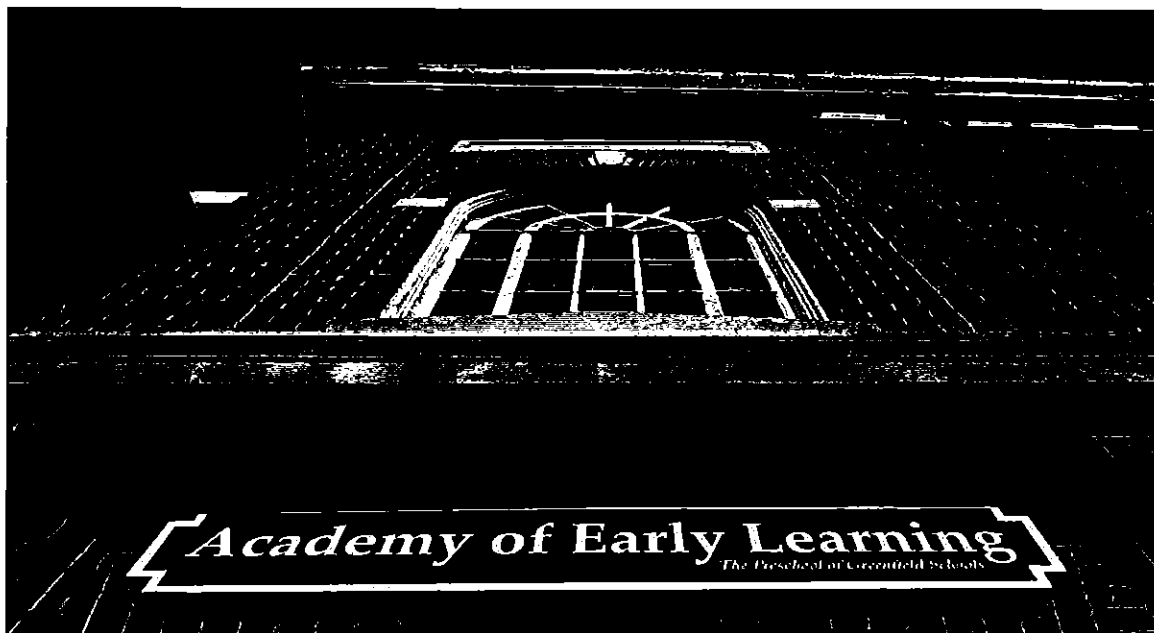


Academy of Early Learning:

The Preschool of the Greenfield Public Schools



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Greenfield Public Schools

**1 Place Terrace
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
413-772-1390
Fax: 413-772-1337**

The Greenfield School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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Translation Information: If you need assistance reading this document or other school publications, please contact the principal to obtain translation services.

Spanish

Si usted necesita ayuda para leer este documento u otras publicaciones de la escuela, por favor póngase en contacto con el director del edificio para obtener servicios de traducción.

Portuguese

Se você necessitar o auxílio que lê este original ou outras publicações da escola, contate por favor o principal do edifício para obter serviços de tradução.

French

Si vous avez besoin de l'aide pour lire ce document ou des autres publications de l'école, svp entrez en contact avec le principal du bâtiment pour obtenir les services de traduction.

Italian

Se avete bisogno dell'assistenza che leggete questo documento o altre pubblicazioni della scuola, mettasi in contatto con prego il principale della costruzione per ottenere i servizi di traduzione.

German

Wenn Sie Unterstützung dieses Dokument oder andere Schulepublikationen lesend benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit der Gebäudedirektion in Verbindung, um Übersetzungsdienste zu erhalten.

Russian

Если Вам нужна помощь в прочтении этого документа или других публикаций школы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором Вашей школы для получения перевода.

District Phone Numbers:

Central Office

Superintendent

Roland R. Joyal, Jr.
413-772-1326

Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Sullivan
413-772-1315

Pupil Services

David Messing, Director
413-772-1324

Sarah Crawford, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1317

Elaine Mount, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1407

Technology Services

Ian Edwards, Director
413-772-1322

Facilities

Mike Boudreau, Director
413-772-1406

Food Service Department

TBD, Director
413-772-1334

Business Office

Vera Ayrapetyan, Asst. Business Manager
413-772-1312

Schools

Academy of Early Learning

Jill Taglia, Principal
413-772-1390

Federal Street School

Kelly Halpin, Principal
413-772-1380

Discovery School at Four Corners

David Potter, Principal
413-772-1375

Newton School

Carol Jacobs, Principal
413-772-1370

Greenfield Middle School

Michelle Fenimore, Principal
413-772-1360

Greenfield High School

Michael Browning, Principal
413-772-1350

Dear Academy of Early Learning Families,

Dear Academy of Early Learning Families and Caregivers,

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our A.E.L. community. This will be a year of tremendous growth and learning for your child, and we look forward to supporting and celebrating every child on their unique learning journey.

At AEL we center our work in an ethic of care, a firm knowledge of child development, and an integral value for joyful learning. Young children learn through play, through direct experiences, and through warm and responsive relationships. Our daily routines, from arrival and breakfast to circle times, center play and rest, are built upon these foundations.

We know that for young children, each moment is a learning opportunity. Our teachers and instructional assistants skillfully weave opportunities for developmentally appropriate learning into playful experiences, lessons, and activities that foster curiosity, problem solving and growing independence, preparing them for success in future school experiences.

Our partnership with you, our families, is a key to our success! We welcome your feedback and invite and encourage you to participate in our PTO, school-wide and district-wide activities and events this year.

We understand that your child's time at AEL is their first experience on their school journey. Our goal is to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and experiences a sense of belonging at school.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's first and formative early school years. We look forward to getting to know you and your child this year.

Warmly,

Jill Taglia

Director, Academy of Early Learning

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operations

The Academy of Early Learning

Arrival for AM and Full Day students: 8:30 a.m.

Dismissal for AM only students: 11:15 a.m.

Arrival for PM only students: 12:15 p.m.

Dismissal for PM and Full Day students: 2:55 p.m.

Fridays: no PM classes

Discovery School at Four Corners, Federal Street School and Newton School

Arrival: 8:15 am

School Day Begins: 8:30 am

Dismissal 2:55 pm

Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School

Arrival: 7:30 am

School Day Begins: 7:45

Dismissal: 2:10

Academy of Early Learning Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Our drop off/pick up procedures are designed for a smooth and safe arrival and dismissal while respecting our neighbors on Place Terrace. Please review the procedures outlined below:

Full-day students:

- Morning Arrival is at 8:30 a.m. Doors to the school open at this time.
- Afternoon dismissal is between 2:50—3:00 p.m. (Mon – Thurs)
- Dismissal is between 11:10—11:15 a.m. (Fri.)

Morning half-day students:

- Morning Arrival is at 8:30 a.m. Doors to the school open at this time
- Dismissal is between 11:10—11:15 a.m.

Afternoon half-day students:

- Afternoon arrival is at 12:15 p.m. (Mon - Thurs)
- Dismissal is between 2:50—3:00 p.m. (Mon - Thurs)

We ask families who are dropping off or picking up to enter onto Place Terrace from Wells St.

instead of Conway St. so that you can enter the drop off/pick up line. You may choose to park in the back lot or along the road and walk your child up to the portico entry to pick up your child. Please use the sidewalks. If you use the car drop off line, please remain in your car. A staff person will come to you to assist your child in and out of the car and to the building.

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the Greenfield Public Schools may cancel school, delay the start of school or determine the need to dismiss early. In those instances, families in Greenfield Public Schools will receive an automated phone message, email and text message through School Messenger. Information about the status of school can also be found on WWLP, Western Mass News and NECN and available on 98.3 WHAI. The information will also be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Attendance Requirements and Punctuality Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to student learning and for them to experience educational success. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year and parents/guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure students are in attendance every day. Students who are absent for 10% of the days they are enrolled (18 days for a student enrolled for the full, 180 day school year) are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism has been shown to negatively impact the academic and social skills needed to succeed in school.

For Absences:	For Tardiness:	For Early Dismissals:	For Messages:
If your child is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the school's absence line at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please provide the student's name, your name and the date for the absence. Schools will dispatch automated calls to absent students' homes approximately 15 mins. after the start of school After 3 days of unexcused absences a staff member will contact the students' homes. Attendance letters will be generated after the 5th, 10th, and 15th absences and will be sent to parents/guardians.	If your child will arrive after the school day begins a parent/guardian should provide a note to the Main Office with the explanation of the tardiness. Please enter the building at the Main Entrance for all arrivals after the start of school. The issue of tardies will be addressed following progressive discipline. If a student is tardy to a particular class more than 3 times, the student will receive an office detention for the fourth and subsequent tardies	If your child needs to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, they should bring a note to the Main Office before school begins. The note should include the time of dismissal, the reason for leaving early and how the student will be leaving (i.e.; student drivers) If your child did not bring a note and needs to leave early, please call the Main Office to inform the school. All students must be signed out in the Main Office and will only be released to people on their Student Contact Information. If other arrangements are needed, please speak to one of our administrative	If you need to get a message to your child or drop off a forgotten item, please call/visit the Main Office to ensure that your child receives the message/item. We will not disrupt classes for non-emergency situations.

After the 7th and 15th day of unexcused absences, school administration will schedule a meeting with the student and family. Additionally, a home visit may be scheduled no later than the 15th unexcused absence.		assistants.	

Attendance Communication Responsibilities

Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school of a planned absence (surgery, medical appointment etc...) as soon as they are able. However, they are asked to inform the school no later than 15 minutes before the start of school. Please call the school main office number and follow the prompts for the absentee call in line. If the school does not receive a message from the parent/guardian by the designated time, then the school will send an automated message to all numbers associated with the parents/guardians informing them of their child's absence from school.

School: The school is required to notify a parent/guardian of a child's absence if the school has not received notification by the parent/guardian within 3 days of the absence. We are further required to notify parents/guardians if a student has missed 2 or more classes as unexcused in a 5-day period of time or if the student has missed 5 or more unexcused days in the school year. The Principal and/or designee will arrange a meeting with families of students who have 5 or more unexcused absences for the purpose of developing action steps to improve student attendance at school.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in the family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Family vacations are not considered to be excused absences. Families are encouraged to plan vacations during scheduled school vacation weeks to avoid students missing valuable instructional time.

Students must meet the school's attendance requirements in order to earn credit for courses or to be promoted to the next grade. Students who exceed the allowable number of excused or unexcused absences shall not be granted credit for their courses.

School representatives may file a Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) for a student who is habitually absent and misses more than 8 days in a quarter without a proper excuse or is a habitual school offender who doesn't obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the school. A CRA may be considered after multiple attempts to engage parents/guardians which have been unsuccessful in improving attendance. Community agencies, such as the Franklin County Family Resource Center, will also be offered to support families prior to a CRA being filed by the school.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Section 18, students 16 years of age or older who have 10 consecutive absences shall receive written notice of their right to be invited to an exit interview before the student may be administratively unenrolled from school.

If a Special Education student is chronically absent, the IEP team should convene and rewrite the student's IEP to reflect this issue.

Missing Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments, tests or quizzes. Unless arrangements are made, the student may have as many days as missed in order to make up the work. For example, if a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to make up the required work. A minimum 24 hour notice is required to prepare materials should the parent/guardian wish to make a request for student assignments prior to an absence.

Punctuality Expectations and Tardiness

Being on time for all classes and required school functions is expected of all students. At the start of each class, teachers will take classroom attendance. Records of missed classes due to absences, late arrivals, early dismissals or disciplinary referrals will be referenced for course failure deliberations and/or disciplinary consequences. If a student needs to arrive late to a class, they should obtain and provide a pass indicating the reason for their tardiness to be excused.

For families of students with excessive tardies, a meeting with school administration and other applicable staff will be scheduled. A plan to improve student punctuality to school will be developed. If a student's punctuality does not improve, school administrators may utilize progressive discipline up to and including internal suspension.

Absences and School Events

Students who are absent for more than a half day will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. If the activity or event is on a weekend, students who were absent the day before will not be able to attend. This includes any sporting events, concerts, dances etc. Absences that are exempted are not included in this policy.

Building Security and Safety Plan

In order to support facility safety and security within the Greenfield School District for all school personnel, students and visitors, the following district-wide and school-site procedures shall be followed during regular school hours:

Exterior doors to all school buildings are kept locked. Visitors wishing to enter a school

building are asked to ring the doorbell to request entry. All visitors are required to proceed to the main office immediately upon entry. During arrival and dismissal, school administrators shall assign available school personnel to areas of the facilities requiring special supervision.

Visitors will be required to sign in, wear a Visitor badge and be escorted to their destination. Prior to leaving the building, individuals must report back to the main office, return the badges, and sign out.

All students arriving late, leaving early, or being taken out and brought back during the school day (e.g. for medical or dental appointments) must report to the main office in the company of parent, guardian or designated person, in order to be signed out/in by the office secretary or other designated individuals. Parents/guardians or other individuals entering the building in order to dismiss or return a student must report to the main office.

Individuals are encouraged to report information which could help keep our schools safe and prevent potential violence. Information should be reported directly to a school administrator.

Safety and Security Procedures

Emergency evacuation routes are posted within each classroom. Safety and security drills will be conducted to review procedures with students and staff. The function of these drills is to create a rapid, safe and organized method of responding to situations. All visitors in the building at the time safety and security protocols are utilized are required to follow the protocols.

Care of School Property and Textbooks

Students are responsible for all school property loaned to them, including library books, textbooks, technology, laboratory equipment, athletic uniforms, band uniforms, musical instruments, and other school property.

Any student who damages, destroys or does not return school issued equipment shall be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Meal Program

The Greenfield Public Schools participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and is required to follow all USDA policies related to these programs. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

The Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Department recognizes the importance of student nutrition and the role proper nutrition plays in successful learning. Students are offered nutritionally-balanced meals each day, which include a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with scratch-cooked and locally-sourced options. The latest menus for each grade level can be found here, and will also be posted to the GPS Food Services Instagram and Facebook pages @GreenfieldSchoolFood.

In the 2025-2026 school year, all Greenfield Public Schools will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and all students will receive FREE breakfast and lunch at school without families having to submit a household application. Charges will still apply to second meals, separately purchased milk, and a la carte items at Greenfield High School. See below for pricing. All students who are “directly certified” for free or reduced price meals through the state Virtual Gateway will receive a letter in the mail by the end of September. ***Please keep this letter for your records as proof of your child’s eligibility status.*** Please note, CEP does not mean that all students have free/reduced eligibility status for programs such as Summer EBT or outside discounts from utility companies or recreational activities.

Payment information, including instructions for loading your student’s online account via the SchoolCafe Family Hub, can be found here on our website. Please note, funds are only needed for purchasing additional meals, separate milk, and a la carte items at GHS.

- 2025-2026 School Meal Prices: FREE for all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. If students wish to purchase *additional meals* beyond the first free meal, prices are as follows:
 - Breakfast (all schools) - \$2.00
 - Elementary / Preschool Lunch - \$3.25
 - Middle School Lunch - \$3.50
 - High School Lunch- \$3.75
- Separately Purchased Milk* - \$0.60
*Milk is free with reimbursable meals. Under “Offer vs. Serve” a student in grades K-12 may take milk and two other items (one of which needs to be ½ cup fruit or vegetable) to create a free reimbursable meal.
- A la Carte Items**
 - Water: \$1.00
 - Flavored water & juice: \$1.50
 - Chips & other treats (e.g. popcorn, rice krispy treats, fruit chews): \$1.00
 - Cookies: \$0.75
 - Pudding cup: \$0.75
 - Fruit & yogurt parfait: \$2.00

**These items are sold only at Greenfield High School and include A-List approved snacks and beverages sold individually. Students may purchase a la carte items with cash, check, or a positive SchoolCafe account balance.

School Council

The School Council is composed of parents/guardians, staff, and community members and serves as a sounding board that can provide perspective for the principal on a variety of school-related topics. Please contact the Principal if you are interested in being a part of this year’s School Council. The School Council meets monthly and meetings are open to all.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer council of parents, guardians, and other members of the community concerned with the delivery of appropriate special education services in Greenfield Public Schools. The SEPAC holds regular meetings that are open to the public, and notices of meetings are posted within the schools and on the website. Special education parent advisory councils are a requirement of the current Massachusetts Special Education Regulations. The Regulations specify two of the responsibilities, and others can be added. The two include advising the School Committee on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. The Greenfield SEPAC typically works with the Pupil Services Office to plan workshops for parents including an annual workshop about parents' rights in special education.

English Learner Parent Advisory Council

The Greenfield Public Schools facilitate an English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) to promote and support the success of English Learners (ELs). The ELPAC is a collaborative partnership between the school district, families, and community organizations. Participation is voluntary and is open to all parents of students identified or previously identified as English Learners. ELPACs are intended by law to advise school districts and schools regarding matters that impact ELs, such as providing advice on English learner education programs, meeting regularly with school officials about educational opportunities for ELs, and providing input on school or district improvement plans as they relate to ELs. Volunteers can provide support in a number of ways including being a representative on your child's school council, serving as a liaison for other parents who share your language background, and sharing skills and knowledge with others.

Volunteers

We encourage parents/guardians and community members to volunteer in our school. However, please be reminded that all volunteers who are working in any capacity in the school setting are bound by the laws of confidentiality and will be required to comply with CORI and/or fingerprint requirements. Information obtained through observation or participation in classrooms is completely confidential. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit the website at www.gpsk12.org under Families and Community.

Lost and Found

Lost and found articles are stored in a designated area at each school. If your child has a missing item, please send in a note with a description of the lost item to your child's teacher, or feel free to come to school yourself and ask for the "Lost & Found" area. Unclaimed articles are distributed and donated appropriately periodically. It is strongly recommended that all clothing, especially boots, snow pants, jackets, etc. be marked with your child's name on an inside area.

Toy Guidelines

Please do not send students to school with toys that may be lost, stolen, and/or broken. Many children are upset when their toys are lost or when trading of toys occurs. The best way to avoid this is to keep all toys at home. Schools are not responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

Technology Use and Digital Learning

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to preparing students for a world that is increasingly digital while also balancing the use of technology during the school day. Over the past several years, the district has invested in high-quality instructional materials—many of which include digital components. These tools support differentiated instruction and help personalize learning to meet individual student needs.

At the same time, we recognize concerns about excessive screen time. Educators are encouraged to use discretion and to limit screen time that is not directly connected to the curriculum, including as a reward or incentive. If you have concerns about your student's use of technology in school, please begin by speaking with your child's teacher. If the issue is not resolved, you are encouraged to contact the school principal.

The district supports the right of students and staff to access a variety of information formats and expects all users to act responsibly and appropriately. We apply the same standards of educational value to digital media as we do to other instructional resources.

Technology use is integrated throughout our curriculum in age-appropriate ways and aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students are provided with ongoing instruction in digital citizenship, including how to use technology to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate effectively, and participate in a global society.

Sensitivities and Allergies

Please be aware that many of our students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to certain foods and scents. We kindly ask families and students to:

- Avoid sending snacks or meals that contain high-risk allergens, such as peanuts.
- Refrain from using heavily scented perfumes, lotions, or other fragrance products.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism (copying) of material from any source, for any and all academic works including: papers, presentations or reports, submitting someone else's work as one's own, using google translate, copy and pasting electronic material, the unauthorized removal of test/exam documents/materials from a classroom, photographing test/exam documents, are all considered forms of academic dishonesty.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards will be issued quarterly (semester at elementary) throughout the year; please see the school calendar for the specific dates. Progress reports will be issued at the midpoint of each quarter or later if needed.

Referrals of Students Regarding Suspected Disabilities

The parent/guardian of a Greenfield resident who is between the ages of 2.5 years and 22 years old may contact the Pupil Services Office with concerns or to request special education evaluations related to a known or suspected disability. Some examples of areas of concern are academic skills, social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and speech and/or language skills. The Pupil Services Office may be reached at 413-772-1324. In addition, parents/guardians can share concerns with their child's school principal, who can forward the information to the Pupil Services Office.

Observations of Special Education Programs

1. Parents'/guardian's request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made at least five days in advance with the Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal.
2. The Director of Pupil Services or designee shall contact the parent(s)/guardian for initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the parents'/guardian's request.
3. When a parent/guardian requests an observation of a student receiving special education services or programs, the Director of Pupil Services or designee will seek approval from the Superintendent or designee and the Principal before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulation.
4. The Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal will work with the classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling time and placement of the observer in the classroom).
5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
6. If the observer is not the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign a release for the individual to observe.
7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.
8. The observer will be informed that they are not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If their presence presents a problem, they will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents/guardians can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and that of others.
9. If applicable, the observer will be asked to submit their report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
10. The observer will be informed that they are not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform their contractual job duties.
11. The observer will be instructed regarding the prohibition of disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible, the observer may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

12. A school administrator, or designee, also will observe at the same time and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s)/guardian prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

STUDENT HEALTH

Illness & Injury

If determined by the School Nurse, the student is unable to remain in school, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to make arrangements for dismissal.

Annual Health Information Form

Parents/Guardians must complete the annual Health Information Form for each student. This includes the names and contact information of those individuals that the student may be released to in the event of illness or injury. It also includes permission for the school nurse to administer appropriate over-the-counter medications to the student, if needed.

Medications

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

Immunizations

As required by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 15, every school child must be "successfully immunized". The Department of Public Health has established the following schedules as legal requirements for children to attend school. Please be aware that these requirements may change annually.

Preschool:

1. IPV (polio), 3 or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), 1 or more doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), four or more doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella, 1 or more doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

Grades K-12:

1. IPV (polio), four or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) , 2 doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), five doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella – two doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

7. Tdap, 1 dose is required for all students entering grade 7- 11
8. Meningococcal Grade 7-10 1 dose, 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Grade 11-12 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required.

*Varicella vaccination is required unless the student has a diagnosis of chickenpox disease by the HCP or laboratory proof of immunity.

*Physical exam must show the date of at least 1 lead screen for all children born in Massachusetts.

Physical Education Excused Absences

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education classes, please send a note to your child's teacher. A note written and signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason, will allow an excused absence once per term.

If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education class on an ongoing basis, please provide a note from your child's physician for review by the school nurse. The school nurse may excuse students from Physical Education classes for medical reasons without a doctor's note once per term.

Home or Hospital Instruction

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the student is eligible to receive educational services in that setting, temporarily, from the school district. The students' parents must submit the form called Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons to the Director of Pupil Services, and the Director of Pupil Services shall arrange for provision of educational services in the hospital or a home for students who meet the criteria. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Director of Student Services.

CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

Administrative Discretion

Greenfield Public Schools believe in the use of a restorative approach to address the whole student and needs that have led to their actions. In doing so, administrative flexibility is required in any disciplinary action to account for individual cases, unusual problems not anticipated nor written in school regulation, and maintenance of effective control of behavior in a public school. The administration reserves the right to adjust actions based upon the severities of the offense or

mitigating circumstances. Action taken must also meet the reasonableness and protection of the rights of students.

