a period of not less than one calendar year, unless the superintendent shall determine to modify such punishment. The superintendent's determination shall be on a case-by-case basis.

The term "firearm" as used in Section (g) is defined in 18 U.S.C.A. § 921 (3) and shall include any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm. The term "destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge or more than one-quarter ounce, mine or any device similar to any of those devices already described in this paragraph. Except that "destructive device" shall not mean any device not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon.

The superintendent shall refer a pupil who has been determined to have violated section (g) as follows:

- a. If the pupil is under 16 years of age to the Family Court in accordance with the Family Court Act, Article 3.
- b. If the pupil is 16 years of age or older to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

## **Student Dress Code**

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school during school hours. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including jewelry, make-up, and nails, shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief and revealing garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps( less than 1/2 of an inch) , plunging necklines (front and back), bare midriff tops and bottoms, and see /through garments are not appropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear, including tank top style undershirts are completely covered with outer clothing. Pants falling below the hips are not acceptable.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed and all footwear needs to have a sturdy sole. Flip Flops (defined as a backless, often foam rubber sandal held to the foot by the big toe by means of a thong) are not acceptable.
5. Not include the wearing of head coverings except for a medical or religious purpose.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or perceived gender and sex.
7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
8. Adhere to understanding that cut off shirts and sleep wear are not appropriate attire for the school environment.
9. Prohibit sunglasses or tinted eye wear to be worn inside school buildings. Spiked collars, choke chains or other dangerous jewelry are also prohibited.

Rationale: To allow for range of motion for and provide protection during daily activities without causing distractions in the school environment, to decrease the possibility of concealed weapons in large, deep pockets or concealed under oversized clothing. Pants, shorts and skirts must fit appropriately to avoid injury, i.e., falls, circulatory compromise.

Each Building Principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

## **Visitors to the Schools**

The Board recognizes that the success of the school program depends, in part on support by the larger community. The Board wishes to foster a positive climate where members of the community have the opportunity to observe the hard work and accomplishments of the student, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The Principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
2. All visitors to the school must enter through the designated single point of entry and report to the office of the Principal upon arrival at the school. There they will be required to present photo identification sign the visitor's register and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the Principal's office before leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings are not required to register.
4. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom or school activity while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s) and Building Principal, so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
5. Teachers are expected not to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
6. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the Principal or his or her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
7. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this code of conduct.

## **Public Conduct on School Property**

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. For purposes of this section of the code, "public" shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers and district personnel.

The restrictions on public conduct on school property and at school functions contained in this code are not intended to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. The district recognizes that *free* inquiry and free expression is indispensable to the objectives of the district. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they *are* on school property.

### **A. Prohibited Conduct**

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
2. Intentionally damage or destroy school district property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.
4. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
5. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
6. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.



7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles.
9. Possess, consume, sell, offer, manufacture, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, controlled or illegal substances or any synthetic versions (whether or not specifically illegal or labeled for human consumption), or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function
10. Possess or use weapons in or on school property or *at* a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the school district
11. Loiter on or about school property.
12. Gamble on school property or at school functions.
13. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable school district officials performing their duties.
14. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code.
15. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or Board policy while on school property or while at a school function.
16. Smoke a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette or any personal vapor producing device, or use chewing or smokeless tobacco

**B. Penalties**

Persons who violate this code shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. Visitors. Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at the school function shall be withdrawn and they shall be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection.
2. Students. They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, in accordance with the due process requirements.
3. Employees may be subject to disciplinary measures as detailed by law and as dictated by the facts.

**C. Enforcement**

The Principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for enforcing the conduct required by this code. When the Principal or his or her designee sees an individual engaged in prohibited conduct, which in his or her judgment does not pose any immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the Principal or designee shall tell the individual that the conduct is prohibited and attempt to persuade the individual to stop. The Principal or designee shall also warn the individual of the consequences for failing to stop. If the person refuses to stop engaging in the prohibited conduct, or if the person's conduct poses an immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the Principal or designee shall have the individual removed immediately from school property or the school function. If necessary, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted to assist in removing the person.

The district shall initiate disciplinary action against any student or staff member, as appropriate, with the "Penalties" section above. In addition, the district reserves its right to pursue a civil or criminal legal action against any person violating the code.