Greenfield Public Schools expect all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment. We incorporate all provisions of the Mass. General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H, 37H $\frac{1}{2}$, and 37H $\frac{3}{4}$ in our Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action affecting a student with a disability must comply with the prescribed procedures under state and federal law. Greenfield incorporates all of the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) (disciplining students with disabilities), as well as 603 CMR 28.08 (dispute resolution before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals), in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Disciplinary Procedures

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be decided according to the facts accompanying the case. Effort will be made to discipline students while maintaining them in regular school programs. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the disciplinary process. In many cases, however, the following discipline options may be utilized:

1. Students may be given detention or one of several other disciplinary options, including a warning. If after school detention is given, parents must make arrangements for safe student transport home. (Scheduling arrangements for detention can be requested for a parent to provide transportation).
2. Bus privileges may be revoked for acts of misbehavior.
3. Students may have school-driving privileges revoked.
4. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.
5. Students may be internally suspended from their regular classes.
6. Students may be externally suspended from school when they are a danger to themselves or others, or when they demonstrate a chronic inability or unwillingness to abide by school regulations. The Principal will decide the length of each suspension.
7. Students may be required to perform school-based community service.
8. Students may be required to pay restitution, write letters of apology, or be assigned special projects.
9. Students may be referred for counseling, risk assessments or psycho-educational evaluations.
10. Greenfield may order a change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.
11. A student may be excluded from school.

Students who do not abide by the rules of the In-House Alternative Program or who do not modify their behavior will be referred to the administration for external suspension.

During the period of suspension, a student may not appear on school property or at school-related activities or events either as a spectator or participant. A violation of this policy will be considered a trespass resulting in immediate notification of the Greenfield Police Department.

Depending upon the reason for suspension, a student may be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities beyond the suspension period. Suspensions that carry over a weekend or vacation period will also eliminate a student's participation from any extra-curricular events that take place on those weekends or vacation periods.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspensions include but are not limited to:

1. Leaving school during school hours without permission.
2. Unauthorized absence(s) from school (truancy) or from class.
3. Repeated unexcused tardiness to school, class and homeroom.
4. Unexcused absence from detention assignments.
5. Gambling on school grounds in any form.
6. Use of or possession of contraband items such as matches, lighters, non-prescribed hypodermic needles, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, fireworks, stink bombs, laser pens or pointers.
7. Use of or possession of beepers.
8. Smoking on school property, in a school bus, or at school functions.
9. Exhibitionism, lewd, wanton and lascivious behavior, sexual contact, disorderly conduct including, but not limited to excessive, distracting and/or inappropriate public displays of affection between students. (M.G.L.A. Ch.272, s.16 & s.53.)
10. The possession, dissemination, or use of obscenity in any form, especially, speech writing or explicit sexual pictures or drawings. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 272, s. 29 & 31.)
11. Intentional acts threatening the health and safety of self and/or others on school property, at school sponsored or related events, and to and from school. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended.
12. Lack of respect for faculty, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to, insubordination, disobedience, use of insulting and/or profane language or gestures, the willful disregard of express or implied directions from a teacher, administrator, or staff member, including but not limited to, the refusal to follow the directions of mandated tests, assessments, or exams, academic dishonesty/cheating, and/or the refusal to follow a mandated program.
13. Theft or vandalism to school property or the property of others in the school setting, whether during or after school hours or at any school activity. Reasonable proof of the offender is necessary. Restitution by the offender is required. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 266, s. 30, 98,100,127A, etc.)
14. Chronic school offender: The student who repeatedly disturbs or interrupts the educational process, refuses to work, who falsifies signatures on reports, who refuses to return signed papers to teachers or administrators, who refuses to report to appropriate school personnel, who exhibits offensive behavior on an ongoing basis, and/or who repeatedly violates the code of conduct.
15. Organizing or participating in hazing or bullying behavior.
16. Violation of Civil Rights: Students have the right to be free from discrimination based

upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical attacks on students directed at their racial, ethnic, or religious background, or their disability, and at any form of sexual harassment.

17. Violation of federal or Massachusetts law.
18. Bullying in any form, including verbal abuse, harassment, taunting, name-calling, threats in any form, extortion, intimidation, slander, defamatory statements, whether verbal or written, pushing, shoving, and tripping. This includes asking anyone to verbally abuse, threaten, or intimidate another student on one's behalf.
19. Any school related act, on or off school property, which interferes with or restricts another student's ability to enjoy the educational benefits afforded or offered within, and outside of, the School setting. Such acts include, but are not limited to incidents that interfere with or threaten the well-being or order of the School or its staff, students, or the general public.

In assigning short-term suspensions, administrators are:

- 1) aiming to improve a student's behavior;
- 2) maintaining a safe and orderly school environment; and
- 3) providing for necessary communication between the parent/ guardian and the school personnel.

Students under suspension remain responsible for completion of all schoolwork and will receive credit accordingly. Suspended students will have the opportunity to take tests and exams given during the suspension period during after school hours or upon their return to school. Teachers are under no obligation to provide help to a student while he or she is under suspension other than to provide notice of assignments.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Under Sections 37H and 37H½:

- A. Possession of a firearm on school premises, at school-sponsored or school related events, including field trips, and athletic games, and to and from school (United States Code, Section 921 of Title 18);
- B. Possession of a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school (M.G.L.A. Ch.269, Section 10);
- C. Assault/ assault and battery upon an administrator, teacher, teacher aide, or other school staff member on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, sections 13A and 13D);
- D. Possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance as defined in M.G.L.A. Ch. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, crack and heroin on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- E. Use or possession of a bomb or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- F. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, a student charged with a felony or the

subject of a felony delinquency complaint may be suspended, or a student convicted, adjudicated, or admitting guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency may be expelled, provided that the Superintendent determines, after hearing, that the student's continued presence poses a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension Under Section 37H¾ include but are not limited to:

- A. Possession of a paint gun, BB gun, air rifle, pellet gun, or imitation weapon of any kind;
- B. Assault/assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, Section 15A & 15B);
- C. Possession or misuse of inhalants, glue, synthetic drugs, or any other substance, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic events, and to and from school;
- D. Academic dishonesty/cheating;
- E. Making a bomb threat by any means, including, but not limited to, verbally, electronically, or in writing;
- F. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcohol on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- G. Serious offenses as defined in Grounds for Suspension
- H. Bullying, harassment, or hate crimes; and
- I. Use or possession of an object that appears to be a firearm, bomb, or dangerous weapon.

Student Conduct on School Vehicles

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school authorities from the time they board the bus to school until they leave the bus which returns them home. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal. In any emergency situation, the bus driver shall be the Principal's designee while the bus is in transit.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with policies approved by the School Committee.

Required Conduct Aboard the Bus

1. Riders must remain in seats when the bus is in motion.
2. Loud noises and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - Talking to the driver
 - Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - Climbing over or under seats

- Opening or closing windows
- Leaning out of windows
- Littering the bus

DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS

Notice of Proposed Suspension

Except in the case of an emergency removal or disciplinary offense defined under M.G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H½ or an in-school suspension as defined by 603 CMR 53.02(6), the school shall provide the student and parent/guardian with written and oral notice of the proposed out-of-school suspension, an opportunity to be heard at hearing, and the opportunity to participate at the hearing. Notice shall set forth in plain language:

- a) the disciplinary offense;
- b) the basis for the charge;
- c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the Principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing;
- e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- f) the right of the student and student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. In order to conduct a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. Reasonable effort is presumed if the Principal sent written notice and documented at least two attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency situations.

All written communications regarding notice of proposed suspension shall be either by hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Short Term Suspensions: Hearing and Principal Determination

A short-term suspension is the removal of the student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less. Out-of-school short-term suspensions which do not cumulatively over the course of the school year exceed ten (10) days of suspension shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

Principal Hearing. The purpose of the hearing with the Principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts. A parent/guardian present at the hearing shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the Principal will make a determination whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequence. The Principal will provide notification in writing of their determination in the form of an update to the student and parent/guardian, and provide reasons for the determination. If the student is suspended, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the type and duration of the suspension, and shall provide an opportunity for the student to make up assignments and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Long-Term Suspension: Hearing and Principal Determination

A long-term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal will consider in determining whether alternatives to suspension such as loss of privileges, detention, an apology, a student contract, restitution, and/or probation are appropriate.

Additionally, the student shall have the following additional rights:

- i. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- ii. the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's and or parent's/guardian's expense;
- iii. the right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; and
- iv. the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- v. the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal. All participants shall be informed that the hearing is being recorded by audio. A copy of the audio recording will be provided to the student or parent/guardian upon request.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing the Principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension (the use of evidence-based strategies and programs, such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports) what remedy or consequence will be imposed. If the Principal decides to impose a long-term suspension, the written determination shall:

- i. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
- ii. Set out key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- iii. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- iv. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive a specific list of education services to make academic progress during removal, and the contact information of a school member who can provide more detailed information.
- v. Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the superintendent or their designee (only if a long-term suspension has been imposed) within five (5) calendar days, which may be extended by parent/guardian request in writing an additional seven (7) calendar days.

The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through grade 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension

A student who is placed on a long-term suspension shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent if properly and timely filed. A good faith effort shall be made to include the parent/guardian at the hearing. The appeal shall be held within three (3) school days of the appeal, unless the student or parent/guardian requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, which the Superintendent shall grant.

The student and parent/guardian shall have the same rights afforded at the long-term suspension Principal hearing. Within five (5) calendar days of the hearing the Superintendent shall issue their written decision which meets the criteria required of the Principal's determination. If the Superintendent determines the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than that of the Principal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Emergency Removal

A student may be temporarily removed prior to notice and hearing when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. A Principal may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days, following the day of the emergency removal.

During the emergency, removal the Principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason for the emergency removal. The Principal shall also provide the due process requirements of written notice for suspensions and provide for a hearing which meets the due process requirements of a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable, within the two (2) school day time period, unless an extension of time for the hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent/guardian.

A decision shall be rendered orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day. The decision shall meet all of the due process requirements of a Principal's determination in a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable.

In-School Suspension Under 603 CMR 53:02 (6) & 603 CMR 53.10

In-school suspension is defined as the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not the school premises, for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year.

A Principal may impose an in-school suspension as defined above according to the following procedures:

The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the

circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

Suspension or Expulsion for Disciplinary Offenses Under M.G.L. 71 §§37H and 37H½

The due process notification and hearing requirements in the preceding sections do not apply to the following disciplinary offenses:

Possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault of staff

A student may be subject to expulsion if found in possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or the student assaults a member of educational staff, and the Principal determines the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the opportunity for a hearing, and the right to have representation at the hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. After said hearing, a Principal may, in their discretion, decide to levy a suspension rather than expulsion. A student expelled for such an infraction shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of their appeal. The student has the right to counsel at the hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student was guilty of the alleged offense.

Felony complaint or issuance of felony delinquency complaint

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony, or the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal may suspend a student for a period of time determined appropriate by the Principal if the Principal determines that the student's

continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student in writing of the charges, the reasons for the suspension (prior to such suspension taking effect), and the right to appeal. The Principal will also provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) the process for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent. The request for appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days. The hearing shall be held within three (3) days of the request. The suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing before the Superintendent. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Felony conviction or adjudication/admission in court of guilt for a felony or felony delinquency

The Principal may expel a student convicted of a felony, or has an adjudication or admission of guilt regarding a felony, if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for the proposed expulsion. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent, as well as the appeal process. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of their request for an appeal of the decision no later than five (5) calendar days following the date of the expulsion. The Superintendent hearing shall be held with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Student Suspension and Expulsion Data Collection and Reporting

The District shall collect and annually report data to the Department regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by the Department.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the

Principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The Principal shall further determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of-school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

Educational Services and Academic Progress Under Section 37H, 37H½, AND 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal from the classroom or school. The Superintendent or Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Superintendent shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students.

The Superintendent or Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Students Identified as Having Special Needs

1. All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Mass. General Laws, formerly known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have special needs and whose individualized program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
 - a. Students with Special Needs may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive days, and may also be suspended in excess of ten (10) cumulative days, as fully outlined under M.G.L.c. 71B, and the Individuals

with Disabilities Education Act. Such suspensions may be carried out without any further or additional process.

- b. Suspensions or exclusions in excess of ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days may also occur, provided that the conduct for which the student is being disciplined is not a manifestation of their disability, and the District provides educational services which will allow the student to access the general curriculum and to make progress toward their goals.
2. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B allow school personnel to move a student with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, if that student is in possession of a dangerous weapon at school or a school function or on school property, is in possession or uses a controlled substance or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function or on school property, or inflicts serious bodily injury on a person, including him/herself. The appropriate interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP TEAM.
3. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B also allows school personnel the option of asking a hearing officer or a court to move children with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, if they are substantially likely to injure themselves or others in their current placement.
4. When a special needs student has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive or cumulative days in a school year, such that a substantial change in placement is occurring or will occur, the IEP TEAM will meet to conduct a manifestation determination.
5. When a suspension constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, District personnel, the parent/guardian, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the District, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents/guardians, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP—"a manifestation determination."
6. At the manifestation determination, a copy of the Procedural Safeguards will be given to the parent/guardian.
7. Relevant members of the TEAM meet for the manifestation determination, and they answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student: Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the student's IEP? And is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability. A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the Parent/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined according to the discipline policy in this handbook. The student will receive educational services during this period of suspension or exclusion. If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, then the school may still be able to implement an IAES (see #2 and #3 above). If the IAES is not possible, then the

student will remain in their current placement, and the TEAM will arrange for a functional behavioral assessment (if one has not been conducted on the student) and the development or modification of a behavior intervention plan. The Principal or designee will notify the Special Education Office of the suspension offense of a special needs student and a record will be kept of such notices.

Students Identified as Having a Disability and on a Section 504 Plan

Students are expected to meet the expectations for behavior identified in this handbook. A student on a Section 504 plan may be disciplined like any other non-disabled student. However, if the student is going to be suspended for ten (10) or more cumulative days, expelled or suspended for more than fifteen (15) cumulative days (and there is a change in placement as a result), then a manifestation determination review shall be conducted. The students' 504 team shall convene, and answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student:

1. Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the students' 504 plan?
2. Is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability?

A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

Procedural Requirements for Students Not Yet Determined to be Eligible for Special Education

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for special education students if the school had knowledge (as determined by the IDEA) that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school district may be considered to have prior knowledge if, before the behavior that resulted in the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the student's school or to a teacher of the student that the student is in need of special education and related services; or
2. The parent requested an evaluation of the student; or
3. District staff expressed, directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel, specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be deemed to have had knowledge if the parent has not consented to an evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student was completed and resulted in a determination of ineligibility. If the district had no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subjected to disciplinary measures applied to students without disabilities. However, if an evaluation is requested during the time period in which the student is subjected to these disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner.

Referral to and Action By Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

- (A) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION-** Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or to prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.
- (B) **TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS-** An agency reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.

Electronic Devices

Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the instructional day. All phones and "smart" watches are to be turned off and secured until after dismissal.

Searches

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student will be conducted in a way that protects the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

The legality of a search of a student, their clothing and/or possessions depends simply on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search (According to New Jersey v. T.L.O. 469 U.S 325 1985). The search by a school official is "justified at its inception" when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that a student or students has violated or is violating the laws or rules of the school." Secondly, that "such a search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Any individual, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by them under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, carrying on their person a firearm, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any school building, or at any school related event without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such school, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Firearm shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a

shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. See individual school-site's sanctions for such violations.

Any student, who assaults a Principal, Associate Principal, teacher, instructional assistant or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.

Dress Code

In the Greenfield Public Schools, we encourage self expression and individuality in all of our students. In order to maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, students must refrain from wearing clothing that may be deemed discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, gender, or religion; or depicts alcohol, drugs, weapons or acts of violence. Building administrators will have the final say on questionable articles of clothing and may request that the student change or cover up.

Hats, caps and hoods are not to be worn in school during the school day. Clothing, attire, and accessories found to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process, or which has affected the safety of students, will be determined a violation of the dress code by the school administration.

LAWS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RECORDS

The Regulations Pertaining to Student Records were developed by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure parents, students and former students of their rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records. The regulations have the force of law and apply to all elementary and secondary schools. Below is a summary of the major provisions of the regulations. A copy of the regulations is available for inspection in the main office or guidance office.

A parent or any student who is at least 14 years old has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student not later than two days after the request, unless the student or parent consents to a delay. Copies of the record must be given to the student or parent upon request for a fee of no more than the actual cost of copying.

The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains your name, address, and your birth date; the name and address of your parents or guardians;

course titles; grades (or the equivalent when grades are not applicable); grade level completed and the grade completed.

The temporary record consists of all the information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. This information may include your standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities in which you took part and evaluations by your teachers, counselors, or other school staff. A school health record, which gives a general profile of your health, is included. The temporary record shall not contain any anonymous information and will be destroyed after graduation.

As of 1998, Massachusetts Law (General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

At any time that the school receives a request for student records from a parent who does not have physical custody of the child and who has not yet provided the school with the information required by Section 34H, the school should inform the non-custodial parent of the requirements of the law. This may be done by providing the parent with a letter from the school that sets forth the procedures the parent must follow in order to get access to the records.

Destruction of Records:

Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than seven (7) years after that student transfers, graduates or withdraws from the school system. Temporary records are defined as all information in a student record, which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, extracurricular activities and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. When the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the documents be provided to them. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

In addition, each year, the Principal and/or teachers and/or other service providers may destroy the following documents that are considered part of the student's temporary record: disciplinary records (other than documentation of suspensions or expulsions or exclusions), any notes from the parent/guardian or other documents concerning absences, early dismissals, late arrivals, as well as examples of student work. If the eligible student or the parent/guardian wants those records, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school that the documents be provided to them, rather than be destroyed. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

PUBLICATION

Greenfield Public Schools may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent. It is also the practice of the Greenfield School District to give

permission for school personnel and the media (e.g., cable television, newspapers, commercial television, radio, and the world wide web) to develop and present in the classroom, in the school hallways, on websites, to the public, print, pictures, and voice related to school programs and students for the purposes of public relations and the dissemination of non-confidential information (i.e., news stories). The Greenfield School District gives such permission without the prior individual approval of parents and caregivers.

If you do not wish for your child's directory information to be released, or to be photographed, and/or videotaped on such occasions, or for any reason, please inform the Principal at the individual school your child is attending, in writing using the form provided at the end of this handbook, prior to September 15th of the school year. It is the parents'/caregivers' responsibility to notify the school in writing, prior to September 15th, if there are any concerns and or restrictions regarding the publicity of their child's picture, name, voice, or representation in the classroom, school building, local media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, or digital recording for teacher/student evaluation purposes. If we do not receive written documentation to the contrary, then we will assume that the school has your permission.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains a provision regarding the disclosure of names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. The District is obligated to provide, upon request, names, addresses and telephone numbers of students in grades 9-12 to military recruiters, charter schools as well as to institutions of higher education. Therefore, student names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be released to military recruiters, charter schools and institutions of higher learning UNLESS the parent/guardian or student notifies the Principal in writing indicating that they DO NOT want this information released.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Several important pieces of federal and state legislation are listed here for your benefit. These laws prohibit discrimination in public schools. The essence of these laws is presented in the following paragraphs:

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Chapter 622

"No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion or national origin."

Section 504

MGL Chapter 76 specifically states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and

courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.”

The Director of Pupil Services is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator. She will coordinate the Greenfield Public Schools’ efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the regulations. Any inquiries concerning the application of the regulations to the practices and policies of the Greenfield Public Schools may be addressed to the Director of Pupil Services 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA 01301 or at 413-772-1327 or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20221.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Greenfield Public Schools reaffirm that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. The Greenfield Public Schools also reaffirm its commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights will not be tolerated.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violation to the building principal. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.
3. The Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

WORKING PERMITS

If you hold a full or part-time job, whether school related or not, you must provide your employer with a work permit. This form indicates to your employer that you are still in school and therefore may not be employed during school hours. Work permits may be obtained from the guidance office or the Superintendent's office both during the school year and during the

summer. This request is in accordance with the provisions of Section 8695 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PARENTAL OPT-OUT RIGHTS

Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Greenfield Public Schools, through its curricula and instructional materials, promotes respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal regarding curriculum content and may submit a written request to the building principal to opt out of specific portion(s) of the curriculum that conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, at the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s).

Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.
2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the materials at the school.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;

- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves, or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology, any electronic communication, or use of artificial intelligence, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetic photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also encompass the use of artificial intelligence to create or modify images, or to utilize AI in ways that enhance, facilitate, or automate actions that create any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents/guardians and families are expected. For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or;
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or their designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within their school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred they shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall usually be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The timeline may be extended beyond fourteen days when an allegation of bullying is inclusive of an allegation of sex-based harassment under Title IX. The District may follow the investigatory process and timelines outlined in the District's Title IX grievance process and may issue a bullying determination within the Title IX determination or after the conclusion of the Title IX determination.

The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or their designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

Disciplinary and Corrective Action

Violation of this protocol is a serious offense. Violators may be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action to stop the conduct and prevent its recurrence. The District is committed to protecting the complainant, and all students, from bullying. Procedural manuals containing responsibilities of staff and students, reporting procedures, complaint process, resolution, and protection against retaliation shall be in place at each level. All disciplinary incidents will be reported using the school disciplinary action process.

HARASSMENT POLICY

If you feel that you are the victim of any type of harassment, including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, you should follow the policy listed below:

1. Report the matter to a school administrator, counselor, teacher and/or other staff member.
2. The assistant principal will then arrange for a prompt investigation. The assistant principal will meet with all of those involved who will have an opportunity to give a statement.
3. If the accusation of harassment has been substantiated by the assistant principal, the principal will be notified. Appropriate discipline will be administered depending on the nature of the offense.
 - a. Verbal first offenses will be handled by a warning to be followed by much stricter discipline if the offending behavior continues. Parents will be notified.
 - b. Physical offenses will be taken very seriously. Appropriate discipline will be administered. Parents will be notified.

The Committee recognizes that children learn best and teachers teach best when schools are safe. In safe schools, students and teachers feel physically secure, respected and supported. The Committee promotes Civil Rights and Protecting Students from Harassment, Bullying, and Hate

Crimes. The Complaint Procedure in this handbook may also be followed in appropriate circumstances.

SEX-BASED HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

Greenfield Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination and sex-based harassment in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX. The Greenfield Public Schools are committed to maintaining an education and work environment for all school community members that is free from all forms of harassment, including sex-based harassment and sex-based discrimination.

Sex-based discrimination is discrimination based on sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Sex-based harassment is harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Sex-based harassment includes:

u *Quid pro quo harassment.* An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the School to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the School's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

u *Hostile environment harassment.* Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (*i.e.*, creates a hostile environment).

u *Specific offenses.* An offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation such as sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, etc.

While it is not possible to list all those additional circumstances that may constitute sex-based harassment, the following are some examples of conduct, which if unwelcome, may constitute sex-based harassment, depending on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct or its pervasiveness:

- Unwelcome sexual advances-whether they involve physical touching or not;
- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one's sex life; comment on an individual's body, comment about an individual's sexual activity and/or sexual orientation and/or gender identity, deficiencies, or prowess;
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons;
- Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, suggestive or insulting comments;
- Inquiries into one's sexual experiences; and,
- Discussion of one's sexual activities.

The definition of sex-based harassment is broad and in addition to the above examples, other conduct, whether it is intended or not, that is unwelcome and has the effect of creating an

environment that is hostile, offensive, intimidating, to male, female, or gender non-conforming students or employees may also constitute sexual harassment.

Because the District takes allegations of harassment, including sex-based harassment, seriously, the District will respond promptly to complaints of harassment including sex-based harassment, and following an investigation where it is determined that such inappropriate conduct has occurred, we will act promptly to eliminate the conduct and impose corrective action as is necessary, including disciplinary action where appropriate.

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to ensuring that sex-based discrimination and sex-based harassment does not continue or recur within our education program or activities. To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment or to make a complaint regarding such under Title IX, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator for the Greenfield Public Schools is:

Name: David Messing
Title: Director of Pupil Services
Address: 195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA
Phone: (413) 772-1324
Email: davmes1@gpsk12.org

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to Greenfield Public Schools Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Greenfield Public Schools nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at gpsk12.org.

Retaliation against a complainant, witness, or any other participant in an investigation because they have filed a harassment or sex-based harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment or sexual harassment investigation or proceeding, is strictly prohibited. Anyone found to have retaliated against another in violation of Greenfield Public Schools policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Retaliation is any intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, including in an informal resolution process.

Any person who experiences retaliation for exercising their rights under Title IX can file a retaliation complaint with the Title IX Coordinator.

HAZING

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 strictly prohibits any type of hazing or initiation into any student organization which will endanger, either physical or mental, a student's person.

The law specifically states:

*Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term hazing as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly may endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

*Section 18: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

*Section 19: Each secondary school and each public and private college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operation on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18.

Full documentation and explanations are available from the building principal or his designee.

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring themselves, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;

- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements; including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent/guardian of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving an investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents/guardians in discussions about restraint prevention in and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00,
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint".

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents/guardians of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Liaison

The Homeless Education liaison's role is to assist homeless students enroll in school to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible. Further information may be obtained by David Messing, Director of Pupil Services, 413-772-1324

School Placement, Transportation, and Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their school of origin and receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing.

School placement determinations must be based on the best interest of the homeless student. In making decisions regarding best interests, school districts must:

- Presume keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, school placement of siblings, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

For homeless students who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, districts must remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, on-line learning, and charter school programs.

Transportation

School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. Furthermore:

- If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed;
- If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing their education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin; and
- If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students. Each school district's homeless education liaison must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed, in the language of the home, of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

Enrollment

School districts must immediately enroll homeless students in school to provide educational stability and avoid separation from school for days or weeks while documents are located.

Therefore, homeless education liaisons must ensure that:

- Students who chose to enroll in school where they are temporarily residing must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them;
- If a homeless student arrives without records, the previously attended school district is contacted and the required records requested;
- That homeless students are attending school while the records are being requested;
- Districts remove barriers to homeless students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and
- Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information and therefore cannot be shared with the public including landlords.

FORM A

DO NOT RELEASE FORM - STUDENT INFORMATION

*As a parent/guardian you may **NOT** want your child's information to be released.*

**Only return this form if you do not want your child's
information released**

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), a school may release student directory information, including students names and addresses, so long as the school provides public notice of the type of information it releases and allows parents a reasonable period of time to request that the information not be released. Generally, schools provide this notice to parents.

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

The Greenfield Public Schools will release directory information to colleges, scholarship organizations, the military, other post-graduate programs such as technical schools, and other individuals and/or groups upon request.

FORM B

File: IJNDB

EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the district's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the school district network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines they will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- An individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- Individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.

- Users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work
- Users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by district administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

SOURCE: MASC

Student Responsibilities

As a student at the Greenfield Public Schools you will have access to electronic resources, including the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the public schools community and all expectations regarding standards of behavior as outlined in the Student Handbook apply to your actions while utilizing or accessing the network or other electronic resources. You are expected to use the electronic resources in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but Greenfield Public Schools reserves the right to limit your access. Access to the Greenfield Public Schools network is a privilege and not a right. Unacceptable uses and prohibited behavior are considered violations of the Empowered Digital Use Policy and school rules, and include but are not limited to:

- Illegal Activities
- Involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- Intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software
- Interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking," "cracking," probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type.
- Adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services.
- Transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.
- Plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited.
- Tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to Greenfield Public Schools.
- Using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying
- Attempting to log on to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- Attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- Sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- Trespassing in another's folders, e-mail, work, or files or using another person's

- account.
- Changing computer files that do not belong to you.
 - Creating, transferring, viewing or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others.
 - Sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous or threatening messages.
 - Posting or sending e-mail or voicemail messages that are personal attacks, including any prejudicial, discriminatory, racist or sexist content, or that could cause damage or disruption, contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or harassing another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
 - Posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Violation of this Empowered Digital Use Policy or violations of a school rule may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and referral to law enforcement.

Privacy

Users of the network or other electronic resources have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Greenfield Public Schools network or on other Electronic Resources (e.g., voicemail and email). Information such as emails transmitted over the network may be a public record. The network is subject to monitoring.

Limited Liability

Greenfield Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Greenfield Public Schools are not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read the Greenfield Public Schools Empowered Digital Use Policy included in the Parent/Guardian and Student Handbook available on the district website. I understand and agree to abide by the Greenfield Public Schools Empowered Digital Use Policy.

Printed Name of Student

Signature

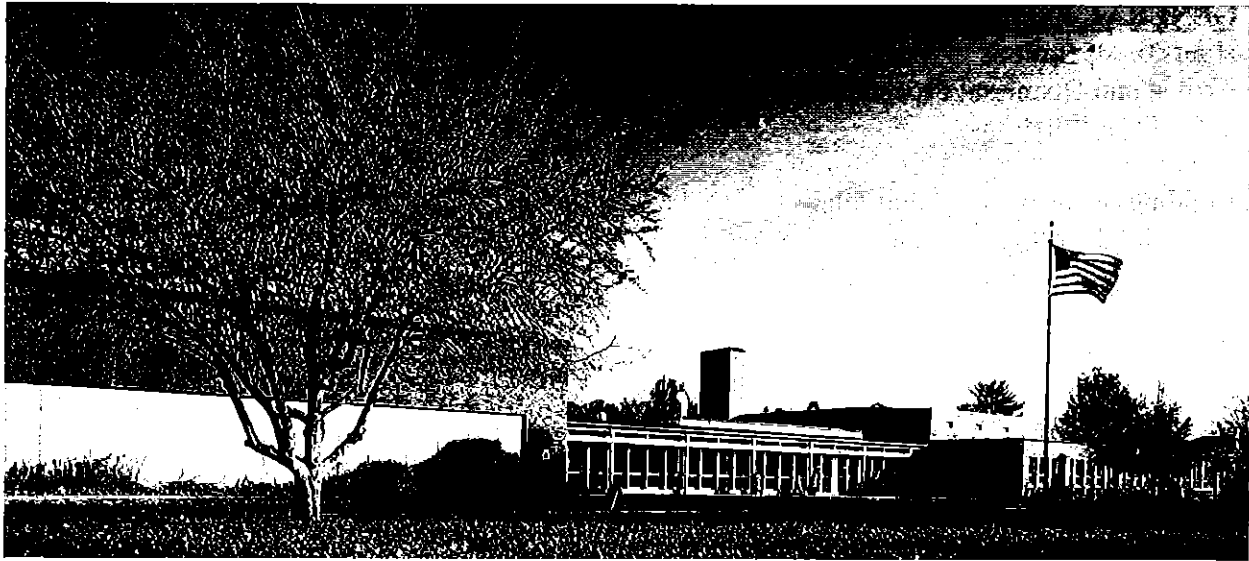
Date

Printed Name of Parent (required if student is under 18 yo)

Signature

Date

Discovery School at Four Corners



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Greenfield Public Schools

**21 Ferrante Avenue
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
413-772-1375
Fax: 413-772-1329**

The Greenfield School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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<https://www.gpsk12.org/gps-district-wide/school-committee/policy-manual>

RELEVANT FORMS

Student Records Opt Out Form
Acceptable Use Policy

Translation Information: If you need assistance reading this document or other school publications, please contact the principal to obtain translation services.

Spanish

Si usted necesita ayuda para leer este documento u otras publicaciones de la escuela, por favor póngase en contacto con el director del edificio para obtener servicios de traducción.

Portuguese

Se você necessitar o auxílio que lê este original ou outras publicações da escola, contate por favor o principal do edifício para obter serviços de tradução.

French

Si vous avez besoin de l'aide pour lire ce document ou des autres publications de l'école, svp entrez en contact avec le principal du bâtiment pour obtenir les services de traduction.

Italian

Se avete bisogno dell'assistenza che leggete questo documento o altre pubblicazioni della scuola, mettasi in contatto con prego il principale della costruzione per ottenere i servizi di traduzione.

German

Wenn Sie Unterstützung dieses Dokument oder andere Schulepublikationen lesend benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit der Gebäudedirektion in Verbindung, um Übersetzungsdienste zu erhalten.

Russian

Если Вам нужна помощь в прочтении этого документа или других публикаций школы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором Вашей школы для получения перевода.

Central Office

Interim Superintendent

Roland R. Joyal, Jr.
413-772-1326

Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Sullivan
413-772-1315

Pupil Services

David Messing, Director
413-772-1324
Elaine Mount, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1407
Sarah Crawford, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1317

Technology Services

Ian Edwards, Director
413-772-1322

Facilities

Michael Boudreau, Manager
413-772-1406

Food Service Department

TBD, Director
413-772-1335

Business Office

Vera Ayrapetyan, Asst. Business Manager
413-772-1312

District

Academy of Early Learning

Jill Taglia, Principal
413-772-1390

Federal Street School

Kelly Halpin, Principal
413-772-1380

Discovery School at Four Corners

David Potter, Principal
413-772-1375

Newton School

Carol Jacobs, Principal
413-772-1370

Greenfield Middle School

Michelle Fenimore, Principal
413-772-1360

Greenfield High School

Michael Browning, Principal
413-772-1350

Dear Discovery School Families,

Welcome to the Four Corners community! Discovery School at Four Corners is one of three elementary schools in the Greenfield Public Schools, serving students from Kindergarten through 4th grade. Here at Four Corners, we are excited to collaborate with our families to ensure that every student has a positive and engaging experience.

Our dedicated staff is eager to start building strong relationships with both you and your children. As we focus on addressing the social-emotional needs of our community, we believe these connections will help students reach their academic potential and maintain their curiosity.

Alongside fostering meaningful student and family relationships, we are committed to setting high expectations for all of our students. One of my favorite ways to engage with students is through discussions centered on our School Values: Community, Safety, Resilience, and Kindness. These conversations aim to cultivate a growth mindset and enhance our interactions within the community.

I encourage you to get involved with the Discovery School community by partnering with our educators, staff, and administration. Consider joining the DSFC School Council, the DSFC Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), volunteering in classrooms, or attending our monthly All-School Meetings and evening events. These opportunities are excellent ways to enrich your child's school experience.

On behalf of the entire DSFC staff, I look forward to working with you and welcome your input throughout the school year. I am excited to celebrate our achievements together during the 2025-2026 school year!

Sincerely,

Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operations

The Academy of Early Learning, Discovery School at Four Corners, Federal Street School and Newton School

Arrival: 8:15 am

School Day Begins: 8:30 am

Dismissal 2:55 pm

Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School

Arrival: 7:30 am

School Day Begins: 7:45

Dismissal: 2:10

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

- Car Drop-Off
 - Parents/guardians will use the Ferrante Ave. driveway in front of the school as a drop-off lane only. Vehicles will form a single line along the curb in front of the school. Vehicles will move to the front of the line and children will exit their vehicles once in the drop-off zone. Children will enter through the main entrance and school staff will assist children in finding their classrooms. Please exit the parking lot by turning **right only** onto Ferrante Ave.
 - * Please note: **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle. This will cause a back-up of traffic and poses significant safety concerns to all. Only let your children out of the vehicle when you reach the designated drop off zone. **If you need to assist your child/ren, we have designated the parking spaces on the side of the building, next to the gym, as our parking spaces for parents/guardians. This will allow you to unload your child/ren and enter the sidewalk, without crossing the care line, ensuring everyone's safety.**
- Bus Students
 - Buses will be using the upper lot on Bernardston Rd. for arrival. School staff will also assist children in finding their classrooms.
- Walkers
 - Walkers will use the front entrance of the school and School staff will assist children in finding their way to the playground, weather permitting.
- Please arrive promptly and leave promptly.

Dismissal

*If there is a change in your child's typical dismissal routine, please send in a note, email or call the administrative assistant Colleen Church (colchu1@gpsk12.org; 413-772-1375) no later than 1:30 pm identifying the change.

- Buses (Upper lot pick-up)
 - Students will remain in classrooms until buses are called; Bus students will be called over the PA system.
 - Students will wait in the library for all bus students. Once all students are there, a staff member will walk them out to the bus waiting in the upper lot.
- Car Pick-Up
 - Car line students will be called over the PA system.
 - Students will wait in the gymnasium and line up by grade.
 - Students will exit through the gym doors.
 - To expedite the process, parents will be asked to have a sign with their student's last name and grade(s).
 - If your child needs assistance to buckle in, please park to do so. We want to keep the line moving as quickly as possible.
- Walkers
 - Walkers will be called over the PA system
 - Walkers in grades K, 1, 2, 3, and 4 will exit the building from the front entrance. Teachers will dismiss walkers to parents when the parent has been seen by the teacher.
 - To expedite the process, parents will be asked to have a sign with their student's last name and grade(s).
- Walkers- without guardian pickup
 - Students will exit the building with walkers and proceed to walk home.
- Late Pick-Ups
 - Students who have not been picked up will remain in the cafeteria with a staff member until their pick-up person arrives.
- Staff During Dismissal
 - Staff will be present in hallways, all exits used, and in Library/Gym/Cafeteria for student safety and an expeditious dismissal of students.

We appreciate you following the procedures to help ensure the safety of all our staff and students.

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the Greenfield Public Schools may cancel school, delay the start of school or determine the need to dismiss early. In those instances, families in Greenfield Public Schools will receive an automated phone message, email and text message through School Messenger. Information about the status of school can also be found on WWLP, Western Mass News and NECN and available on 98.3 WHAI. The information will also be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Attendance Requirements and Punctuality Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to student learning and for them to experience educational success. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year and parents/guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure students are in attendance every day. Students who are absent for 10% of the days they are enrolled (18 days for a student enrolled for the full, 180 day school year) are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism has been shown to negatively impact the academic and social skills needed to succeed in school.

For Absences:	For Tardiness:	For Early Dismissals:	For Messages:
If your child is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the school's absence line at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please provide the student's name, your name and the date for the absence. Schools will dispatch automated calls to absent students' homes approximately 15 mins. after the start of school After 3 days of unexcused absences a staff member will contact the students' homes. Attendance letters will be generated after the 5th, 10th, and 15th absences and will be sent to parents/guardians. After the 7th and 15th day of unexcused absences, school administration will schedule a meeting with the student and family. Additionally, a home visit may be scheduled no later than the 15th unexcused absence.	If your child will arrive after the school day begins a parent/guardian should provide a note to the Main Office with the explanation of the tardiness. Please enter the building at the Main Entrance for all arrivals after the start of school. The issue of tardies will be addressed following progressive discipline. If a student is tardy to a particular class more than 3 times, the student will receive an office detention for the fourth and subsequent tardies	If your child needs to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, they should bring a note to the Main Office before school begins. The note should include the time of dismissal, the reason for leaving early and how the student will be leaving (i.e.; student drivers) If your child did not bring a note and needs to leave early, please call the Main Office to inform the school. All students must be signed out in the Main Office and will only be released to people on their Student Contact Information. If other arrangements are needed, please speak to one of our administrative assistants.	If you need to get a message to your child or drop off a forgotten item, please call/visit the Main Office to ensure that your child receives the message/item. We will not disrupt classes for non-emergency situations.

Attendance Communication Responsibilities

- Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school of a planned absence (surgery, medical appointment etc...) as soon as they are able. However, they are asked to inform the school no later than 15 minutes before the start of school. Please call the school main office number and follow the prompts for the absentee call in line. If the school does not receive a message from the parent/guardian by the designated time, then the school will send an automated message to all numbers associated with the parents/guardians informing them of their child's absence from school.
- School: The school is required to notify a parent/guardian of a child's absence if the school has not received notification by the parent/guardian within 3 days of the absence. We are further required to notify parents/guardians if a student has missed 2 or more classes as unexcused in a 5-day period of time or if the student has missed 5 or more unexcused days in the school year. The Principal and/or designee will arrange a meeting with families of students who have 5 or more unexcused absences for the purpose of developing action steps to improve student attendance at school.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in the family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Family vacations are not considered to be excused absences. Families are encouraged to plan vacations during scheduled school vacation weeks to avoid students missing valuable instructional time.

Students must meet the school's attendance requirements in order to earn credit for courses or to be promoted to the next grade. Students who exceed the allowable number of excused or unexcused absences shall not be granted credit for their courses.

School representatives may file a Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) for a student who is habitually absent and misses more than 8 days in a quarter without a proper excuse or is a habitual school offender who doesn't obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the school. A CRA may be considered after multiple attempts to engage parents/guardians which have been unsuccessful in improving attendance. Community agencies, such as the Franklin County Family Resource Center, will also be offered to support families prior to a CRA being filed by the school.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Section 18, students 16 years of age or older who have 10 consecutive absences shall receive written notice of their right to be invited to an exit interview before the student may be administratively unenrolled from school.

If a Special Education student is chronically absent, the IEP team should convene and rewrite the student's IEP to reflect this issue.

Missing Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments, tests or quizzes. Unless arrangements are made, the student may have as many days as missed in order to make up the work. For example, if a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to make up the required work. A minimum 24 hour notice is required to prepare materials should the parent/guardian wish to make a request for student assignments prior to an absence.

Punctuality Expectations and Tardiness

Being on time for all classes and required school functions is expected of all students. At the start of each class, teachers will take classroom attendance. Records of missed classes due to absences, late arrivals, early dismissals or disciplinary referrals will be referenced for course failure deliberations and/or disciplinary consequences. If a student needs to arrive late to a class, they should obtain and provide a pass indicating the reason for their tardiness to be excused.

For families of students with excessive tardies, a meeting with school administration and other applicable staff will be scheduled. A plan to improve student punctuality to school will be developed. If a student's punctuality does not improve, school administrators may utilize progressive discipline up to and including internal suspension.

Absences and School Events

Students who are absent for more than a half day will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. If the activity or event is on a weekend, students who were absent the day before will not be able to attend. This includes any sporting events, concerts, dances etc. Absences that are exempted are not included in this policy.

Building Security and Safety Plan

In order to support facility safety and security within the Greenfield School District for all school personnel, students and visitors, the following district-wide and school-site procedures shall be followed during regular school hours:

Exterior doors to all school buildings are kept locked. Visitors wishing to enter a school building are asked to ring the doorbell to request entry. All visitors are required to proceed to the main office immediately upon entry. During arrival and dismissal, school administrators shall assign available school personnel to areas of the facilities requiring special supervision.

Visitors will be required to sign in, wear a Visitor badge and be escorted to their destination. Prior to leaving the building, individuals must report back to the main office, return the badges, and sign out.

All students arriving late, leaving early, or being taken out and brought back during the

school day (e.g. for medical or dental appointments) must report to the main office in the company of parent, guardian or designated person, in order to be signed out/in by the office secretary or other designated individuals. Parents/guardians or other individuals entering the building in order to dismiss or return a student must report to the main office.

Individuals are encouraged to report information which could help keep our schools safe and prevent potential violence. Information should be reported directly to a school administrator.

Safety and Security Procedures

Emergency evacuation routes are posted within each classroom. Safety and security drills will be conducted to review procedures with students and staff. The function of these drills is to create a rapid, safe and organized method of responding to situations. All visitors in the building at the time safety and security protocols are utilized are required to follow the protocols.

Care of School Property and Textbooks

Students are responsible for all school property loaned to them, including library books, textbooks, technology, laboratory equipment, athletic uniforms, band uniforms, musical instruments, and other school property.

Any student who damages, destroys or does not return school issued equipment shall be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Meal Program

The Greenfield Public Schools participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and is required to follow all USDA policies related to these programs. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

The Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Department recognizes the importance of student nutrition and the role proper nutrition plays in successful learning. Students are offered nutritionally-balanced meals each day, which include a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with scratch-cooked and locally-sourced options. The latest menus for each grade level can be found [here](#), and will also be posted to the GPS Food Services Instagram and Facebook pages @GreenfieldSchoolFood. In the 2025-2026 school year all Greenfield Public Schools will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and are therefore able to provide FREE breakfast and lunch to all students who attend. Charges will still apply to second meals, separately purchased milk, and a la carte items at Greenfield High School.

For online payment and additional payment information, please visit the Food Services Payment Portal under the Food Services Department on the Greenfield Public Schools district website at www.gpsk12.org. The *My School Bucks* link can be found there. From this link, you may pay or prepay your child's account. Please note that there is a \$2.49 transaction fee. It is recommended that you make larger payments at one time to avoid more fees, when using the online payment method. You will need the child's name, student ID number and the zip code 01301, or see our instructions under the dropdown bar on the website.

School Council

The School Council is composed of parents/guardians, staff, and community members and serves as a sounding board that can provide perspective for the principal on a variety of school-related topics. Please contact the Principal if you are interested in being a part of this year's School Council. The School Council meets monthly and meetings are open to all.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer council of parents, guardians, and other members of the community concerned with the delivery of appropriate special education services in Greenfield Public Schools. The SEPAC holds regular meetings that are open to the public, and notices of meetings are posted within the schools and on the website. Special education parent advisory councils are a requirement of the current Massachusetts Special Education Regulations. The Regulations specify two of the responsibilities, and others can be added. The two include advising the School Committee on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. The Greenfield SEPAC typically works with the Pupil Services Office to plan workshops for parents including an annual workshop about parents' rights in special education.

Volunteers

We encourage parents/guardians and community members to volunteer in our school. However, please be reminded that all volunteers who are working in any capacity in the school setting are bound by the laws of confidentiality and will be required to comply with CORI and/or fingerprint requirements. Information obtained through observation or participation in classrooms is completely confidential. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit the website at www.gpsk12.org under Families and Community.

Lost and Found

Lost and found articles are stored in a designated area at each school. If your child has a missing item, please send in a note with a description of the lost item to your child's teacher, or feel free to come to school yourself and ask for the "Lost & Found" area. Unclaimed articles are distributed and donated appropriately periodically. It is strongly recommended that all clothing, especially boots, snow pants, jackets, etc. be marked with your child's name on an inside area.

Toy Guidelines

Please do not send students to school with toys that may be lost, stolen, and/or broken. Many children are upset when their toys are lost or when trading of toys occurs. The best way to avoid this is to keep all toys at home. Schools are not responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

Technology Use and Digital Learning

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to preparing students for a world that is increasingly digital while also balancing the use of technology during the school day. Over the past several

years, the district has invested in high-quality instructional materials—many of which include digital components. These tools support differentiated instruction and help personalize learning to meet individual student needs.

At the same time, we recognize concerns about excessive screen time. Educators are encouraged to use discretion and to limit screen time that is not directly connected to the curriculum, including as a reward or incentive. If you have concerns about your student's use of technology in school, please begin by speaking with your child's teacher. If the issue is not resolved, you are encouraged to contact the school principal.

The district supports the right of students and staff to access a variety of information formats and expects all users to act responsibly and appropriately. We apply the same standards of educational value to digital media as we do to other instructional resources.

Technology use is integrated throughout our curriculum in age-appropriate ways and aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students are provided with ongoing instruction in digital citizenship, including how to use technology to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate effectively, and participate in a global society.

Sensitivities and Allergies

Please be aware that many of our students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to certain foods and scents. We kindly ask families and students to:

- Avoid sending snacks or meals that contain high-risk allergens, such as peanuts.
- Refrain from using heavily scented perfumes, lotions, or other fragrance products.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism (copying) of material from any source, for any and all academic works including: papers, presentations or reports, submitting someone else's work as one's own, using google translate, copy and pasting electronic material, the unauthorized removal of test/exam documents/materials from a classroom, photographing test/exam documents, are all considered forms of academic dishonesty.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards will be issued quarterly (semester at elementary) throughout the year; please see the school calendar for the specific dates. Progress reports will be issued at the midpoint of each quarter or later if needed.