**D. Application of Rules**

The rules shall apply to all school property and school functions of the district and shall govern the conduct of students, teachers, staff members, as well as visitors, and other licensees and invitees.

## **Comprehensive Attendance Policy**

### **A. Objectives**

The objectives of the Comprehensive Attendance Policy are:

1. to accurately track the attendance, absence, tardiness and early departure of students to and from the school;
2. to ensure sufficient pupil attendance of classes so that pupils may achieve State mandated education standards;
3. to track student location for safety reasons and to account to parents regarding the location of children during school hours.

### **B. Definitions**

Whenever used within the Comprehensive Attendance Policy, the following terms shall mean:

1. **Scheduled instruction:** Every period that a pupil is scheduled to attend instructional or supervised study activities during the course of a school day during the school year.
2. **Absent:** The pupil is not present for the entire period of the pupil's scheduled instruction.
3. **Tardy:** The pupil arrives later than the starting time of the pupil's scheduled instruction.
4. **Early departure:** The pupil leaves prior to the end of the pupil's scheduled instruction.
5. **Excused:** Any absence, tardiness, or early departure for which the pupil has a valid school approved excuse. Such excused nonappearance shall include: personal illness, illness or death in the family, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics or other medical visits, approved college visits, military obligations, absences approved in advance by the Principal, and other reasons as may be approved by the Commissioner of Education.
6. **Unexcused:** Any absence, tardiness or early departure for which the pupil has no valid school approved excuse. Such unexcused nonappearance shall include shopping trips to the local mall, family vacation, oversleeping, skipping class, and any other absence that is not excused.

### **In order to encourage student attendance, the following strategies and incentives shall apply:**

1. **Minimum Attendance for Course Credit**
  - a. A student must be noted as present at 90% of a course's scheduled classes in order to earn credit for the course. Any excused absence, for which the student has completed assigned make-up work, will not be counted as an absence for the purposes of determining whether the student has attended sufficient classes to receive course credit under this provision. The principal has discretion to make exceptions to 1(a) based upon extenuating circumstances.
    - i. For purposes of minimum attendance requirements, a student shall not be counted as present for a class if the student misses more than 10 minutes of class, whether through tardiness or early departure.
    - ii. Students *of* compulsory attendance age suspended from school instruction may not be marked as absent unless they fail to attend scheduled alternative education on that day.
    - iii. Students *over* the compulsory attendance age suspended from school instruction will be marked absent unless they have been assigned alternative education. If alternative education has been assigned, only failure to attend scheduled alternative education shall count as an absence.
  - b. In order to prevent loss of credit for failure to attend, the district will take the following steps:
    - i. when a student has been marked as absent for 5% of a course's classes, the district shall notify the student and his parent(s) or persons in parental relation that the student is approaching the limit of absences for losing course credit for failure to attend class. The notice will include the school's attendance for credit policy, the actual number of classes the student may miss before forfeiting the right to earn credit, and the actual number of classes missed to date;
    - ii. a student and his parent(s) or persons in parental relation will be advised one month before the completion of the course if the student is in jeopardy of losing credit for failure to attend. The notice will include the school's attendance for credit policy, the actual number of classes the

student may miss before forfeiting the right to earn credit, and the actual number of classes missed to date;

iii. teachers will provide makeup work upon request so that students who are in jeopardy of forfeiting class credits due to excused absences have the opportunity to earn credit for the course;

iv. where a student is in jeopardy of losing credit for excessive absences, the Building Principal shall be responsible for reviewing attendance records, determining eligibility for makeup work for excused absences, and arranging student makeup opportunities with teachers, including deadlines.

## 2. Notice of Absences

The pupil's parent(s) or person in parental relation shall be notified of a pupil's unexcused absence, tardiness or early departure according to the following:

a. where a pupil has not been marked as present for the first period of scheduled instruction and the school has not been previously notified of the absence, the district shall attempt to contact the pupil's parent(s) or person in parental relation to learn the nature of the pupil's absence and notify the parent that the pupil has not arrived at school;

b. for every 3 unexcused absences, tardiness, early departures, or any combination thereof, the pupil's parent(s) or persons in parental relation shall receive a notice containing the dates, times, and the nature of the pupil's unexcused non-presence.

## 3. Disciplinary Procedures

The pupil may be subject to disciplinary procedures for unexcused absence, tardiness, or early departure, including verbal and written warnings, detentions, in-school suspensions, and loss of extra-curricular privileges, as described in the Code of Conduct.