We encourage students and their families to monitor student progress and attendance by accessing the PowerSchool portal. Parents/guardians and students are issued codes to access their PowerSchool account so that they can see what assignments students have completed and grading information. We mail information about PowerSchool access at the beginning of the school year but if you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Main Office staff.

Referrals of Students Regarding Suspected Disabilities

The parent/guardian of a Greenfield resident who is between the ages of 2.5 years and 22 years old may contact the Pupil Services Office with concerns or to request special education evaluations related to a known or suspected disability. Some examples of areas of concern are academic skills, social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and speech and/or language skills. The Pupil Services Office may be reached at 413-772-1320 ext. 3327. In addition, parents/guardians can share concerns with their child's school principal, who can forward the information to the Pupil Services Office.

Observations of Special Education Programs

1. Parents'/guardian's request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made at least five days in advance with the Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal.
2. The Director of Pupil Services or designee shall contact the parent(s)/guardian for initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the parents'/guardian's request.
3. When a parent/guardian requests an observation of a student receiving special education services or programs, the Director of Pupil Services or designee will seek approval from the Superintendent or designee and the Principal before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulation.
4. The Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal will work with the classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling time and placement of the observer in the classroom).
5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
6. If the observer is not the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign a release for the individual to observe.
7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.
8. The observer will be informed that they are not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If their presence presents a problem, they will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents/guardians can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and that of others.
9. If applicable, the observer will be asked to submit their report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
10. The observer will be informed that they are not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform their contractual job duties.
11. The observer will be instructed regarding the prohibition of disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible, the observer may be

asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

12. A school administrator, or designee, also will observe at the same time and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s)/guardian prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

STUDENT HEALTH

Illness & Injury

If determined by the School Nurse, the student is unable to remain in school, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to make arrangements for dismissal.

Medications

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

Immunizations

As required by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 15, every school child must be "successfully immunized". The Department of Public Health has established the following schedules as legal requirements for children to attend school. Please be aware that these requirements may change annually.

Preschool:

1. IPV (polio), 3 or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), 1 or more doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), four or more doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella, 1 or more doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

Grades K-12:

1. IPV (polio), four or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) , 2 doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), five doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella – two doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.
7. Tdap, 1 dose is required for all students entering grade 7- 11
8. Meningococcal Grade 7-9 1 dose, 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Grade 11-12 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required.

*Varicella vaccination is required unless the student has a diagnosis of chickenpox disease

by the HCP or laboratory proof of immunity.

*Physical exam must show the date of at least 1 lead screen for all children born in Massachusetts.

Physical Education Excused Absences

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education classes, please send a note to your child's teacher. A note written and signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason, will allow an excused absence once per term.

If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education class on an ongoing basis, please provide a note from your child's physician for review by the school nurse. The school nurse may excuse students from Physical Education classes for medical reasons without a doctor's note once per term.

Home or Hospital Instruction

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the student is eligible to receive educational services in that setting, temporarily, from the school district. The students' parents must submit the form called Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons to the Director of Pupil Services, and the Director of Pupil Services shall arrange for provision of educational services in the hospital or a home for students who meet the criteria. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Director of Student Services.

CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

Administrative Discretion

Greenfield Public Schools believe in the use of a restorative approach to address the whole student and needs that have led to their actions. In doing so, administrative flexibility is required in any disciplinary action to account for individual cases, unusual problems not anticipated nor written in school regulation, and maintenance of effective control of behavior in a public school. The administration reserves the right to adjust actions based upon the severities of the offense or mitigating circumstances. Action taken must also meet the reasonableness and protection of the rights of students.

Greenfield Public Schools expect all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment. We incorporate all provisions of the Mass. General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H, 37H½, and 37H¾ in our Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action affecting a student with a disability must comply with the prescribed procedures under state and federal law. Greenfield incorporates all of the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) (disciplining students with disabilities), as well as 603 CMR 28.08 (dispute resolution before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals), in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Disciplinary Procedures

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be decided according to the facts accompanying the case. Effort will be made to discipline students while maintaining them in regular school programs. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the disciplinary process. In many cases, however, the following discipline options may be utilized:

1. Students may be given detention or one of several other disciplinary options, including a warning. If after school detention is given, parents must make arrangements for safe student transport home. (Scheduling arrangements for detention can be requested for a parent to provide transportation).
2. Bus privileges may be revoked for acts of misbehavior.
3. Students may have school-driving privileges revoked.
4. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.
5. Students may be internally suspended from their regular classes.
6. Students may be externally suspended from school when they are a danger to themselves or others, or when they demonstrate a chronic inability or unwillingness to abide by school regulations. The Principal will decide the length of each suspension.
7. Students may be required to perform school-based community service.
8. Students may be required to pay restitution, write letters of apology, or be assigned special projects.
9. Students may be referred for counseling, risk assessments or psycho-educational evaluations.
10. Greenfield may order a change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.
11. A student may be excluded from school.

Students who do not abide by the rules of the In-House Alternative Program or who do not modify their behavior will be referred to the administration for external suspension.

During the period of suspension, a student may not appear on school property or at school-related activities or events either as a spectator or participant. A violation of this policy will be considered a trespass resulting in immediate notification of the Greenfield Police Department.

Depending upon the reason for suspension, a student may be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities beyond the suspension period. Suspensions that carry over a weekend or vacation period will also eliminate a student's participation from any extra-curricular events that take place on those weekends or vacation periods.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspensions include but are not limited to:

1. Leaving school during school hours without permission.
2. Unauthorized absence(s) from school (truancy) or from class.
3. Repeated unexcused tardiness to school, class and homeroom.
4. Unexcused absence from detention assignments.
5. Gambling on school grounds in any form.
6. Use of or possession of contraband items such as matches, lighters, non-prescribed hypodermic needles, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, fireworks, stink bombs, laser pens or pointers.
7. Use of or possession of beepers.
8. Smoking on school property, in a school bus, or at school functions.
9. Exhibitionism, lewd, wanton and lascivious behavior, sexual contact, disorderly conduct including, but not limited to excessive, distracting and/or inappropriate public displays of affection between students. (M.G.L.A. Ch.272, s.16 & s.53.)
10. The possession, dissemination, or use of obscenity in any form, especially, speech writing or explicit sexual pictures or drawings. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 272, s. 29 & 31.)
11. Intentional acts threatening the health and safety of self and/or others on school property, at school sponsored or related events, and to and from school. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended.
12. Lack of respect for faculty, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to, insubordination, disobedience, use of insulting and/or profane language or gestures, the willful disregard of express or implied directions from a teacher, administrator, or staff member, including but not limited to, the refusal to follow the directions of mandated tests, assessments, or exams, academic dishonesty/cheating, and/or the refusal to follow a mandated program.
13. Theft or vandalism to school property or the property of others in the school setting, whether during or after school hours or at any school activity. Reasonable proof of the offender is necessary. Restitution by the offender is required. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 266, s. 30, 98,100,127A, etc.)
14. Chronic school offender: The student who repeatedly disturbs or interrupts the educational process, refuses to work, who falsifies signatures on reports, who refuses to return signed papers to teachers or administrators, who refuses to report to appropriate school personnel, who exhibits offensive behavior on an ongoing basis, and/or who repeatedly violates the code of conduct.
15. Organizing or participating in hazing or bullying behavior.
16. Violation of Civil Rights: Students have the right to be free from discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical attacks on students directed at their racial, ethnic, or religious background, or their disability, and at any form of sexual harassment.
17. Violation of federal or Massachusetts law.
18. Bullying in any form, including verbal abuse, harassment, taunting, name-calling, threats

in any form, extortion, intimidation, slander, defamatory statements, whether verbal or written, pushing, shoving, and tripping. This includes asking anyone to verbally abuse, threaten, or intimidate another student on one's behalf.

19. Any school related act, on or off school property, which interferes with or restricts another student's ability to enjoy the educational benefits afforded or offered within, and outside of, the School setting. Such acts include, but are not limited to incidents that interfere with or threaten the well-being or order of the School or its staff, students, or the general public.

In assigning short-term suspensions, administrators are:

- 1) aiming to improve a student's behavior;
- 2) maintaining a safe and orderly school environment; and
- 3) providing for necessary communication between the parent/ guardian and the school personnel.

Students under suspension remain responsible for completion of all schoolwork and will receive credit accordingly. Suspended students will have the opportunity to take tests and exams given during the suspension period during after school hours or upon their return to school. Teachers are under no obligation to provide help to a student while he or she is under suspension other than to provide notice of assignments.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Under Sections 37H and 37H½:

- A. Possession of a firearm on school premises, at school-sponsored or school related events, including field trips, and athletic games, and to and from school (United States Code, Section 921 of Title 18);
- B. Possession of a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school (M.G.L.A. Ch.269, Section 10);
- C. Assault/ assault and battery upon an administrator, teacher, teacher aide, or other school staff member on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, sections 13A and 13D);
- D. Possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance as defined in M.G.L.A. Ch. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, crack and heroin on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- E. Use or possession of a bomb or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- F. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, a student charged with a felony or the subject of a felony delinquency complaint may be suspended, or a student convicted, adjudicated, or admitting guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency may be expelled, provided that the Superintendent determines, after hearing, that the student's continued presence poses a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension Under Section 37H¾ include but are not limited to:

- A. Possession of a paint gun, BB gun, air rifle, pellet gun, or imitation weapon of any kind;
- B. Assault/assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, Section 15A & 15B);
- C. Possession or misuse of inhalants, glue, synthetic drugs, or any other substance, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic events, and to and from school;
- D. Academic dishonesty/cheating;
- E. Making a bomb threat by any means, including, but not limited to, verbally, electronically, or in writing;
- F. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcohol on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- G. Serious offenses as defined in Grounds for Suspension
- H. Bullying, harassment, or hate crimes; and
- I. Use or possession of an object that appears to be a firearm, bomb, or dangerous weapon.

Student Conduct on School Vehicles

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school authorities from the time they board the bus to school until they leave the bus which returns them home. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal. In any emergency situation, the bus driver shall be the Principal's designee while the bus is in transit.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with policies approved by the School Committee.

Required Conduct Aboard the Bus

1. Riders must remain in seats when the bus is in motion.
2. Loud noises and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - Talking to the driver
 - Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - Climbing over or under seats
 - Opening or closing windows
 - Leaning out of windows
 - Littering the bus

DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS

Notice of Proposed Suspension

Except in the case of an emergency removal or disciplinary offense defined under M.G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H½ or an in-school suspension as defined by 603 CMR 53.02(6), the school shall provide the student and parent/guardian with written and oral notice of the proposed out-of-school suspension, an opportunity to be heard at hearing, and the opportunity to participate at the hearing. Notice shall set forth in plain language:

- a) the disciplinary offense;
- b) the basis for the charge;
- c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the Principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing;
- e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- f) the right of the student and student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. In order to conduct a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. Reasonable effort is presumed if the Principal sent written notice and documented at least two attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency situations.

All written communications regarding notice of proposed suspension shall be either by hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Short Term Suspensions: Hearing and Principal Determination

A short-term suspension is the removal of the student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less. Out-of-school short-term suspensions which do not cumulatively over the course of the school year exceed ten (10) days of suspension shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

Principal Hearing. The purpose of the hearing with the Principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts. A parent/guardian present at the hearing shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the Principal will make a determination whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequence. The Principal will provide notification in writing of their determination in the form of an update to the student and parent/guardian, and provide reasons for the determination. If the student is suspended, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the type and duration of the suspension, and shall provide an opportunity for the student to make up assignments and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Long-Term Suspension: Hearing and Principal Determination

A long-term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal will consider in determining whether alternatives to suspension such as loss of privileges, detention, an apology, a student contract, restitution, and/or probation are appropriate.

Additionally, the student shall have the following additional rights:

- i. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- ii. the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's and or parent's/guardian's expense;
- iii. the right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; and
- iv. the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;

- v. the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal. All participants shall be informed that the hearing is being recorded by audio. A copy of the audio recording will be provided to the student or parent/guardian upon request.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing the Principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension (the use of evidence-based strategies and programs, such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports) what remedy or consequence will be imposed. If the Principal decides to impose a long-term suspension, the written determination shall:

- i. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
- ii. Set out key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- iii. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- iv. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive a specific list of education services to make academic progress during removal, and the contact information of a school member who can provide more detailed information.
- v. Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the superintendent or their designee (only if a long-term suspension has been imposed) within five (5) calendar days, which may be extended by parent/guardian request in writing an additional seven (7) calendar days.

The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through grade 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension

A student who is placed on a long-term suspension shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent if properly and timely filed. A good faith effort shall be made to include the parent/guardian at the hearing. The appeal shall be held within three (3) school days of the appeal, unless the student or parent/guardian requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, which the Superintendent shall grant.

The student and parent/guardian shall have the same rights afforded at the long-term suspension Principal hearing. Within five (5) calendar days of the hearing the Superintendent shall issue their written decision which meets the criteria required of the Principal's determination. If the Superintendent determines the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than that of the Principal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Emergency Removal

A student may be temporarily removed prior to notice and hearing when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. A Principal may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days, following the day of the emergency removal.

During the emergency, removal the Principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason for the emergency removal. The Principal shall also provide the due process requirements of written notice for suspensions and provide for a hearing which meets the due process requirements of a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable, within the two (2) school day time period, unless an extension of time for the hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent/guardian.

A decision shall be rendered orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day. The decision shall meet all of the due process requirements of a Principal's determination in a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable.

In-School Suspension Under 603 CMR 53:02 (6) & 603 CMR 53.10

In-school suspension is defined as the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not the school premises, for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year.

A Principal may impose an in-school suspension as defined above according to the following procedures:

The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

Suspension or Expulsion for Disciplinary Offenses Under M.G.L. 71 §§37H and 37H½

The due process notification and hearing requirements in the preceding sections do not apply to the following disciplinary offenses:

Possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault of staff

A student may be subject to expulsion if found in possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or the student assaults a member of educational staff, and the Principal determines the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the opportunity for a hearing, and the right to have representation at the hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. After said hearing, a Principal may, in their discretion, decide to levy a suspension rather than expulsion. A student expelled for such an infraction shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of their appeal. The student has the right to counsel at the hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student was guilty of the alleged offense.

Felony complaint or issuance of felony delinquency complaint

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony, or the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal may suspend a student for a period of time determined appropriate by the Principal if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student in writing of the charges, the reasons for the suspension (prior to such suspension taking effect), and the right to appeal. The Principal will also provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) the process for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent. The request for appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days. The hearing shall be held within three (3) days of the request. The suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing before the Superintendent. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Felony conviction or adjudication/admission in court of guilt for a felony or felony delinquency

The Principal may expel a student convicted of a felony, or has an adjudication or admission of guilt regarding a felony, if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for the proposed expulsion. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent, as well as the appeal process. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of their request for an appeal of the decision no later than five (5) calendar days following the date of the expulsion. The Superintendent hearing shall be held with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Student Suspension and Expulsion Data Collection and Reporting

The District shall collect and annually report data to the Department regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by the Department.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the Principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The Principal shall further determine whether it is

necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of-school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

Educational Services and Academic Progress Under Section 37H, 37H½, AND 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal from the classroom or school. The Superintendent or Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Superintendent shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students.

The Superintendent or Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Students Identified as Having Special Needs

1. All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Mass. General Laws, formerly known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have special needs and whose individualized program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
 - a. Students with Special Needs may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive days, and may also be suspended in excess of ten (10) cumulative days, as fully outlined under M.G.L.c. 71B, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Such suspensions may be carried out without any further or additional process.
 - b. Suspensions or exclusions in excess of ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10)

cumulative days may also occur, provided that the conduct for which the student is being disciplined is not a manifestation of their disability, and the District provides educational services which will allow the student to access the general curriculum and to make progress toward their goals.

2. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B allow school personnel to move a student with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, if that student is in possession of a dangerous weapon at school or a school function or on school property, is in possession or uses a controlled substance or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function or on school property, or inflicts serious bodily injury on a person, including him/herself. The appropriate interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP TEAM.
3. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B also allow school personnel the option of asking a hearing officer or a court to move children with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, if they are substantially likely to injure themselves or others in their current placement.
4. When a special needs student has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive or cumulative days in a school year, such that a substantial change in placement is occurring or will occur, the IEP TEAM will meet to conduct a manifestation determination.
5. When a suspension constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, District personnel, the parent/guardian, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the District, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents/guardians, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP—"a manifestation determination."
6. At the manifestation determination, a copy of the Procedural Safeguards will be given to the parent/guardian.
7. Relevant members of the TEAM meet for the manifestation determination, and they answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student: Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the student's IEP? And is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability. A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the Parent/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined according to the discipline policy in this handbook. The student will receive educational services during this period of suspension or exclusion. If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, then the school may still be able to implement an IAES (see #2 and #3 above). If the IAES is not possible, then the student will remain in their current placement, and the TEAM will arrange for a functional behavioral assessment (if one has not been conducted on the student) and the development or modification of a behavior intervention plan. The Principal or designee will notify the Special

Education Office of the suspension offense of a special needs student and a record will be kept of such notices.

Students Identified as Having a Disability and on a Section 504 Plan

Students are expected to meet the expectations for behavior identified in this handbook. A student on a Section 504 plan may be disciplined like any other non-disabled student. However, if the student is going to be suspended for ten (10) or more cumulative days, expelled or suspended for more than fifteen (15) cumulative days (and there is a change in placement as a result), then a manifestation determination review shall be conducted. The students' 504 team shall convene, and answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student:

1. Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the students' 504 plan?
2. Is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability?

A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

Procedural Requirements for Students Not Yet Determined to be Eligible for Special Education

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for special education students if the school had knowledge (as determined by the IDEA) that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school district may be considered to have prior knowledge if, before the behavior that resulted in the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the student's school or to a teacher of the student that the student is in need of special education and related services; or
2. The parent requested an evaluation of the student; or
3. District staff expressed, directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel, specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be deemed to have had knowledge if the parent has not consented to an evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student was completed and resulted in a determination of ineligibility. If the district had no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subjected to disciplinary measures applied to students without disabilities. However, if an evaluation is requested during the time period in which the student is subjected to these disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner.

Referral to and Action By Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

- (A) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION-** Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or to prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.
- (B) **TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS-** An agency reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.

Electronic Devices

Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the instructional day. All phones and "smart" watches are to be turned off and secured until after dismissal.

Searches

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student will be conducted in a way that protects the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

The legality of a search of a student, their clothing and/or possessions depends simply on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search (According to *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S 325 1985). The search by a school official is "justified at its inception" when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that a student or students has violated or is violating the laws or rules of the school." Secondly, that "such a search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Any individual, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by them under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, carrying on their person a firearm, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any school building, or at any school related event without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such school, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Firearm shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events,

including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. See individual school-site's sanctions for such violations.

Any student, who assaults a Principal, Associate Principal, teacher, instructional assistant or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.

Dress Code

In the Greenfield Public Schools, we encourage self expression and individuality in all of our students. In order to maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, students must refrain from wearing clothing that may be deemed discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, gender, or religion; or depicts alcohol, drugs, weapons or acts of violence. Building administrators will have the final say on questionable articles of clothing and may request that the student change or cover up.

Hats, caps and hoods are not to be worn in school during the school day. Clothing, attire, and accessories found to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process, or which has affected the safety of students, will be determined a violation of the dress code by the school administration.

LAWS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RECORDS

The Regulations Pertaining to Student Records were developed by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure parents, students and former students of their rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records. The regulations have the force of law and apply to all elementary and secondary schools. Below is a summary of the major provisions of the regulations. A copy of the regulations is available for inspection in the main office or guidance office.

A parent or any student who is at least 14 years old has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student not later than two days after the request, unless the student or parent consents to a delay. Copies of the record must be given to the student or parent upon request for a fee of no more than the actual cost of copying.

The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains your name, address, and your birth date; the name and address of your parents or guardians; course titles; grades (or the equivalent when grades are not applicable); grade level completed and the grade completed.

The temporary record consists of all the information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. This information may include your standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities in which you took part and evaluations by your teachers, counselors, or other school staff. A school health record, which gives a general profile of your health, is included. The temporary record shall not contain any anonymous information and will be destroyed after graduation.

As of 1998, Massachusetts Law (General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

At any time that the school receives a request for student records from a parent who does not have physical custody of the child and who has not yet provided the school with the information required by Section 34H, the school should inform the non-custodial parent of the requirements of the law. This may be done by providing the parent with a letter from the school that sets forth the procedures the parent must follow in order to get access to the records.

Destruction of Records:

Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than seven (7) years after that student transfers, graduates or withdraws from the school system. Temporary records are defined as all information in a student record, which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, extracurricular activities and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. When the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the documents be provided to them. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

In addition, each year, the Principal and/or teachers and/or other service providers may destroy the following documents that are considered part of the student's temporary record: disciplinary records (other than documentation of suspensions or expulsions or exclusions), any notes from the parent/guardian or other documents concerning absences, early dismissals, late arrivals, as well as examples of student work. If the eligible student or the parent/guardian want those records, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school that the documents be provided to them, rather than be destroyed. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

PUBLICATION

Greenfield Public Schools may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent. It is also the practice of the Greenfield School District to give permission for school personnel and the media (e.g., cable television, newspapers, commercial television, radio, and the world wide web) to develop and present in the classroom, in the school

hallways, on websites, to the public, print, pictures, and voice related to school programs and students for the purposes of public relations and the dissemination of non-confidential information (i.e., news stories). The Greenfield School District gives such permission without the prior individual approval of parents and caregivers.

If you do not wish for your child's directory information to be released, or to be photographed, and/or videotaped on such occasions, or for any reason, please inform the Principal at the individual school your child is attending, in writing using the form provided at the end of this handbook, prior to September 15th of the school year. It is the parents'/caregivers' responsibility to notify the school in writing, prior to September 15th, if there are any concerns and or restrictions regarding the publicity of their child's picture, name, voice, or representation in the classroom, school building, local media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, or digital recording for teacher/student evaluation purposes. If we do not receive written documentation to the contrary, then we will assume that the school has your permission.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains a provision regarding the disclosure of names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. The District is obligated to provide, upon request, names, addresses and telephone numbers of students in grades 9-12 to military recruiters, charter schools as well as to institutions of higher education. Therefore, student names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be released to military recruiters, charter schools and institutions of higher learning UNLESS the parent/guardian or student notifies the Principal in writing indicating that they DO NOT want this information released.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Several important pieces of federal and state legislation are listed here for your benefit. These laws prohibit discrimination in public schools. The essence of these laws is presented in the following paragraphs:

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Chapter 622

"No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion or national origin."

Section 504

MGL Chapter 76 specifically states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

The Director of Pupil Services is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator. She will coordinate the Greenfield Public Schools' efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the regulations. Any inquiries concerning the application of the regulations to the practices and policies of the Greenfield Public Schools may be addressed to the Director of Pupil Services 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA 01301 or at 413-772-1327 or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20221.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Greenfield Public Schools reaffirm that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. The Greenfield Public Schools also reaffirm its commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights will not be tolerated.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violation to the building principal. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.
3. The Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

WORKING PERMITS

If you hold a full or part-time job, whether school related or not, you must provide your employer with a work permit. This form indicates to your employer that you are still in school and therefore may not be employed during school hours. Work permits may be obtained from the guidance office or the Superintendent's office both during the school year and during the summer. This request is in accordance with the provisions of Section 8695 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PARENTAL OPT-OUT RIGHTS

Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Greenfield Public Schools, through its curricula and instructional materials, promotes respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal regarding curriculum content and may submit a written request to the building principal to opt out of specific portion(s) of the curriculum that conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, at the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s).

Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.
 2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.
- Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the materials at the school.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves, or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;

- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetic photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents/guardians and families are expected. For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or;
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or

- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or their designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within their school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred they shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or their designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

Disciplinary and Corrective Action

Violation of this protocol is a serious offense. Violators may be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action to stop the conduct and prevent its recurrence. The District is committed to protecting the complainant, and all students, from bullying. Procedural manuals containing responsibilities of staff and students, reporting procedures, complaint process, resolution, and protection against retaliation shall be in place at each level. All disciplinary incidents will be reported using the school disciplinary action process.

HARASSMENT POLICY

If you feel that you are the victim of any type of harassment, including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, you should follow the policy listed below:

1. Report the matter to a school administrator, counselor, teacher and/or other staff member.
2. The assistant principal will then arrange for a prompt investigation. The assistant principal will meet with all of those involved who will have an opportunity to give a statement.
3. If the accusation of harassment has been substantiated by the assistant principal, the principal will be notified. Appropriate discipline will be administered depending on the nature of the offense.
 - a. Verbal first offenses will be handled by a warning to be followed by much stricter discipline if the offending behavior continues. Parents will be notified.
 - b. Physical offenses will be taken very seriously. Appropriate discipline will be administered. Parents will be notified.

The Committee recognizes that children learn best and teachers teach best when schools are safe. In safe schools, students and teachers feel physically secure, respected and supported. The Committee promotes Civil Rights and Protecting Students from Harassment, Bullying, and Hate Crimes. The Complaint Procedure in this handbook may also be followed in appropriate circumstances.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The school's support of equal educational opportunity includes the recognition that sexual harassment of students will not be tolerated. Any student who feels that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment should report the matter immediately to a school administrator, counselor, teacher, and/or other staff member who will arrange for a prompt investigation and corrective action where appropriate.

Sexual Harassment Definition

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

1. Submission to such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's education; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for education decisions affecting such student; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1. Assault, inappropriate touching, intentionally impeding movement, comments, gestures, or written communications of a suggestive or derogatory nature.
2. Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. (Reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment)
3. Implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved, or suggesting that a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
4. Coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence or affect the educational opportunities, grades and/or the learning environment of a student.
5. Offering or granting favors or educational benefits, such as grades or recommendations, in exchange for sexual favors.

Other sexual harassing behavior directed towards students, whether committed by management, staff, or students, is also prohibited. Such conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances or propositions;
2. Sexually explicit language or gestures;
3. Touching that an individual interprets as sexual in nature;
4. Any unwelcome physical contact;
5. The presence of sexually provocative photographs, pictures or other material, and the telling of sexual stories or jokes.
6. Verbal or non-verbal behavior about an individual's body that is interpreted as sexual in nature.

Reporting:

Any student who believes he/she is a victim of sexual harassment should talk to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible. Students should avoid trying to solve the problem of sexual harassment alone.

All persons shall promptly report actual knowledge of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator David Messing, Director of Pupil Services.

"Actual knowledge" means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any employee of the district, except that this standard is not met when the only official of the district with actual knowledge is the respondent (where the respondent is an employee). Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. Complaints will be addressed whenever the district has actual knowledge of the allegation.

Formal Complaint:

The Title IX Coordinator must then contact the complainant upon receiving the complaint and do the following:

- Discuss and offer supportive measures;
- Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- Explain that supportive measures may be received with or without filing a formal complaint;
- Determine whether the complainant wishes to file a formal complaint; and
- Explain to the complainant the purpose of filing a formal complaint

Formal complaint means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

If the complainant declines to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must consider whether to sign a formal complaint and start an investigation despite the complainant's preferences.

This decision may be appropriate when safety or similar concerns lead the district to conclude it must investigate and potentially sanction a respondent.

A Title IX Coordinator's decision to override the complainant's decision not to file a formal complaint must be documented in writing along with an explanation of why this decision was necessary.

An informal resolution may be found if a formal complaint is not filed. The Title IX Coordinator can consider offering mediation. The parties must give written consent to engage in this process. Informal resolution may not be used if the allegation is against an employee respondent.

Prior to Investigating:

Before any investigation can begin, the district must send written notice to both parties including sufficient details. Sufficient details include: identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, 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 is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

The written notice must 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.

The written notice must inform the parties that the District's code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If additional allegations are added during the course of the investigation, additional written notice must be provided.

Investigating

The Title IX Coordinator will designate an investigator and a decision maker, who may not be the same person. The investigator must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of the investigation. The investigator will be responsible for interviewing parties and witnesses, finding facts, and making determinations related to credibility, all of which will go into a written report.

The investigator must avoid all questions that are protected by legal privilege, unless the privilege has been waived, and should avoid asking about the complainant's sexual history unless it is directly relevant to prove consent to the conduct at issue or to prove that the conduct was committed by someone other than the respondent.

Complainants and respondents have a right to have advisors of their choice participate in all aspects of the proceedings. During the investigation, each party must be provided an equal opportunity to present both fact and expert witnesses. The parties will have the opportunity to provide relevant written questions to each other before the decision maker reaches a determination. In the event the decision maker decides not to allow a particular question, the decision maker must explain to the parties why the question is not relevant to the determination.

* 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 investigation shall consist of personal interviews with the complaint, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods deemed pertinent.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the school district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

In addition, the Title IX Coordinator may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the complainant, students and employees pending completion of the investigation of alleged sexual harassment.

Decision Making and Disciplinary Action:

The decision-maker must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of this process. The decision-maker will offer both the complainant and respondent the opportunity to offer additional limited follow-up.

After this process is complete, the decision-maker will create a written determination regarding whether sexual harassment has occurred using a preponderance of the evidence standard. A "preponderance of the evidence" means that it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred.

The written determination must be issued to both parties simultaneously and must include:

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
2. 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, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity will be provided by the recipient to the complainant; and
6. The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal (a copy of, or direct reference to, this policy will suffice).
7. The decision-maker shall further recommend what action, if any, is required.

The report, once finalized, must be submitted to the parties in electronic form, or a hard copy. The parties then have another 10 days to provide additional information before a determination is made.

If there is a finding that sexual harassment occurred, the school district will provide remedies to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school district's education program or activity. Such remedies may include supportive measures.

Formal disciplinary actions may be imposed in the event that the preponderance of the evidence indicates a violation of this policy, up to and including expulsion or termination. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with due process rights under State law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Appeals

Any party may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) school days of receipt of the findings of the formal procedure or a dismissal on the following bases:

1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the investigation that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
3. 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 or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The school district will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties. Both parties will have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

Records

Records must be kept for seven years.

Reprisal:

Reprisal, threats, or intimidation of the victim or a person who provides information regarding a claim of sexual harassment will be treated as a most serious offense, which may result in a recommendation of permanent separation from the school community through expulsion from school.

Frivolous Complaints:

When a complaint of sexual harassment is unfounded, frivolous, or maliciously fabricated, the complainant shall be subject to a range of disciplinary and corrective actions consistent with the Code of Conduct.

Reports to Police:

Depending upon the seriousness and frequency of incidents, the Greenfield or Massachusetts State Police may be contacted by the school administration.

HAZING

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 strictly prohibits any type of hazing or initiation into any student organization which will endanger, either physical or mental, a student's person.

The law specifically states:

*Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term hazing as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly may endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

*Section 18: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

*Section 19: Each secondary school and each public and private college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operation on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18.

Full documentation and explanations are available from the building principal or his designee.

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring themselves, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements; including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent/guardian of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving an investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents/guardians in discussions about restraint prevention in and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;

- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00,
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint".

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents/guardians of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

4. Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Liaison

The Homeless Education liaison's role is to assist homeless students enroll in school to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible. Further information may be obtained by David Messing, Director of Pupil Services, 413-772-1327

School Placement, Transportation, and Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their school of origin and receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing.

School placement determinations must be based on the best interest of the homeless student. In making decisions regarding best interests, school districts must:

- Presume keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, school placement of siblings, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

For homeless students who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, districts must remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, on-line learning, and charter school programs.

Transportation

School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. Furthermore:

- If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed;
- If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing their education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin; and

- If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students. Each school district's homeless education liaison must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed, in the language of the home, of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

Enrollment

School districts must immediately enroll homeless students in school to provide educational stability and avoid separation from school for days or weeks while documents are located.

Therefore, homeless education liaisons must ensure that:

- Students who chose to enroll in school where they are temporarily residing must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them;
- If a homeless student arrives without records, the previously attended school district is contacted and the required records requested;
- That homeless students are attending school while the records are being requested;
- Districts remove barriers to homeless students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and
- Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information and therefore cannot be shared with the public including landlords.

FORM A

DO NOT RELEASE FORM - STUDENT INFORMATION

*As a parent/guardian you may **NOT** want your child's information to be released.*

**Only return this form if you do not want your child's
information released**

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), a school may release student directory information, including students names and addresses, so long as the school provides public notice of the type of information it releases and allows parents a reasonable period of time to request that the information not be released. Generally, schools provide this notice to parents.

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

The Greenfield Public Schools will release directory information to colleges, scholarship organizations, the military, other post-graduate programs such as technical schools, and other individuals and/or groups upon request.

FORM B

IJNDB-R: EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information

and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the district's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the school district network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines they will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- an individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.
- users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately.

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by district administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

SOURCE: MASC, August 2015

Approved by Greenfield School Committee March 10, 2021

EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY: REGULATIONS

Purpose

The Greenfield Public Schools maintain a computer network and computer systems to provide students, faculty and staff with access to a host of resources both internally within the district and on the Internet. These resources include, but are not limited to, desktop, laptop, and tablet computers, personal digital assistants, network and Internet access, e-mail, telephones, voicemail and facsimile machines (collectively to be called "Electronic Resources"). The

Greenfield Public Schools network is established to support the educational mission and administrative operations of the individual schools.

Responsibilities

As a student or employee at the Greenfield Public Schools you may have access to Electronic Resources, including the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the public schools community and all expectations regarding standards of behavior as outlined in the Student, Employee or Employee Handbook apply to your actions while utilizing or accessing the network or other Electronic Resources. You are expected to use the Electronic Resources in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but Greenfield Public Schools reserves the right to limit your access. If you believe a website is blocked in error, please contact the Greenfield Public Schools Office of Information Technology to initiate a review. Access to the Greenfield Public Schools network is a privilege and not a right. Unacceptable Uses and Behavior Activities that are considered violations of this electronic resources acceptable use policy and school rules include but are not limited to:

- Illegal Activities
- involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software
- interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking," "cracking," probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type without express permission.
- adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services.
- Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement
- transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.
- plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited.
- tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to Greenfield Public Schools or other people.
- using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying except as expressly allowed during a school activity.
- attempting to log on to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- trespassing in another's folders, e-mail, work, or files or using another person's account.
- changing computer files that do not belong to you.
- conducting yourself in ways that are harmful to others.
- creating, transferring or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous or threatening messages.

- viewing, storing or transferring obscene, sexually explicit or pornographic material.
- posting or sending e-mail or voicemail messages that are personal attacks, including any prejudicial, discriminatory, racist or sexist content, could cause damage or disruption, contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or harassing another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Disciplinary actions Violation of this Acceptable Use Policy is considered a violation of district policy. Some behaviors are considered violations of a major school rule. Violations will result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions (Greenfield Public Schools will decide in its sole discretion which disciplinary action is warranted under the circumstances):

- verbal warning
- written warning
- restriction of access privileges
- removal from a class activity
- removal from a course
- confiscation of computer equipment
- student detention, restrictions or work hours
- suspension or expulsion
- payment for damages due to your actions
- referral to legal authorities

Privacy Users of the network or other Electronic Resources have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Greenfield Public Schools network or on other Electronic Resources (e.g., voicemail and email). Information such as emails transmitted over the network may be a public record. The network is subject to monitoring. Limited Liability Greenfield Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Greenfield Public Schools are not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy included in the Parent/Guardian and Student Handbook available on the district website. I understand and agree to abide by the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy.

Printed Name of Student or Staff Member

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent (if Required)

Signature

Date

Federal Street School



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Greenfield Public Schools

**125 Federal Street
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
413-772-1380
Fax: 413-774-1319**

The Greenfield School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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School Committee Policies are located on Greenfield Public Schools' Website:
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RELEVANT FORMS

Student Records Opt Out Form
Acceptable Use Policy

Translation Information: If you need assistance reading this document or other school publications, please contact the principal to obtain translation services.

Spanish

Si usted necesita ayuda para leer este documento u otras publicaciones de la escuela, por favor póngase en contacto con el director del edificio para obtener servicios de traducción.

Portuguese

Se você necessitar o auxílio que lê este original ou outras publicações da escola, contate por favor o principal do edifício para obter serviços de tradução.

French

Si vous avez besoin de l'aide pour lire ce document ou des autres publications de l'école, svp entrez en contact avec le principal du bâtiment pour obtenir les services de traduction.

Italian

Se avete bisogno dell'assistenza che leggete questo documento o altre pubblicazioni della scuola, mettasi in contatto con prego il principale della costruzione per ottenere i servizi di traduzione.

German

Wenn Sie Unterstützung dieses Dokument oder andere Schulepublikationen lesend benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit der Gebäudedirektion in Verbindung, um Übersetzungsdienste zu erhalten.

Russian

Если Вам нужна помощь в прочтении этого документа или других публикаций школы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором Вашей школы для получения перевода.

District Phone Numbers:

Central Office

Superintendent

Roland R. Joyal, Jr.
413-772-1326

Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Sullivan
413-772-1315

Pupil Services

David Messing, Director
413-772-1324

Sarah Crawford, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1317

Elaine Mount, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1407

Technology Services

Ian Edwards, Director
413-772-1322

Facilities

Michael Boudreau, Manager
413-772-1406

Food Service Department

TBD, Director
413-772-1334

Business Office

Vera Ayrpetyan, Asst. Business Manager
413-772-1312

Schools

Academy of Early Learning

Jill Taglia, Principal
413-772-1390

Federal Street School

Kelly Halpin, Principal
413-772-1380

Discovery School at Four Corners

David Potter, Principal
413-772-1375

Newton School

Carol Jacobs, Interim Principal
413-772-1370

Greenfield Middle School

Michelle Fenimore, Principal
413-772-1360

Greenfield High School

Michael Browning, Principal
413-772-1350

Dear Federal Street School Families,

I would like to welcome you to Federal Street School. The staff and I are eager to start a productive and positive school year with all of our students and families. At Federal Street School we are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment that develops the whole child. We have a skilled and caring staff that includes award winning teachers. Together they create an environment that fosters engaged, joyful learning. FSS is a place where every child is supported on their path to success.

I am proud of the academic rigor we provide for all students at Federal Street School. We use high quality curriculum resources that raise the bar for all learners. We also subscribe to a Multi-Tiered System of Support model. This promotes high expectations while utilizing multiple resources to support students' academic and social and emotional well-being. This includes academic interventions, behavioral supports as well as special education services. We embrace a growth mindset with the belief that all of our students have the capacity to be successful.

We are committed to maintaining a strong collaboration between our school and students' families. We have an active and supportive PTO. There are a lot of meaningful opportunities, both large and small to get involved. I encourage you to join a meeting during the year. We enjoy an open flow of communication with families. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns that arise during the year.

Our school mantra is "The FSS Way: Friendly, Safe and Successful." Students are encouraged to make positive choices that contribute to a friendly, safe and successful school community. On behalf of the administration, teachers and staff I want to thank you in advance for your support and participation in achieving this vision for our students.

Sincerely,

Kelly Halpin, Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operations

The Academy of Early Learning, Discovery School at Four Corners, Federal Street School and Newton School

Arrival: 8:15 am
School Day Begins: 8:30 am
Dismissal 2:55 pm

Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School

Arrival: 7:30 am
School Day Begins: 7:45
Dismissal: 2:10

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

FSS Arrival: Drop off begins at 8:15. Students dropped off in the front of the building will be directed to the playground, or gym depending on weather, until 8:30. Buses will drop students off at the playground gate on Franklin Street. Students will enter classrooms at 8:30.

FSS Dismissal: At dismissal, bus students will board buses in the loop at the front of the building. Students picked up by parents will be dismissed by their teacher, on the playground at 2:55.

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the Greenfield Public Schools may cancel school, delay the start of school or determine the need to dismiss early. In those instances, families in Greenfield Public Schools will receive an automated phone message, email and text message through School Messenger. Information about the status of school can also be found on WWLP, Western Mass News and NECN and available on 98.3 WHAI. The information will also be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Attendance Requirements and Punctuality Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to student learning and for them to experience educational success. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year and parents/guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure students are in attendance every day. Students who are absent for 10% of the days they are enrolled (18 days for a student enrolled for

the full, 180 day school year) are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism has been shown to negatively impact the academic and social skills needed to succeed in school.

For Absences:	For Tardiness:	For Early Dismissals:	For Messages:
If your child is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the school's absence line at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please provide the student's name, your name and the date for the absence. Schools will dispatch automated calls to absent students' homes approximately 15 mins. after the start of school After 3 days of unexcused absences a staff member will contact the students' homes. Attendance letters will be generated after the 5th, 10th, and 15th absences and will be sent to parents/guardians. After the 7th and 15th day of unexcused absences, school administration will schedule a meeting with the student and family. Additionally, a home visit may be scheduled no later	If your child will arrive after the school day begins a parent/guardian should provide a note to the Main Office with the explanation of the tardiness. Please enter the building at the Main Entrance for all arrivals after the start of school. The issue of tardies will be addressed following progressive discipline. If a student is tardy to a particular class more than 3 times, the student will receive an office detention for the fourth and subsequent tardies	If your child needs to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, they should bring a note to the Main Office before school begins. The note should include the time of dismissal, the reason for leaving early and how the student will be leaving (i.e.; student drivers) If your child did not bring a note and needs to leave early, please call the Main Office to inform the school. All students must be signed out in the Main Office and will only be released to people on their Student Contact Information. If other arrangements are needed, please speak to one of our administrative assistants.	If you need to get a message to your child or drop off a forgotten item, please call/visit the Main Office to ensure that your child receives the message/item. We will not disrupt classes for non-emergency situations.

than the 15th unexcused absence.			

Attendance Communication Responsibilities

- Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school of a planned absence (surgery, medical appointment etc...) as soon as they are able. However, they are asked to inform the school no later than 15 minutes before the start of school. Please call the school main office number and follow the prompts for the absentee call in line. If the school does not receive a message from the parent/guardian by the designated time, then the school will send an automated message to all numbers associated with the parents/guardians informing them of their child's absence from school.
- School: The school is required to notify a parent/guardian of a child's absence if the school has not received notification by the parent/guardian within 3 days of the absence. We are further required to notify parents/guardians if a student has missed 2 or more classes as unexcused in a 5-day period of time or if the student has missed 5 or more unexcused days in the school year. The Principal and/or designee will arrange a meeting with families of students who have 5 or more unexcused absences for the purpose of developing action steps to improve student attendance at school.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in the family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Family vacations are not considered to be excused absences. Families are encouraged to plan vacations during scheduled school vacation weeks to avoid students missing valuable instructional time.

Students must meet the school's attendance requirements in order to earn credit for courses or to be promoted to the next grade. Students who exceed the allowable number of excused or unexcused absences shall not be granted credit for their courses.

School representatives may file a Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) for a student who is habitually absent and misses more than 8 days in a quarter without a proper excuse or is a habitual school offender who doesn't obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the school. A CRA may be considered after multiple attempts to engage parents/guardians which have been unsuccessful in improving attendance. Community agencies, such as the Franklin County

Family Resource Center, will also be offered to support families prior to a CRA being filed by the school.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Section 18, students 16 years of age or older who have 10 consecutive absences shall receive written notice of their right to be invited to an exit interview before the student may be administratively unenrolled from school.

If a Special Education student is chronically absent, the IEP team should convene and rewrite the student's IEP to reflect this issue.

Missing Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments, tests or quizzes. Unless arrangements are made, the student may have as many days as missed in order to make up the work. For example, if a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to make up the required work. A minimum 24 hour notice is required to prepare materials should the parent/guardian wish to make a request for student assignments prior to an absence.

Punctuality Expectations and Tardiness

Being on time for all classes and required school functions is expected of all students. At the start of each class, teachers will take classroom attendance. Records of missed classes due to absences, late arrivals, early dismissals or disciplinary referrals will be referenced for course failure deliberations and/or disciplinary consequences. If a student needs to arrive late to a class, they should obtain and provide a pass indicating the reason for their tardiness to be excused.

For families of students with excessive tardies, a meeting with school administration and other applicable staff will be scheduled. A plan to improve student punctuality to school will be developed. If a student's punctuality does not improve, school administrators may utilize progressive discipline up to and including internal suspension.

Absences and School Events

Students who are absent for more than a half day will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. If the activity or event is on a weekend, students who were absent the day before will not be able to attend. This includes any sporting events, concerts, dances etc. Absences that are exempted are not included in this policy.

Building Security and Safety Plan

In order to support facility safety and security within the Greenfield School District for all school personnel, students and visitors, the following district-wide and school-site procedures shall be followed during regular school hours:

Exterior doors to all school buildings are kept locked. Visitors wishing to enter a school building are asked to ring the doorbell to request entry. All visitors are required to proceed to the main office immediately upon entry. During arrival and dismissal, school administrators shall assign available school personnel to areas of the facilities requiring special supervision.

Visitors will be required to sign in, wear a Visitor badge and be escorted to their destination. Prior to leaving the building, individuals must report back to the main office, return the badges, and sign out.

All students arriving late, leaving early, or being taken out and brought back during the school day (e.g. for medical or dental appointments) must report to the main office in the company of parent, guardian or designated person, in order to be signed out/in by the office secretary or other designated individuals. Parents/guardians or other individuals entering the building in order to dismiss or return a student must report to the main office.

Individuals are encouraged to report information which could help keep our schools safe and prevent potential violence. Information should be reported directly to a school administrator.

Safety and Security Procedures

Emergency evacuation routes are posted within each classroom. Safety and security drills will be conducted to review procedures with students and staff. The function of these drills is to create a rapid, safe and organized method of responding to situations. All visitors in the building at the time safety and security protocols are utilized are required to follow the protocols.

Care of School Property and Textbooks

Students are responsible for all school property loaned to them, including library books, textbooks, technology, laboratory equipment, athletic uniforms, band uniforms, musical instruments, and other school property.

Any student who damages, destroys or does not return school issued equipment shall be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Meal Program

The Greenfield Public Schools participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and is required to follow all USDA policies related to these programs. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

The Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Department recognizes the importance of student nutrition and the role proper nutrition plays in successful learning. Students are offered nutritionally-balanced meals each day, which include a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with scratch-cooked and locally-sourced options. The latest menus for each grade level can be found [here](#), and will also be posted to the GPS Food Services Instagram and Facebook pages @GreenfieldSchoolFood. In the 2025-2026 school year all Greenfield Public Schools will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and are therefore able to provide FREE breakfast and lunch to all students who attend. Charges will still apply to second meals, separately purchased milk, and a la carte items at Greenfield High School.

For online payment and additional payment information, please visit the Food Services Payment Portal under the Food Services Department on the Greenfield Public Schools district website at www.gpsk12.org. The *My School Bucks* link can be found there. From this link, you may pay or

prepay your child's account. Please note that there is a \$2.49 transaction fee. It is recommended that you make larger payments at one time to avoid more fees, when using the online payment method. You will need the child's name, student ID number and the zip code 01301, or see our instructions under the dropdown bar on the website.