## 4. Incentives

District teachers shall work with the Building Principal and Attendance Supervision Officer to create and implement classroom based incentive programs for excellent attendance, including but not limited to extra credit and additional privileges.

## 5. Intervention Strategy Development

The Building Principal shall meet each marking period with the Attendance Supervision Officer and other administrators and teachers as the Principal determines necessary to review student attendance records, address identified patterns of unexcused pupil absence, tardiness and early departure, and review current intervention methods. Where the Principal determines that existing intervention policies or practices are insufficient, the Principal shall notify the Board of Education prior to its annual review of the building's attendance records, of both insufficient practices and any proposed changes needing Board approval to implement.

## 6. Counseling

The District shall provide consistent counseling to students with chronic attendance problems.

## **E. Attendance Supervision Officer**

The Board shall designate a person as the Attendance Supervision Officer. The Attendance Supervision Officer is responsible for reviewing pupil attendance records and initiating appropriate action to address unexcused pupil absence, tardiness and early departure consistent with the Comprehensive Attendance Policy.

## **Use of Electronic Devices**

The Board of Education recognizes that there are personal electronic and/or digital devices that have educational applications. These devices shall be allowed to be used in classrooms and libraries when they are included as part of a lesson or to complete homework assignments under the direction of a teacher during the instructional day.

The Board acknowledges that such devices can be a positive means to facilitate the educational process; however, the display and/or use of such devices can cause disruption to the educational process. Therefore, to prevent disruptions, such devices are to be used appropriately to support the educational process during the school day. The district is not responsible for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices.

Misuse of any of these electronic devices may result in disciplinary action from the building administrator or his/her designee, as outlined in the code of conduct. Some uses of personal electronic devices constitute violation of the school district code of conduct and in some instances, the law. The school district will cooperate with law enforcement officials as appropriate.

## **Cellular Telephones and Testing**

In order to ensure the integrity of testing, in accordance with state guidelines, students are not allowed to bring cell phones or other electronic devices into classrooms or other exam locations during testing. The exception to this policy is if a teacher gives specific permission for a cell phone or other electronic device to be used during a classroom, non-state assessment.

Test proctors, monitors and school officials shall have the right to collect cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and to hold them for the duration of the test taking time. Admission to the test will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in their possession and does not relinquish it.

Students with individualized education plans (IEPs), 504 Plans, or documentation from a medical practitioner that specifically requires the use of an electronic device may do so as specified.

## **Academic Athletic Eligibility Procedure**

We believe that athletics and academics are inseparable. The concepts of individual responsibility, self-improvement, facing challenges, overcoming adversity, competing, preparing, functioning as a member of a group, emotionally supporting others, and having a sound mind and body are promoted, reinforced, and enhanced in our classrooms and our extra-curricular programs. Our procedure toward eligibility for participation or competition in athletic programs reflects a way to encourage students' overall success and recognizes students who are making an effort to achieve and properly represent the school and themselves.

1. Academic eligibility rules apply during the respective sports season.
2. At five-week intervals students will be issued academic reports; progress reports at the five-week mark and report cards at the ten-week mark.
3. Based on one of the reports above, if a student athlete is failing two subjects, the student athlete will be placed on Level One for a minimum of five weeks. Student athletes will be required to attend a remedial period four days (Monday-Thursday) a week. Attendance alone will not satisfy this requirement. The student athletes will be expected to be active participants in remedial and be productive during this time period.
4. Students who do not fulfill their obligatory requirements for Level One will be moved to Level Two. In addition to attending remedial 4 days per week, student athletes on Level Two will be ineligible for competition. Attendance and participation at practices will be at the discretion of the coach.
5. Students on Level Two will be re-evaluated after two weeks. If the student athlete is found to be back in compliance with the provisions of Level One, the student athlete will be allowed to return to full participation. If it is found that the student is not back in compliance, then his/her ineligibility will continue for another two weeks.
6. Student athletes that fail either two fourth quarter classes or two classes for the year will begin the fall sports season on Level One for a minimum of five weeks. This also applies to sixth grade students who will be playing modified sports in seventh grade.
7. Under extenuating circumstances, the principals, in conjunction with the athletic director, will make the final determination of a student athlete's eligibility.

Reviewed with no changes: July 11, 2017