- 2025-2026 School Lunch Prices: FREE for all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. If students wish to purchase *additional meals* beyond the first free meal, prices are as follows:
 - Elementary - \$3.25
 - Middle - \$3.50
 - High - \$3.75
- Separately Purchased Milk - \$0.60 (Milk is free with school provided meals)
- At Greenfield High School only: additional a la carte items are sold at Greenfield High School. These additional a la carte items include A-list approved snacks and beverages sold individually. Money must be added to accounts in order to purchase any a la carte items at any school location as these are not part of the FREE lunch program offered through the Community Eligibility Provision.

School Council

The School Council is composed of parents/guardians, staff, and community members and serves as a sounding board that can provide perspective for the principal on a variety of school-related topics. Please contact the Principal if you are interested in being a part of this year's School Council. The School Council meets monthly and meetings are open to all.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer council of parents, guardians, and other members of the community concerned with the delivery of appropriate special education services in Greenfield Public Schools. The SEPAC holds regular meetings that are open to the public, and notices of meetings are posted within the schools and on the website. Special education parent advisory councils are a requirement of the current Massachusetts Special Education Regulations. The Regulations specify two of the responsibilities, and others can be added. The two include advising the School Committee on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. The Greenfield SEPAC typically works with the Pupil Services Office to plan workshops for parents including an annual workshop about parents' rights in special education.

Volunteers

We encourage parents/guardians and community members to volunteer in our school. However, please be reminded that all volunteers who are working in any capacity in the school setting are bound by the laws of confidentiality and will be required to comply with CORI and/or fingerprint requirements. Information obtained through observation or participation in classrooms is completely confidential. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit the website at www.gpsk12.org under Families and Community.

Lost and Found

Lost and found articles are stored in a designated area at each school. If your child has a missing item, please send in a note with a description of the lost item to your child's teacher, or feel free to come to school yourself and ask for the "Lost & Found" area. Unclaimed articles are distributed and donated appropriately periodically. It is strongly recommended that all clothing, especially boots, snow pants, jackets, etc. be marked with your child's name on an inside area.

Toy Guidelines

Please do not send students to school with toys that may be lost, stolen, and/or broken. Many children are upset when their toys are lost or when trading of toys occurs. The best way to avoid this is to keep all toys at home. Schools are not responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

Technology Use and Digital Learning

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to preparing students for a world that is increasingly digital while also balancing the use of technology during the school day. Over the past several years, the district has invested in high-quality instructional materials—many of which include digital components. These tools support differentiated instruction and help personalize learning to meet individual student needs.

At the same time, we recognize concerns about excessive screen time. Educators are encouraged to use discretion and to limit screen time that is not directly connected to the curriculum, including as a reward or incentive. If you have concerns about your student's use of technology in school, please begin by speaking with your child's teacher. If the issue is not resolved, you are encouraged to contact the school principal.

The district supports the right of students and staff to access a variety of information formats and expects all users to act responsibly and appropriately. We apply the same standards of educational value to digital media as we do to other instructional resources.

Technology use is integrated throughout our curriculum in age-appropriate ways and aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students are provided with ongoing instruction in digital citizenship, including how to use technology to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate effectively, and participate in a global society.

Sensitivities and Allergies

Please be aware that many of our students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to certain foods and scents. We kindly ask families and students to:

- Avoid sending snacks or meals that contain high-risk allergens, such as peanuts.
- Refrain from using heavily scented perfumes, lotions, or other fragrance products.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism (copying) of material from any source, for any and all academic works including: papers, presentations or reports, submitting someone else's work as one's own, using google translate, copy and pasting electronic material, the unauthorized removal of test/exam documents/materials from a classroom, photographing test/exam documents, are all considered forms of academic dishonesty.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards will be issued quarterly (semester at elementary) throughout the year; please see the school calendar for the specific dates. Progress reports will be issued at the midpoint of each quarter or later if needed.

Referrals of Students Regarding Suspected Disabilities

The parent/guardian of a Greenfield resident who is between the ages of 2.5 years and 22 years old may contact the Pupil Services Office with concerns or to request special education evaluations related to a known or suspected disability. Some examples of areas of concern are academic skills, social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and speech and/or language skills. The Pupil Services Office may be reached at 413-772-1320 ext. 3327. In addition, parents/guardians can share concerns with their child's school principal, who can forward the information to the Pupil Services Office.

Observations of Special Education Programs

1. Parents'/guardian's request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made at least five days in advance with the Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal.
2. The Director of Pupil Services or designee shall contact the parent(s)/guardian for initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the parents'/guardian's request.
3. When a parent/guardian requests an observation of a student receiving special education services or programs, the Director of Pupil Services or designee will seek approval from the Superintendent or designee and the Principal before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulation.
4. The Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal will work with the classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling l'm and placement of the observer in the classroom).
5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
6. If the observer is not the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign a release for the individual to observe.
7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.

8. The observer will be informed that they are not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If their presence presents a problem, they will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents/guardians can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and that of others.
9. If applicable, the observer will be asked to submit their report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
10. The observer will be informed that they are not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform their contractual job duties.
11. The observer will be instructed regarding the prohibition of disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible, the observer may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.
12. A school administrator, or designee, also will observe at the same time and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s)/guardian prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

STUDENT HEALTH

Illness & Injury

If determined by the School Nurse, the student is unable to remain in school, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to make arrangements for dismissal.

Medications

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

Immunizations

As required by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 15, every school child must be "successfully immunized". The Department of Public Health has established the following schedules as legal requirements for children to attend school. Please be aware that these requirements may change annually.

Preschool:

1. IPV (polio), 3 or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), 1 or more doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), four or more doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella, 1 or more doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

Grades K-12:

1. IPV (polio), four or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) , 2 doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), five doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella – two doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.
7. Tdap, 1 dose is required for all students entering grade 7- 11
8. Meningococcal Grade 7-9 1 dose, 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Grade 11-12 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required.

*Varicella vaccination is required unless the student has a diagnosis of chickenpox disease by the HCP or laboratory proof of immunity.

*Physical exam must show the date of at least 1 lead screen for all children born in Massachusetts.

Physical Education Excused Absences

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education classes, please send a note to your child's teacher. A note written and signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason, will allow an excused absence once per term.

If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education class on an ongoing basis, please provide a note from your child's physician for review by the school nurse. The school nurse may excuse students from Physical Education classes for medical reasons without a doctor's note once per term.

Home or Hospital Instruction

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the student is eligible to receive educational services in that setting, temporarily, from the school district. The students' parents must submit the form called Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons to the Director of Pupil Services, and the Director of Pupil Services shall arrange for provision of educational services in the hospital or a home for students who meet the criteria. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Director of Student Services.

CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

Administrative Discretion

Greenfield Public Schools believe in the use of a restorative approach to address the whole student and needs that have led to their actions. In doing so, administrative flexibility is required in any disciplinary action to account for individual cases, unusual problems not anticipated nor written in school regulation, and maintenance of effective control of behavior in a public school. The administration reserves the right to adjust actions based upon the severities of the offense or mitigating circumstances. Action taken must also meet the reasonableness and protection of the rights of students.

Greenfield Public Schools expect all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment. We incorporate all provisions of the Mass. General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H, 37H½, and 37H¾ in our Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action affecting a student with a disability must comply with the prescribed procedures under state and federal law. Greenfield incorporates all of the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) (disciplining students with disabilities), as well as 603 CMR 28.08 (dispute resolution before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals), in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Disciplinary Procedures

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be decided according to the facts accompanying the case. Effort will be made to discipline students while maintaining them in regular school programs. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the disciplinary process. In many cases, however, the following discipline options may be utilized:

1. Students may be given detention or one of several other disciplinary options, including a warning. If after school detention is given, parents must make arrangements for safe student transport home. (Scheduling arrangements for detention can be requested for a parent to provide transportation).
2. Bus privileges may be revoked for acts of misbehavior.
3. Students may have school-driving privileges revoked.
4. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.
5. Students may be internally suspended from their regular classes.
6. Students may be externally suspended from school when they are a danger to themselves or others, or when they demonstrate a chronic inability or unwillingness to abide by school regulations. The Principal will decide the length of each suspension.
7. Students may be required to perform school-based community service.
8. Students may be required to pay restitution, write letters of apology, or be assigned special projects.
9. Students may be referred for counseling, risk assessments or psycho-educational evaluations.
10. Greenfield may order a change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.

11. A student may be excluded from school.

Students who do not abide by the rules of the In-House Alternative Program or who do not modify their behavior will be referred to the administration for external suspension.

During the period of suspension, a student may not appear on school property or at school-related activities or events either as a spectator or participant. A violation of this policy will be considered a trespass resulting in immediate notification of the Greenfield Police Department.

Depending upon the reason for suspension, a student may be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities beyond the suspension period. Suspensions that carry over a weekend or vacation period will also eliminate a student's participation from any extra-curricular events that take place on those weekends or vacation periods.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspensions include but are not limited to:

1. Leaving school during school hours without permission.
2. Unauthorized absence(s) from school (truancy) or from class.
3. Repeated unexcused tardiness to school, class and homeroom.
4. Unexcused absence from detention assignments.
5. Gambling on school grounds in any form.
6. Use of or possession of contraband items such as matches, lighters, non-prescribed hypodermic needles, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, fireworks, stink bombs, laser pens or pointers.
7. Use of or possession of beepers.
8. Smoking on school property, in a school bus, or at school functions.
9. Exhibitionism, lewd, wanton and lascivious behavior, sexual contact, disorderly conduct including, but not limited to excessive, distracting and/or inappropriate public displays of affection between students. (M.G.L.A. Ch.272, s.16 & s.53.)
10. The possession, dissemination, or use of obscenity in any form, especially, speech writing or explicit sexual pictures or drawings. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 272, s. 29 & 31.)
11. Intentional acts threatening the health and safety of self and/or others on school property, at school sponsored or related events, and to and from school. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended.
12. Lack of respect for faculty, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to, insubordination, disobedience, use of insulting and/or profane language or gestures, the willful disregard of express or implied directions from a teacher, administrator, or staff member, including but not limited to, the refusal to follow the directions of mandated tests, assessments, or exams, academic dishonesty/cheating, and/or the refusal to follow a mandated program.
13. Theft or vandalism to school property or the property of others in the school setting, whether during or after school hours or at any school activity. Reasonable proof of the offender is necessary. Restitution by the offender is required. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 266, s. 30,

98,100,127A, etc.)

14. Chronic school offender: The student who repeatedly disturbs or interrupts the educational process, refuses to work, who falsifies signatures on reports, who refuses to return signed papers to teachers or administrators, who refuses to report to appropriate school personnel, who exhibits offensive behavior on an ongoing basis, and/or who repeatedly violates the code of conduct.
15. Organizing or participating in hazing or bullying behavior.
16. Violation of Civil Rights: Students have the right to be free from discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical attacks on students directed at their racial, ethnic, or religious background, or their disability, and at any form of sexual harassment.
17. Violation of federal or Massachusetts law.
18. Bullying in any form, including verbal abuse, harassment, taunting, name-calling, threats in any form, extortion, intimidation, slander, defamatory statements, whether verbal or written, pushing, shoving, and tripping. This includes asking anyone to verbally abuse, threaten, or intimidate another student on one's behalf.
19. Any school related act, on or off school property, which interferes with or restricts another student's ability to enjoy the educational benefits afforded or offered within, and outside of, the School setting. Such acts include, but are not limited to incidents that interfere with or threaten the well-being or order of the School or its staff, students, or the general public.

In assigning short-term suspensions, administrators are:

- 1) aiming to improve a student's behavior;
- 2) maintaining a safe and orderly school environment; and
- 3) providing for necessary communication between the parent/ guardian and the school personnel.

Students under suspension remain responsible for completion of all schoolwork and will receive credit accordingly. Suspended students will have the opportunity to take tests and exams given during the suspension period during after school hours or upon their return to school. Teachers are under no obligation to provide help to a student while he or she is under suspension other than to provide notice of assignments.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Under Sections 37H and 37H½:

- A. Possession of a firearm on school premises, at school-sponsored or school related events, including field trips, and athletic games, and to and from school (United States Code, Section 921 of Title 18);
- B. Possession of a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school (M.G.L.A. Ch.269, Section 10);
- C. Assault/ assault and battery upon an administrator, teacher, teacher aide, or other school staff member on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including

field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, sections 13A and 13D);

- D. Possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance as defined in M.G.L.A. Ch. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, crack and heroin on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- E. Use or possession of a bomb or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- F. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, a student charged with a felony or the subject of a felony delinquency complaint may be suspended, or a student convicted, adjudicated, or admitting guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency may be expelled, provided that the Superintendent determines, after hearing, that the student's continued presence poses a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension Under Section 37H¾ include but are not limited to:

- A. Possession of a paint gun, BB gun, air rifle, pellet gun, or imitation weapon of any kind;
- B. Assault/assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, Section 15A & 15B);
- C. Possession or misuse of inhalants, glue, synthetic drugs, or any other substance, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic events, and to and from school;
- D. Academic dishonesty/cheating;
- E. Making a bomb threat by any means, including, but not limited to, verbally, electronically, or in writing;
- F. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcohol on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- G. Serious offenses as defined in Grounds for Suspension
- H. Bullying, harassment, or hate crimes; and
- I. Use or possession of an object that appears to be a firearm, bomb, or dangerous weapon.

Student Conduct on School Vehicles

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school authorities from the time they board the bus to school until they leave the bus which returns them home. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal. In any emergency situation, the bus driver shall be the Principal's designee while the bus is in transit.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with policies approved by the School Committee.

Required Conduct Aboard the Bus

1. Riders must remain in seats when the bus is in motion.
2. Loud noises and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - Talking to the driver
 - Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - Climbing over or under seats
 - Opening or closing windows
 - Leaning out of windows
 - Littering the bus

DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS

Notice of Proposed Suspension

Except in the case of an emergency removal or disciplinary offense defined under M.G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H½ or an in-school suspension as defined by 603 CMR 53.02(6), the school shall provide the student and parent/guardian with written and oral notice of the proposed out-of-school suspension, an opportunity to be heard at hearing, and the opportunity to participate at the hearing. Notice shall set forth in plain language:

- a) the disciplinary offense;
- b) the basis for the charge;
- c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the Principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing;
- e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- f) the right of the student and student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. In order to conduct a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. Reasonable effort is presumed if the Principal sent written notice and documented at least two attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency situations.

All written communications regarding notice of proposed suspension shall be either by hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and

parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Short Term Suspensions: Hearing and Principal Determination

A short-term suspension is the removal of the student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less. Out-of-school short-term suspensions which do not cumulatively over the course of the school year exceed ten (10) days of suspension shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

Principal Hearing. The purpose of the hearing with the Principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts. A parent/guardian present at the hearing shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the Principal will make a determination whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequence. The Principal will provide notification in writing of their determination in the form of an update to the student and parent/guardian, and provide reasons for the determination. If the student is suspended, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the type and duration of the suspension, and shall provide an opportunity for the student to make up assignments and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Long-Term Suspension: Hearing and Principal Determination

A long-term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to

dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal will consider in determining whether alternatives to suspension such as loss of privileges, detention, an apology, a student contract, restitution, and/or probation are appropriate.

Additionally, the student shall have the following additional rights:

- i. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- ii. the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's and or parent's/guardian's expense;
- iii. the right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; and
- iv. the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- v. the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal. All participants shall be informed that the hearing is being recorded by audio. A copy of the audio recording will be provided to the student or parent/guardian upon request.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing the Principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension (the use of evidence-based strategies and programs, such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports) what remedy or consequence will be imposed. If the Principal decides to impose a long-term suspension, the written determination shall:

- i. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
- ii. Set out key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- iii. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- iv. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive a specific list of education services to make academic progress during removal, and the contact information of a school member who can provide more detailed information.
- v. Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the superintendent or their designee (only if a long-term suspension has been imposed) within five (5) calendar days, which may be extended by parent/guardian request in writing an additional seven (7) calendar days.

The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through grade 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension

A student who is placed on a long-term suspension shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent if properly and timely filed. A good faith effort shall be made to include the parent/guardian at the hearing. The appeal shall be held within three (3) school days of the appeal, unless the student or parent/guardian requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, which the Superintendent shall grant.

The student and parent/guardian shall have the same rights afforded at the long-term suspension Principal hearing. Within five (5) calendar days of the hearing the Superintendent shall issue their written decision which meets the criteria required of the Principal's determination. If the Superintendent determines the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than that of the Principal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Emergency Removal

A student may be temporarily removed prior to notice and hearing when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. A Principal may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days, following the day of the emergency removal.

During the emergency, removal the Principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason for the emergency removal. The Principal shall also provide the due process requirements of written notice for suspensions and provide for a hearing which meets the due process requirements of a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable, within the two (2) school day time period, unless an extension of time for the hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent/guardian.

A decision shall be rendered orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day. The decision shall meet all of the due process requirements of a Principal's determination in a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable.

In-School Suspension Under 603 CMR 53:02 (6) & 603 CMR 53.10

In-school suspension is defined as the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not the school premises, for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year.

A Principal may impose an in-school suspension as defined above according to the following procedures:

The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

Suspension or Expulsion for Disciplinary Offenses Under M.G.L. 71 §§37H and 37H½

The due process notification and hearing requirements in the preceding sections do not apply to the following disciplinary offenses:

Possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault of staff
A student may be subject to expulsion if found in possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or the student assaults a member of educational staff, and the Principal determines the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the opportunity for a hearing, and the right to have representation at the hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. After said hearing, a Principal may, in their discretion, decide to levy a suspension rather than expulsion. A student expelled for such an infraction shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of their appeal. The student has the right to counsel at the hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student was guilty of the alleged offense.

Felony complaint or issuance of felony delinquency complaint

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony, or the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal may suspend a student for a period of time determined appropriate by the Principal if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student in writing of the charges, the reasons for the suspension (prior to such suspension taking effect), and the right to appeal. The Principal will also provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) the process for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent. The request for appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days. The hearing shall be held within three (3) days of the request. The suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing before the Superintendent. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Felony conviction or adjudication/admission in court of guilt for a felony or felony delinquency

The Principal may expel a student convicted of a felony, or has an adjudication or admission of guilt regarding a felony, if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for the proposed expulsion. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent, as well as the appeal process. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of their request for an appeal the decision no later than five (5) calendar days following the date of the expulsion. The Superintendent hearing shall be held with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Student Suspension and Expulsion Data Collection and Reporting

The District shall collect and annually report data to the Department regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by the Department.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the Principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The Principal shall further determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of-school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

Educational Services and Academic Progress Under Section 37H, 37H½, AND 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal from the classroom or school. The Superintendent or Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Superintendent shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students.

The Superintendent or Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a

list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Students Identified as Having Special Needs

1. All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Mass. General Laws, formerly known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have special needs and whose individualized program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
 - a. Students with Special Needs may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive days, and may also be suspended in excess of ten (10) cumulative days, as fully outlined under M.G.L.c. 71B, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Such suspensions may be carried out without any further or additional process.
 - b. Suspensions or exclusions in excess of ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days may also occur, provided that the conduct for which the student is being disciplined is not a manifestation of their disability, and the District provides educational services which will allow the student to access the general curriculum and to make progress toward their goals.
2. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B allow school personnel to move a student with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, if that student is in possession of a dangerous weapon at school or a school function or on school property, is in possession or uses a controlled substance or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function or on school property, or inflicts serious bodily injury on a person, including him/herself. The appropriate interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP TEAM.
3. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B also allow school personnel the option of asking a hearing officer or a court to move children with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, if they are substantially likely to injure themselves or others in their current placement.
4. When a special needs student has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive or cumulative days in a school year, such that a substantial change in placement is occurring or will occur, the IEP TEAM will meet to conduct a manifestation determination.
5. When a suspension constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, District personnel, the parent/guardian, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the District, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents/guardians, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP-"a manifestation determination."
6. At the manifestation determination, a copy of the Procedural Safeguards will be

given to the parent/guardian.

7. Relevant members of the TEAM meet for the manifestation determination, and they answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student: Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the student's IEP? And is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability. A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the Parent/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined according to the discipline policy in this handbook. The student will receive educational services during this period of suspension or exclusion. If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, then the school may still be able to implement an IAES (see #2 and #3 above). If the IAES is not possible, then the student will remain in their current placement, and the TEAM will arrange for a functional behavioral assessment (if one has not been conducted on the student) and the development or modification of a behavior intervention plan. The Principal or designee will notify the Special Education Office of the suspension offense of a special needs student and a record will be kept of such notices.

Students Identified as Having a Disability and on a Section 504 Plan

Students are expected to meet the expectations for behavior identified in this handbook. A student on a Section 504 plan may be disciplined like any other non-disabled student. However, if the student is going to be suspended for ten (10) or more cumulative days, expelled or suspended for more than fifteen (15) cumulative days (and there is a change in placement as a result), then a manifestation determination review shall be conducted. The students' 504 team shall convene, and answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student:

1. Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the students' 504 plan?
2. Is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability?

A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

Procedural Requirements for Students Not Yet Determined to be Eligible for Special Education

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for special education students if the school had knowledge (as determined by the IDEA) that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school district may be considered to have prior knowledge if, before the behavior that resulted in the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the student's school or to a teacher of the student that the student is in need of special education and related services; or
2. The parent requested an evaluation of the student; or
3. District staff expressed, directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel, specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be deemed to have had knowledge if the parent has not consented to an evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student was completed and resulted in a determination of ineligibility. If the district had no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subjected to disciplinary measures applied to students without disabilities. However, if an evaluation is requested during the time period in which the student is subjected to these disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner.

Referral to and Action By Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

- (A) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or to prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.
- (B) TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS- An agency reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.

Electronic Devices

Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the instructional day. All phones and "smart" watches are to be turned off and secured until after dismissal.

Searches

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student will be conducted in a way that protects the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

The legality of a search of a student, their clothing and/or possessions depends simply on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search (According to *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S 325 1985). The search by a school official is "justified at its inception" when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that a student or students has violated or is violating the laws or rules of the school." Secondly, that "such a search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Any individual, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by them under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, carrying on their person a firearm, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any school building, or at any school related event without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such school, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Firearm shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. See individual school-site's sanctions for such violations.

Any student, who assaults a Principal, Associate Principal, teacher, instructional assistant or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.

Dress Code

In the Greenfield Public Schools, we encourage self expression and individuality in all of our students. In order to maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, students must refrain from wearing clothing that may be deemed discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, gender, or religion; or depicts alcohol, drugs, weapons or acts of violence. Building administrators will have the final say on questionable articles of clothing and may request that the student change or cover up.

Hats, caps and hoods are not to be worn in school during the school day. Clothing, attire, and accessories found to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process, or which has affected the safety of students, will be determined a violation of the dress code by the school administration.

LAWS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RECORDS

The Regulations Pertaining to Student Records were developed by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure parents, students and former students of their rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records. The regulations have the force of law and apply to all elementary and secondary schools. Below is a summary of the major provisions of the regulations. A copy of the regulations is available for inspection in the main office or guidance office.

A parent or any student who is at least 14 years old has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student not later than two days after the request, unless the student or parent consents to a delay. Copies of the record must be given to the student or parent upon request for a fee of no more than the actual cost of copying.

The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains your name, address, and your birth date; the name and address of your parents or guardians; course titles; grades (or the equivalent when grades are not applicable); grade level completed and the grade completed.

The temporary record consists of all the information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. This information may include your standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities in which you took part and evaluations by your teachers, counselors, or other school staff. A school health record, which gives a general profile of your health, is included. The temporary record shall not contain any anonymous information and will be destroyed after graduation.

As of 1998, Massachusetts Law (General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

At any time that the school receives a request for student records from a parent who does not have physical custody of the child and who has not yet provided the school with the information required by Section 34H, the school should inform the non-custodial parent of the requirements of the law. This may be done by providing the parent with a letter from the school that sets forth the procedures the parent must follow in order to get access to the records.

Destruction of Records:

Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than seven (7) years after that student transfers, graduates or withdraws from the school system. Temporary records are defined as all information in a student record, which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, extracurricular activities and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. When the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the

documents be provided to them. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

In addition, each year, the Principal and/or teachers and/or other service providers may destroy the following documents that are considered part of the student's temporary record: disciplinary records (other than documentation of suspensions or expulsions or exclusions), any notes from the parent/guardian or other documents concerning absences, early dismissals, late arrivals, as well as examples of student work. If the eligible student or the parent/guardian want those records, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school that the documents be provided to them, rather than be destroyed. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

PUBLICATION

Greenfield Public Schools may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent. It is also the practice of the Greenfield School District to give permission for school personnel and the media (e.g., cable television, newspapers, commercial television, radio, and the world wide web) to develop and present in the classroom, in the school hallways, on websites, to the public, print, pictures, and voice related to school programs and students for the purposes of public relations and the dissemination of non-confidential information (i.e., news stories). The Greenfield School District gives such permission without the prior individual approval of parents and caregivers.

If you do not wish for your child's directory information to be released, or to be photographed, and/or videotaped on such occasions, or for any reason, please inform the Principal at the individual school your child is attending, in writing using the form provided at the end of this handbook, prior to September 15th of the school year. It is the parents'/caregivers' responsibility to notify the school in writing, prior to September 15th, if there are any concerns and or restrictions regarding the publicity of their child's picture, name, voice, or representation in the classroom, school building, local media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, or digital recording for teacher/student evaluation purposes. If we do not receive written documentation to the contrary, then we will assume that the school has your permission.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains a provision regarding the disclosure of names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. The District is obligated to provide, upon request, names, addresses and telephone numbers of students in grades 9-12 to military recruiters, charter schools as well as to institutions of higher education. Therefore, student names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be released to military recruiters, charter schools and institutions of higher learning UNLESS the parent/guardian or student notifies the Principal in writing indicating that they DO NOT want this information released.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Several important pieces of federal and state legislation are listed here for your benefit. These laws prohibit discrimination in public schools. The essence of these laws is presented in the following paragraphs:

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Chapter 622

"No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion or national origin."

Section 504

MGL Chapter 76 specifically states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

The Director of Pupil Services is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator. She will coordinate the Greenfield Public Schools' efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the regulations. Any inquiries concerning the application of the regulations to the practices and policies of the Greenfield Public Schools may be addressed to the Director of Pupil Services 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA 01301 or at 413-772-1327 or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20221.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Greenfield Public Schools reaffirm that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. The Greenfield Public Schools also reaffirm its commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights will not be tolerated.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violation to the building principal. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing,

describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.

3. The Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

WORKING PERMITS

If you hold a full or part-time job, whether school related or not, you must provide your employer with a work permit. This form indicates to your employer that you are still in school and therefore may not be employed during school hours. Work permits may be obtained from the guidance office or the Superintendent's office both during the school year and during the summer. This request is in accordance with the provisions of Section 8695 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PARENTAL OPT-OUT RIGHTS

Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Greenfield Public Schools, through its curricula and instructional materials, promotes respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal regarding curriculum content and may submit a written request to the building principal to opt out of specific portion(s) of the curriculum that conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, at the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s).

Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a

letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.

2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the materials at the school.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves, or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetic photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents/guardians and families are expected.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or;
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or their designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within their school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred they shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or their designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

Disciplinary and Corrective Action

Violation of this protocol is a serious offense. Violators may be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action to stop the conduct and prevent its recurrence. The District is committed to protecting the complainant, and all students, from bullying. Procedural manuals containing responsibilities of staff and students, reporting procedures, complaint process, resolution, and protection against retaliation shall be in place at each level. All disciplinary incidents will be reported using the school disciplinary action process.

HARASSMENT POLICY

If you feel that you are the victim of any type of harassment, including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, you should follow the policy listed below:

1. Report the matter to a school administrator, counselor, teacher and/or other staff member.
2. The assistant principal will then arrange for a prompt investigation. The assistant principal will meet with all of those involved who will have an opportunity to give a statement.
3. If the accusation of harassment has been substantiated by the assistant principal, the principal will be notified. Appropriate discipline will be administered depending on the nature of the offense.

a. Verbal first offenses will be handled by a warning to be followed by much stricter discipline if the offending behavior continues. Parents will be notified.

b. Physical offenses will be taken very seriously. Appropriate discipline will be administered. Parents will be notified.

The Committee recognizes that children learn best and teachers teach best when schools are safe. In safe schools, students and teachers feel physically secure, respected and supported. The Committee promotes Civil Rights and Protecting Students from Harassment, Bullying, and Hate Crimes. The Complaint Procedure in this handbook may also be followed in appropriate circumstances.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The school's support of equal educational opportunity includes the recognition that sexual harassment of students will not be tolerated. Any student who feels that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment should report the matter immediately to a school administrator, counselor, teacher, and/or other staff member who will arrange for a prompt investigation and corrective action where appropriate.

Sexual Harassment Definition

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

1. Submission to such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's education; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for education decisions affecting such student; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1. Assault, inappropriate touching, intentionally impeding movement, comments, gestures, or written communications of a suggestive or derogatory nature.
2. Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. (Reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment)
3. Implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved, or suggesting that a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
4. Coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence or affect the educational opportunities, grades and/or the learning environment of a student.
5. Offering or granting favors or educational benefits, such as grades or recommendations, in exchange for sexual favors.

Other sexual harassing behavior directed towards students, whether committed by management, staff, or students, is also prohibited. Such conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances or propositions;
2. Sexually explicit language or gestures;
3. Touching that an individual interprets as sexual in nature;

4. Any unwelcome physical contact;
5. The presence of sexually provocative photographs, pictures or other material, and the telling of sexual stories or jokes.
6. Verbal or non-verbal behavior about an individual's body that is interpreted as sexual in nature.

Reporting:

Any student who believes he/she is a victim of sexual harassment should talk to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible. Students should avoid trying to solve the problem of sexual harassment alone.

All persons shall promptly report actual knowledge of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator Janet Dickinson, Ph.D, Director of Pupil Services.

“Actual knowledge” means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any employee of the district, except that this standard is not met when the only official of the district with actual knowledge is the respondent (where the respondent is an employee). Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. Complaints will be addressed whenever the district has actual knowledge of the allegation.

Formal Complaint:

The Title IX Coordinator must then contact the complainant upon receiving the complaint and do the following:

- Discuss and offer supportive measures;
- Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- Explain that supportive measures may be received with or without filing a formal complaint;
- Determine whether the complainant wishes to file a formal complaint; and
- Explain to the complainant the purpose of filing a formal complaint

Formal complaint means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

If the complainant declines to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must consider whether to sign a formal complaint and start an investigation despite the complainant's preferences.

This decision may be appropriate when safety or similar concerns lead the district to conclude it must investigate and potentially sanction a respondent.

A Title IX Coordinator's decision to override the complainant's decision not to file a formal complaint must be documented in writing along with an explanation of why this decision was necessary.

An informal resolution may be found if a formal complaint is not filed. The Title IX Coordinator can consider offering mediation. The parties must give written consent to engage in this process. Informal resolution may not be used if the allegation is against an employee respondent.

Prior to Investigating:

Before any investigation can begin, the district must send written notice to both parties including sufficient details. Sufficient details include: identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, 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 is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

The written notice must 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.

The written notice must inform the parties that the District's code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If additional allegations are added during the course of the investigation, additional written notice must be provided.

Investigating

The Title IX Coordinator will designate an investigator and a decision maker, who may not be the same person. The investigator must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of the investigation. The investigator will be responsible for interviewing parties and witnesses, finding facts, and making determinations related to credibility, all of which will go into a written report.

The investigator must avoid all questions that are protected by legal privilege, unless the privilege has been waived, and should avoid asking about the complainant's sexual history unless it is directly relevant to prove consent to the conduct at issue or to prove that the conduct was committed by someone other than the respondent.

Complainants and respondents have a right to have advisors of their choice participate in all aspects of the proceedings. During the investigation, each party must be provided an equal opportunity to present both fact and expert witnesses. The parties will have the opportunity to provide relevant written questions to each other before the decision maker reaches a determination. In the event the decision maker decides not to allow a particular question, the decision maker must explain to the parties why the question is not relevant to the determination.

* 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 investigation shall consist of personal interviews with the complaint, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods deemed pertinent.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the school district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

In addition, the Title IX Coordinator may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the complainant, students and employees pending completion of the investigation of alleged sexual harassment.

Decision Making and Disciplinary Action:

The decision-maker must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of this process. The decision-maker will offer both the complainant and respondent the opportunity to offer additional limited follow-up.

After this process is complete, the decision-maker will create a written determination regarding whether sexual harassment has occurred using a preponderance of the evidence standard. A "preponderance of the evidence" means that it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred.

The written determination must be issued to both parties simultaneously and must include:

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
2. 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, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity will be provided by the recipient to the complainant; and
6. The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal (a copy of, or direct reference to, this policy will suffice).

7. The decision-maker shall further recommend what action, if any, is required.

The report, once finalized, must be submitted to the parties in electronic form, or a hard copy. The parties then have another 10 days to provide additional information before a determination is made.

If there is a finding that sexual harassment occurred, the school district will provide remedies to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school district's education program or activity. Such remedies may include supportive measures.

Formal disciplinary actions may be imposed in the event that the preponderance of the evidence indicates a violation of this policy, up to and including expulsion or termination. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with due process rights under State law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Appeals

Any party may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) school days of receipt of the findings of the formal procedure or a dismissal on the following bases:

1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the investigation that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
3. 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 or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The school district will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties. Both parties will have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

Records

Records must be kept for seven years.

Reprisal:

Reprisal, threats, or intimidation of the victim or a person who provides information regarding a claim of sexual harassment will be treated as a most serious offense, which may result in a recommendation of permanent separation from the school community through expulsion from school.

Frivolous Complaints:

When a complaint of sexual harassment is unfounded, frivolous, or maliciously fabricated, the complainant shall be subject to a range of disciplinary and corrective actions consistent with the Code of Conduct.

Reports to Police:

Depending upon the seriousness and frequency of incidents, the Greenfield or Massachusetts State Police may be contacted by the school administration.

HAZING

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 strictly prohibits any type of hazing or initiation into any student organization which will endanger, either physical or mental, a student's person.

The law specifically states:

*Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term hazing as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly may endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

*Section 18: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

*Section 19: Each secondary school and each public and private college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operation on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18.

Full documentation and explanations are available from the building principal or his designee.

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring themselves, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's

behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements; including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent/guardian of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving an investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents/guardians in discussions about restraint prevention in and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00,
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint".

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents/guardians of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall

provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Liaison

The Homeless Education liaison's role is to assist homeless students enroll in school to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible. Further information may be obtained by David Messing Director of Pupil Services, 413-772-1327

School Placement, Transportation, and Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their school of origin and receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing.

School placement determinations must be based on the best interest of the homeless student. In making decisions regarding best interests, school districts must:

- Presume keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, school placement of siblings, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

For homeless students who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, districts must remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, on-line learning, and charter school programs.

Transportation

School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. Furthermore:

- If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed;
- If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing their education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin; and
- If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students. Each school district's homeless education liaison must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed, in the language of the home, of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

Enrollment

School districts must immediately enroll homeless students in school to provide educational stability and avoid separation from school for days or weeks while documents are located.

Therefore, homeless education liaisons must ensure that:

- Students who chose to enroll in school where they are temporarily residing must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them;
- If a homeless student arrives without records, the previously attended school district is contacted and the required records requested;
- That homeless students are attending school while the records are being requested;
- Districts remove barriers to homeless students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and
- Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information and therefore cannot be shared with the public including landlords.

FORM A

DO NOT RELEASE FORM - STUDENT INFORMATION

As a parent/guardian you may NOT want your child's information to be released.

**Only return this form if you do not want your child's
information released**

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), a school may release student directory information, including students names and addresses, so long as the school provides public notice of the type of information it releases and allows parents a reasonable period of time to request that the information not be released. Generally, schools provide this notice to parents.

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

The Greenfield Public Schools will release directory information to colleges, scholarship organizations, the military, other post-graduate programs such as technical schools, and other individuals and/or groups upon request.

FORM B

IJNDB-R: EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the district's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the school district network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines they will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- an individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.
- users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately.

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by district administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

SOURCE: MASC, August 2015

Approved by Greenfield School Committee March 10, 2021

EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY: REGULATIONS

Purpose

The Greenfield Public Schools maintain a computer network and computer systems to provide students, faculty and staff with access to a host of resources both internally within the district and on the Internet. These resources include, but are not limited to, desktop, laptop, and tablet computers, personal digital assistants, network and Internet access, e-mail, telephones, voicemail and facsimile machines (collectively to be called "Electronic Resources"). The Greenfield Public Schools network is established to support the educational mission and administrative operations of the individual schools.

Responsibilities

As a student or employee at the Greenfield Public Schools you may have access to Electronic Resources, including the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the public schools community and all expectations regarding standards of behavior as outlined in the Student, Employee or Employee Handbook apply to your actions while utilizing or accessing the network or other Electronic Resources. You are expected to use the Electronic Resources in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but Greenfield Public Schools reserves the right to limit your access. If you believe a website is blocked in error, please contact the Greenfield Public Schools Office of Information Technology to initiate a review. Access to the Greenfield Public Schools network is a privilege and not a right. Unacceptable Uses and Behavior Activities that are considered violations of this electronic resources acceptable use policy and school rules include but are not limited to:

- Illegal Activities
- involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software
- interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking," "cracking," probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type without express permission.
- adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services.
- Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement
- transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.
- plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited.
- tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to

Greenfield Public Schools or other people.

- using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying except as expressly allowed during a school activity.
- attempting to log on to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- trespassing in another's folders, e-mail, work, or files or using another person's account.
- changing computer files that do not belong to you.
- conducting yourself in ways that are harmful to others.
- creating, transferring or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous or threatening messages.
- viewing, storing or transferring obscene, sexually explicit or pornographic material.
- posting or sending e-mail or voicemail messages that are personal attacks, including any prejudicial, discriminatory, racist or sexist content, could cause damage or disruption, contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or harassing another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Disciplinary actions Violation of this Acceptable Use Policy is considered a violation of district policy. Some behaviors are considered violations of a major school rule. Violations will result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions (Greenfield Public Schools will decide in its sole discretion which disciplinary action is warranted under the circumstances):

- verbal warning
- written warning
- restriction of access privileges
- removal from a class activity
- removal from a course
- confiscation of computer equipment
- student detention, restrictions or work hours
- suspension or expulsion
- payment for damages due to your actions
- referral to legal authorities

Privacy Users of the network or other Electronic Resources have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Greenfield Public Schools network or on other Electronic Resources (e.g., voicemail and email). Information such as emails transmitted over the network may be a public record. The network is subject to monitoring. Limited Liability Greenfield Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect.

Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Greenfield Public Schools are not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy included in the Parent/Guardian and Student Handbook available on the district website. I understand and agree to abide by the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy.

Printed Name of Student or Staff Member

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent (if Required)

Signature

Date

Newton School



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Greenfield Public Schools

**70 Shelburne Road
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
413-772-1370
Fax: 413-772-1332**

The Greenfield School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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School Committee Policies are located on Greenfield Public Schools' Website:
<https://www.gpsk12.org/gps-district-wide/school-committee/policy-manual>

RELEVANT FORMS

Student Records Opt Out Form
Acceptable Use Policy

Translation Information: If you need assistance reading this document or other school publications, please contact the principal to obtain translation services.

Spanish

Si usted necesita ayuda para leer este documento u otras publicaciones de la escuela, por favor póngase en contacto con el director del edificio para obtener servicios de traducción.

Portuguese

Se você necessitar o auxílio que lê este original ou outras publicações da escola, contate por favor o principal do edifício para obter serviços de tradução.

French

Si vous avez besoin de l'aide pour lire ce document ou des autres publications de l'école, svp entrez en contact avec le principal du bâtiment pour obtenir les services de traduction.

Haitian Creole

Si w bezwen èd pou li dokiman sa a oswa lòt piblikasyon lekòl la, tanpri kontakte direktè a pou w jwenn sèvis tradiksyon.

Italian

Se avete bisogno dell'assistenza che leggete questo documento o altre pubblicazioni della scuola, mettasi in contatto con prego il principale della costruzione per ottenere i servizi di traduzione.

German

Wenn Sie Unterstützung dieses Dokument oder andere Schulepublikationen lesend benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit der Gebäudedirektion in Verbindung, um Übersetzungsdienste zu erhalten.

Russian

Если Вам нужна помощь в прочтении этого документа или других публикаций школы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором Вашей школы для получения перевода.

District PhoneNumbers

Central Office

Superintendent

Roland R. Joyal, Jr.
413-772-1326

Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Sullivan
413-772-1315

Pupil Services

David Messing, Director
413-772-1324

Sarah Crawford, Asst. Director
413-772-1317

Elaine Mount, Asst. Director
413-772-1329

Technology Services

Ian Edwards, Director
413-772-1322

Facilities

Mike Beaudreau, Manager
413-772-1333

Food Service Department

TBD, Director
413-772-1334

Business Office

Vera Ayrapetyan, Asst. Business Manager
413-772-1312

Schools

Academy of Early Learning

Jill Taglia, Principal
413-772-1390

Federal Street School

Kelly Halpin, Principal
413-772-1380

Discovery School at Four Corners

David Potter, Principal
413-772-1375

Newton School

Carol Jacobs, Principal
413-772-1370

Greenfield Middle School

Michelle Fenimore, Principal
413-772-1360

Greenfield High School

Michael Browning, Principal
413-772-1350

Dear Newton School Families,

Welcome to the Newton School community! Newton is one of three elementary schools within the Greenfield Public Schools, serving grades Kindergarten through 4. The staff and I are eager to begin an exciting new year with all of our students and families. Every September offers the opportunity to learn lots of new things, make new friends and try new things and I cannot wait to get started!

Newton School is committed to sustaining an inclusive and dynamic environment where all of our students are highly engaged in their learning. One of our main goals is building strong student and family relationships that reach beyond the school building. We believe these strong relationships produce positive academic and social-emotional outcomes. Our dedicated Newton educators and staff strive to ensure that *every* student reaches their academic potential, develops strong social skills and builds a growth mindset where they always do their best and are not afraid to try hard things.

In addition to building strong student and family relationships, another important goal is setting high expectations for all of our students. At Newton School we are working on implementing "THE NEWTON WAY" and our motto is: Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Respectful. We work together to make our school the best it can be and everyone is expected to make positive choices that contribute to a respectful, kind, and safe school community.

Families are invited and encouraged to participate in many ways throughout the school year. First and foremost, it is important that the communication between the staff and parents be on-going, transparent, positive and timely. There are other options to partner with our educators, staff, and administration by serving on the Newton School Council and/or the Newton Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), volunteering in our classrooms and in the school, attending parent conferences, All-School monthly meetings, the end of the year Celebration of Growth Week and a number of evening events. These are great ways to share in your child's/rens school experience!

On behalf of the entire Newton School staff, I look forward to partnering with you and welcome your conversation and input throughout the school year. I know that this is going to be a great year and I look forward to celebrating our successes together throughout the 2025-2026 school year!

Sincerely,
Carol Jacobs, Interim Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operations

The Academy of Early Learning, Discovery School at Four Corners, Federal Street School and Newton School

Arrival: 8:15 am
School Day Begins: 8:30 am
Dismissal 2:55 pm

Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School

Arrival: 7:30 am
School Day Begins: 7:45
Dismissal: 2:10

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Bus Arrival: Buses will park in the bus zone along Shelburne Road. An adult will be present to meet the buses. Students will exit the buses and proceed up the sidewalk to the school entrance.*

Parent Drop-off: Parents will pull into the circle in the front of the school; students will exit the car on the side of the car that is closest to the building and proceed to the school entrance.

Bus Dismissal: Buses will park in the bus zone along Shelburne Road. Adults will walk students down the sidewalk to meet and load the buses.*

Parent pick-up: Parents will pull into the circle in front of the school and students will be called by the adult present to come out to the vehicle. Students should enter the car on the side closest to the building and not walk in between vehicles.

*Please note that the buses will have their stop signs out when loading and unloading students. Cars **must** stop when the stop signs are out. PLEASE USE MINER ST. TO ENTER THE PARKING LOT ON SHELBURNE ROAD TO AVOID TRAFFIC BACKING UP INTO THE INTERSECTION.

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the Greenfield Public Schools may cancel school, delay the start of school or determine the need to dismiss early. In those instances, families in Greenfield Public Schools will receive an automated phone message, email and text message through School Messenger. Information about the status of school can also be found on WWLP, Western Mass News and NECN and available on 98.3 WHAI. The information will also be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Attendance Requirements and Punctuality Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to student learning and for them to experience educational success. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year and parents/guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure students are in attendance every day. Students who are absent for 10% of the days they are enrolled (18 days for a student enrolled for the full, 180 day school year) are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism has been shown to negatively impact the academic and social skills needed to succeed in school.

For Absences:	For Tardiness:	For Early Dismissals:	For Messages:
If your child is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the school's absence line at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please provide the student's name, your name and the date for the absence. Schools will dispatch automated calls to absent students' homes approximately 15 mins. after the start of school After 3 days of unexcused absences a staff member will contact the students' homes. Attendance letters will be generated after the 5th, 10th, and 15th absences and will be sent to parents/guardians. After the 7th and 15th day of unexcused absences, school administration will schedule a meeting with the student and family. Additionally, a home visit may be scheduled no later than the 15th unexcused absence.	If your child will arrive after the school day begins a parent/guardian should provide a note to the Main Office with the explanation of the tardiness. Please enter the building at the Main Entrance for all arrivals after the start of school. The issue of tardies will be addressed following progressive discipline. If a student is tardy to a particular class more than 3 times, the student will receive an office detention for the fourth and subsequent tardies	If your child needs to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, they should bring a note to the Main Office before school begins. The note should include the time of dismissal, the reason for leaving early and how the student will be leaving (i.e.; student drivers) If your child did not bring a note and needs to leave early, please call the Main Office to inform the school. All students must be signed out in the Main Office and will only be released to people on their Student Contact Information. If other arrangements are needed, please speak to one of our administrative assistants.	If you need to get a message to your child or drop off a forgotten item, please call/visit the Main Office to ensure that your child receives the message/item. We will not disrupt classes for non-emergency situations.

Attendance Communication Responsibilities

- Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school of a planned absence (surgery, medical appointment etc...) as soon as they are able. However, they are asked to inform the school no later than 15 minutes before the start of school. Please call the school main office number and follow the prompts for the absentee call in line. If the school does not receive a message from the parent/guardian by the designated time, then the school will send an automated message to all numbers associated with the parents/guardians informing them of their child's absence from school.
- School: The school is required to notify a parent/guardian of a child's absence if the school has not received notification by the parent/guardian within 3 days of the absence. We are further required to notify parents/guardians if a student has missed 2 or more classes as unexcused in a 5-day period of time or if the student has missed 5 or more unexcused days in the school year. The Principal and/or designee will arrange a meeting with families of students who have 5 or more unexcused absences for the purpose of developing action steps to improve student attendance at school.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in the family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Family vacations are not considered to be excused absences. Families are encouraged to plan vacations during scheduled school vacation weeks to avoid students missing valuable instructional time.

Students must meet the school's attendance requirements in order to earn credit for courses or to be promoted to the next grade. Students who exceed the allowable number of excused or unexcused absences shall not be granted credit for their courses.

School representatives may file a Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) for a student who is habitually absent and misses more than 8 days in a quarter without a proper excuse or is a habitual school offender who doesn't obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the school. A CRA may be considered after multiple attempts to engage parents/guardians which have been unsuccessful in improving attendance. Community agencies, such as the Franklin County Family Resource Center, will also be offered to support families prior to a CRA being filed by the school.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Section 18, students 16 years of age or older who have 10 consecutive absences shall receive written notice of their right to be invited to an exit interview before the student may be administratively unenrolled from school.

If a Special Education student is chronically absent, the IEP team should convene and rewrite the student's IEP to reflect this issue.

Missing Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments, tests or quizzes. Unless arrangements are made, the student may have as many days as missed in order to make up the work. For example, if a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to make up the required work. A minimum 24 hour notice is required to prepare materials should the parent/guardian wish to make a request for student assignments prior to an absence.

Punctuality Expectations and Tardiness

Being on time for all classes and required school functions is expected of all students. At the start of each class, teachers will take classroom attendance. Records of missed classes due to absences, late arrivals, early dismissals or disciplinary referrals will be referenced for course failure deliberations and/or disciplinary consequences. If a student needs to arrive late to a class, they should obtain and provide a pass indicating the reason for their tardiness to be excused.

For families of students with excessive tardies, a meeting with school administration and other applicable staff will be scheduled. A plan to improve student punctuality to school will be developed. If a student's punctuality does not improve, school administrators may utilize progressive discipline up to and including internal suspension.

Absences and School Events

Students who are absent for more than a half day will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. If the activity or event is on a weekend, students who were absent the day before will not be able to attend. This includes any sporting events, concerts, dances etc. Absences that are exempted are not included in this policy.

Building Security and Safety Plan

In order to support facility safety and security within the Greenfield School District for all school personnel, students and visitors, the following district-wide and school-site procedures shall be followed during regular school hours:

Exterior doors to all school buildings are kept locked. Visitors wishing to enter a school building are asked to ring the doorbell to request entry. All visitors are required to proceed to the main office immediately upon entry. During arrival and dismissal, school administrators shall assign available school personnel to areas of the facilities requiring special supervision.

Visitors will be required to sign in, wear a visitor badge and be escorted to their destination. Prior to leaving the building, individuals must report back to the main office, return the badges, and sign out.

All students arriving late, leaving early, or being taken out and brought back during the school day (e.g. for medical or dental appointments) must report to the main office in the company of parent, guardian or designated person, in order to be signed out/in by the office secretary or other designated individuals. Parents/guardians or other individuals entering the building in order to

dismiss or return a student must report to the main office.

Individuals are encouraged to report information which could help keep our schools safe and prevent potential violence. Information should be reported directly to a school administrator.

Safety and Security Procedures

Emergency evacuation routes are posted within each classroom. Safety and security drills will be conducted to review procedures with students and staff. The function of these drills is to create a rapid, safe and organized method of responding to situations. All visitors in the building at the time safety and security protocols are utilized are required to follow the protocols.

Care of School Property and Textbooks

Students are responsible for all school property loaned to them, including library books, textbooks, technology, laboratory equipment, athletic uniforms, band uniforms, musical instruments, and other school property.

Any student who damages, destroys or does not return school issued equipment shall be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Meal Program

The Greenfield Public Schools participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and is required to follow all USDA policies related to these programs. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

The Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Department recognizes the importance of student nutrition and the role proper nutrition plays in successful learning. Students are offered nutritionally-balanced meals each day, which include a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with scratch-cooked and locally-sourced options. The latest menus for each grade level can be found [here](#), and will also be posted to the GPS Food Services Instagram and Facebook pages @GreenfieldSchoolFood. In the 2025-2026 school year all Greenfield Public Schools will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and are therefore able to provide FREE breakfast and lunch to all students who attend. Charges will still apply to second meals, separately purchased milk, and a la carte items at Greenfield High School.

For online payment and additional payment information, please visit the Food Services Payment Portal under the Food Services Department on the Greenfield Public Schools district website at www.gpsk12.org. The *My School Bucks* link can be found there. From this link, you may pay or prepay your child's account. Please note that there is a \$2.49 transaction fee. It is recommended that you make larger payments at one time to avoid more fees, when using the online payment method. You will need the child's name, student ID number and the zip code 01301, or see our instructions under the dropdown bar on the website.

- 2025-2026 School Lunch Prices: FREE for all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. If students wish to purchase *additional meals* beyond the first free meal, prices are as follows:
 - Elementary - \$3.25

- Middle - \$3.50
- High - \$3.75
- Separately Purchased Milk - \$0.60 (Milk is free with school provided meals)
- At Greenfield High School only: additional a la carte items are sold at Greenfield High School. These additional a la carte items include A-list approved snacks and beverages sold individually. Money must be added to accounts in order to purchase any a la carte items at any school location as these are not part of the FREE lunch program offered through the Community Eligibility Provision.

School Council

The School Council is composed of parents/guardians, staff, and community members and serves as a sounding board that can provide perspective for the principal on a variety of school-related topics. Please contact the Principal if you are interested in being a part of this year's School Council. The School Council meets monthly and meetings are open to all.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer council of parents, guardians, and other members of the community concerned with the delivery of appropriate special education services in Greenfield Public Schools. The SEPAC holds regular meetings that are open to the public, and notices of meetings are posted within the schools and on the website. Special education parent advisory councils are a requirement of the current Massachusetts Special Education Regulations. The Regulations specify two of the responsibilities, and others can be added. The two include advising the School Committee on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. The Greenfield SEPAC typically works with the Pupil Services Office to plan workshops for parents including an annual workshop about parents' rights in special education.

Volunteers

We encourage parents/guardians and community members to volunteer in our school. However, please be reminded that all volunteers who are working in any capacity in the school setting are bound by the laws of confidentiality and will be required to comply with CORI and/or fingerprint requirements. Information obtained through observation or participation in classrooms is completely confidential. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit the website at www.gpsk12.org under Families and Community.

Lost and Found

Lost and found articles are stored in a designated area at each school. If your child has a missing item, please send in a note with a description of the lost item to your child's teacher, or feel free to come to school yourself and ask for the "Lost & Found" area. Unclaimed articles are distributed and donated appropriately periodically. It is strongly recommended that all clothing, especially boots, snow pants, jackets, etc. be marked with your child's name on an inside area.

Toy Guidelines

Please do not send students to school with toys that may be lost, stolen, and/or broken. Many children are upset when their toys are lost or when trading of toys occurs. The best way to avoid this is to keep all toys at home. Schools are not responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

Technology Use and Digital Learning

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to preparing students for a world that is increasingly digital while also balancing the use of technology during the school day. Over the past several years, the district has invested in high-quality instructional materials—many of which include digital components. These tools support differentiated instruction and help personalize learning to meet individual student needs.

At the same time, we recognize concerns about excessive screen time. Educators are encouraged to use discretion and to limit screen time that is not directly connected to the curriculum, including as a reward or incentive. If you have concerns about your student's use of technology in school, please begin by speaking with your child's teacher. If the issue is not resolved, you are encouraged to contact the school principal.

The district supports the right of students and staff to access a variety of information formats and expects all users to act responsibly and appropriately. We apply the same standards of educational value to digital media as we do to other instructional resources.

Technology use is integrated throughout our curriculum in age-appropriate ways and aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students are provided with ongoing instruction in digital citizenship, including how to use technology to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate effectively, and participate in a global society.

Sensitivities and Allergies

Please be aware that many of our students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to certain foods and scents. We kindly ask families and students to:

- Avoid sending snacks or meals that contain high-risk allergens, such as peanuts.
- Refrain from using heavily scented perfumes, lotions, or other fragrance products.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism (copying) of material from any source, for any and all academic works including: papers, presentations or reports, submitting someone else's work as one's own, using google translate, copy and pasting electronic material, the unauthorized removal of test/exam documents/materials from a classroom, photographing test/exam documents, are all considered forms of academic dishonesty.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards will be issued quarterly (semester at elementary) throughout the year; please see the school calendar for the specific dates. Progress reports will be issued at the

midpoint of each quarter or later if needed.

We encourage students and their families to monitor student attendance by accessing the PowerSchool portal. Parents/guardians and students are issued codes to access their PowerSchool account. We mail information about PowerSchool access at the beginning of the school year but if you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Main Office staff.

Referrals of Students Regarding Suspected Disabilities

The parent/guardian of a Greenfield resident who is between the ages of 2.5 years and 22 years old may contact the Pupil Services Office with concerns or to request special education evaluations related to a known or suspected disability. Some examples of areas of concern are academic skills, social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and speech and/or language skills. The Pupil Services Office may be reached at 413-772-1320 ext. 3327. In addition, parents/guardians can share concerns with their child's school principal, who can forward the information to the Pupil Services Office.

Observations of Special Education Programs

1. Parents'/guardian's request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made at least five days in advance with the Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal.
2. The Director of Pupil Services or designee shall contact the parent(s)/guardian for initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the parents'/guardian's request.
3. When a parent/guardian requests an observation of a student receiving special education services or programs, the Director of Pupil Services or designee will seek approval from the Superintendent or designee and the Principal before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulation.
4. The Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal will work with the classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling and placement of the observer in the classroom).
5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
6. If the observer is not the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign a release for the individual to observe.
7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.
8. The observer will be informed that they are not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If their presence presents a problem, they will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents/guardians can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and that of others.

9. If applicable, the observer will be asked to submit their report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
10. The observer will be informed that they are not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform their contractual job duties.
11. The observer will be instructed regarding the prohibition of disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible, the observer may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.
12. A school administrator, or designee, also will observe at the same time and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s)/guardian prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

STUDENT HEALTH

Illness & Injury

If determined by the School Nurse, the student is unable to remain in school, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to make arrangements for dismissal.

Medications

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

Immunizations

As required by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 15, every school child must be "successfully immunized". The Department of Public Health has established the following schedules as legal requirements for children to attend school. Please be aware that these requirements may change annually.

Preschool:

1. IPV (polio), 3 or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), 1 or more doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), four or more doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella, 1 or more doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

Grades K-12:

1. IPV (polio), four or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) , 2 doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), five doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses

5. Varicella – two doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.
7. Tdap, 1 dose is required for all students entering grade 7- 11
8. Meningococcal Grade 7-9 1 dose, 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Grade 11-12 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required.

*Varicella vaccination is required unless the student has a diagnosis of chickenpox disease by the HCP or laboratory proof of immunity.

*Physical exam must show the date of at least 1 lead screen for all children born in Massachusetts.

Physical Education Excused Absences

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education classes, please send a note to your child's teacher. A note written and signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason, will allow an excused absence once per term.

If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education class on an ongoing basis, please provide a note from your child's physician for review by the school nurse. The school nurse may excuse students from Physical Education classes for medical reasons without a doctor's note once per term.

Home or Hospital Instruction

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the student is eligible to receive educational services in that setting, temporarily, from the school district. The students' parents must submit the form called Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons to the Director of Pupil Services, and the Director of Pupil Services shall arrange for provision of educational services in the hospital or a home for students who meet the criteria. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Director of Student Services.

CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

Administrative Discretion

Greenfield Public Schools believe in the use of a restorative approach to address the whole student and needs that have led to their actions. In doing so, administrative flexibility is required in any disciplinary action to account for individual cases, unusual problems not anticipated nor

written in school regulation, and maintenance of effective control of behavior in a public school. The administration reserves the right to adjust actions based upon the severities of the offense or mitigating circumstances. Action taken must also meet the reasonableness and protection of the rights of students.

Greenfield Public Schools expect all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment. We incorporate all provisions of the Mass. General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H, 37H½, and 37H¾ in our Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action affecting a student with a disability must comply with the prescribed procedures under state and federal law. Greenfield incorporates all of the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) (disciplining students with disabilities), as well as 603 CMR 28.08 (dispute resolution before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals), in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Disciplinary Procedures

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be decided according to the facts accompanying the case. Effort will be made to discipline students while maintaining them in regular school programs. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the disciplinary process. In many cases, however, the following discipline options may be utilized:

1. Students may be given detention or one of several other disciplinary options, including a warning. If after school detention is given, parents must make arrangements for safe student transport home. (Scheduling arrangements for detention can be requested for a parent to provide transportation).
2. Bus privileges may be revoked for acts of misbehavior.
3. Students may have school-driving privileges revoked.
4. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.
5. Students may be internally suspended from their regular classes.
6. Students may be externally suspended from school when they are a danger to themselves or others, or when they demonstrate a chronic inability or unwillingness to abide by school regulations. The Principal will decide the length of each suspension.
7. Students may be required to perform school-based community service.
8. Students may be required to pay restitution, write letters of apology, or be assigned special projects.
9. Students may be referred for counseling, risk assessments or psycho-educational evaluations.
10. Greenfield may order a change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.
11. A student may be excluded from school.

Students who do not abide by the rules of the In-House Alternative Program or who do not modify their behavior will be referred to the administration for external suspension.

During the period of suspension, a student may not appear on school property or at school-related activities or events either as a spectator or participant. A violation of this

policy will be considered a trespass resulting in immediate notification of the Greenfield Police Department.

Depending upon the reason for suspension, a student may be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities beyond the suspension period. Suspensions that carry over a weekend or vacation period will also eliminate a student's participation from any extra-curricular events that take place on those weekends or vacation periods.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspensions include but are not limited to:

1. Leaving school during school hours without permission.
2. Unauthorized absence(s) from school (truancy) or from class.
3. Repeated unexcused tardiness to school, class and homeroom.
4. Unexcused absence from detention assignments.
5. Gambling on school grounds in any form.
6. Use of or possession of contraband items such as matches, lighters, non-prescribed hypodermic needles, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, fireworks, stink bombs, laser pens or pointers.
7. Use of or possession of beepers.
8. Smoking on school property, in a school bus, or at school functions.
9. Exhibitionism, lewd, wanton and lascivious behavior, sexual contact, disorderly conduct including, but not limited to excessive, distracting and/or inappropriate public displays of affection between students. (M.G.L.A. Ch.272, s.16 & s.53.)
10. The possession, dissemination, or use of obscenity in any form, especially, speech writing or explicit sexual pictures or drawings. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 272, s. 29 & 31.)
11. Intentional acts threatening the health and safety of self and/or others on school property, at school sponsored or related events, and to and from school. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended.
12. Lack of respect for faculty, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to, insubordination, disobedience, use of insulting and/or profane language or gestures, the willful disregard of express or implied directions from a teacher, administrator, or staff member, including but not limited to, the refusal to follow the directions of mandated tests, assessments, or exams, academic dishonesty/cheating, and/or the refusal to follow a mandated program.
13. Theft or vandalism to school property or the property of others in the school setting, whether during or after school hours or at any school activity. Reasonable proof of the offender is necessary. Restitution by the offender is required. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 266, s. 30, 98,100,127A, etc.)
14. Chronic school offender: The student who repeatedly disturbs or interrupts the educational process, refuses to work, who falsifies signatures on reports, who refuses to return signed papers to teachers or administrators, who refuses to report to appropriate school personnel, who exhibits offensive behavior on an ongoing basis, and/or who repeatedly violates the code of conduct.

15. Organizing or participating in hazing or bullying behavior.
16. Violation of Civil Rights: Students have the right to be free from discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical attacks on students directed at their racial, ethnic, or religious background, or their disability, and at any form of sexual harassment.
17. Violation of federal or Massachusetts law.
18. Bullying in any form, including verbal abuse, harassment, taunting, name-calling, threats in any form, extortion, intimidation, slander, defamatory statements, whether verbal or written, pushing, shoving, and tripping. This includes asking anyone to verbally abuse, threaten, or intimidate another student on one's behalf.
19. Any school related act, on or off school property, which interferes with or restricts another student's ability to enjoy the educational benefits afforded or offered within, and outside of, the School setting. Such acts include, but are not limited to incidents that interfere with or threaten the well-being or order of the School or its staff, students, or the general public.

In assigning short-term suspensions, administrators are:

- 1) aiming to improve a student's behavior;
- 2) maintaining a safe and orderly school environment; and
- 3) providing for necessary communication between the parent/ guardian and the school personnel.

Students under suspension remain responsible for completion of all schoolwork and will receive credit accordingly. Suspended students will have the opportunity to take tests and exams given during the suspension period during after school hours or upon their return to school. Teachers are under no obligation to provide help to a student while he or she is under suspension other than to provide notice of assignments.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Under Sections 37H and 37H½:

- A. Possession of a firearm on school premises, at school-sponsored or school related events, including field trips, and athletic games, and to and from school (United States Code, Section 921 of Title 18);
- B. Possession of a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school (M.G.L.A. Ch.269, Section 10);
- C. Assault/ assault and battery upon an administrator, teacher, teacher aide, or other school staff member on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, sections 13A and 13D);
- D. Possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance as defined in M.G.L.A. Ch. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, crack and heroin on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;

- E. Use or possession of a bomb or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- F. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, a student charged with a felony or the subject of a felony delinquency complaint may be suspended, or a student convicted, adjudicated, or admitting guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency may be expelled, provided that the Superintendent determines, after hearing, that the student's continued presence poses a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension Under Section 37H¾ include but are not limited to:

- A. Possession of a paint gun, BB gun, air rifle, pellet gun, or imitation weapon of any kind;
- B. Assault/assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, Section 15A & 15B);
- C. Possession or misuse of inhalants, glue, synthetic drugs, or any other substance, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic events, and to and from school;
- D. Academic dishonesty/cheating;
- E. Making a bomb threat by any means, including, but not limited to, verbally, electronically, or in writing;
- F. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcohol on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- G. Serious offenses as defined in Grounds for Suspension
- H. Bullying, harassment, or hate crimes; and
- I. Use or possession of an object that appears to be a firearm, bomb, or dangerous weapon.

Student Conduct on School Vehicles

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school authorities from the time they board the bus to school until they leave the bus which returns them home. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal. In any emergency situation, the bus driver shall be the Principal's designee while the bus is in transit.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with policies approved by the School Committee.

Required Conduct Aboard the Bus

- 1. Riders must remain in seats when the bus is in motion.
- 2. Loud noises and shouting are not permitted.
- 3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
- 4. Smoking is prohibited.
- 5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions

- Talking to the driver
- Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
- Climbing over or under seats
- Opening or closing windows
- Leaning out of windows
- Littering the bus

DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS

Notice of Proposed Suspension

Except in the case of an emergency removal or disciplinary offense defined under M.G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H½ or an in-school suspension as defined by 603 CMR 53.02(6), the school shall provide the student and parent/guardian with written and oral notice of the proposed out-of-school suspension, an opportunity to be heard at hearing, and the opportunity to participate at the hearing. Notice shall set forth in plain language:

- a) the disciplinary offense;
- b) the basis for the charge;
- c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the Principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing;
- e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- f) the right of the student and student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. In order to conduct a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. Reasonable effort is presumed if the Principal sent written notice and documented at least two attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency situations.

All written communications regarding notice of proposed suspension shall be either by hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO SUSPENSION UNDER M.G.L. CHAPTER 71, §37H¾

A student may not be suspended under M.G.L. Chapter 71, §37H¾, unless one or more of the following apply:

- A. Alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in direct response to a specific incident or incidents.
- B. There are documented specific reasons why alternative remedies are unsuitable or counterproductive.
- C. The situation is such that the student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in school.

Short Term Suspensions: Hearing and Principal Determination

A short-term suspension is the removal of the student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less. Out-of-school short-term suspensions which do not cumulatively over the course of the school year exceed ten (10) days of suspension shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

Principal Hearing. The purpose of the hearing with the Principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts. A parent/guardian present at the hearing shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the Principal will make a determination whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequence. The Principal will provide notification in writing of their determination in the form of an update to the student and parent/guardian, and provide reasons for the determination. If the student is suspended, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the type and duration of the suspension, and shall provide an opportunity for the student to make up assignments and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Long-Term Suspension: Hearing and Principal Determination

A long-term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal will consider in determining whether alternatives to suspension such as loss of privileges, detention, an apology, a student contract, restitution, and/or probation are appropriate.

Additionally, the student shall have the following additional rights:

- i. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- ii. the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's and or parent's/guardian's expense;
- iii. the right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; and
- iv. the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- v. the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal. All participants shall be informed that the hearing is being recorded by audio. A copy of the audio recording will be provided to the student or parent/guardian upon request.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing the Principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension (the use of evidence-based strategies and programs, such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports) what remedy or consequence will be imposed. If the Principal decides to impose a long-term suspension, the written determination shall:

- i. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
- ii. Set out key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- iii. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- iv. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive a specific list of education services to make academic progress during removal, and the contact information of a school member who can provide more detailed information.
- v. Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the superintendent or their designee (only if a long-term suspension has been imposed) within five (5) calendar

days, which may be extended by parent/guardian request in writing an additional seven (7) calendar days.

The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through grade 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension

A student who is placed on a long-term suspension shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent if properly and timely filed. A good faith effort shall be made to include the parent/guardian at the hearing. The appeal shall be held within three (3) school days of the appeal, unless the student or parent/guardian requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, which the Superintendent shall grant.

The student and parent/guardian shall have the same rights afforded at the long-term suspension Principal hearing. Within five (5) calendar days of the hearing the Superintendent shall issue their written decision which meets the criteria required of the Principal's determination. If the Superintendent determines the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than that of the Principal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Emergency Removal

A student may be temporarily removed prior to notice and hearing when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. A Principal may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days, following the day of the emergency removal.

During the emergency, removal the Principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason for the emergency removal. The Principal shall also provide the due process requirements of written notice for suspensions and provide for a hearing which meets the due process requirements of a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable, within the two (2) school day time period, unless an extension of time for the hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent/guardian.

A decision shall be rendered orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day. The decision shall meet all of the due process requirements of a Principal's determination in a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable.

In-School Suspension Under 603 CMR 53:02 (6) & 603 CMR 53.10

In-school suspension is defined as the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not the school premises, for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year.

A Principal may impose an in-school suspension as defined above according to the following procedures:

The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

Suspension or Expulsion for Disciplinary Offenses Under M.G.L. 71 §§37H and 37H½

The due process notification and hearing requirements in the preceding sections do not apply to the following disciplinary offenses:

Possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault of staff

A student may be subject to expulsion if found in possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or the student assaults a member of educational staff, and the Principal determines the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the opportunity for a hearing, and the right to have representation at the hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. After said hearing, a Principal may, in their discretion, decide to levy a suspension rather than expulsion. A student expelled for such an infraction shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of their appeal. The student has the right to counsel at the hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student was guilty of the alleged offense.

Felony complaint or issuance of felony delinquency complaint

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony, or the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal may suspend a student for a period of time determined appropriate by the Principal if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student in writing of the charges, the reasons for the suspension (prior to such suspension taking effect), and the right to appeal. The Principal will also provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) the process for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent. The request for appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days. The hearing shall be held within three (3) days of the request. The suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing before the Superintendent. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Felony conviction or adjudication/admission in court of guilt for a felony or felony delinquency

The Principal may expel a student convicted of a felony, or has an adjudication or admission of guilt regarding a felony, if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for the proposed expulsion. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent, as well as the appeal process. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of their request for an appeal of the decision no later than five (5) calendar days following the date of the expulsion. The Superintendent hearing shall be held with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Student Suspension and Expulsion Data Collection and Reporting

The District shall collect and annually report data to the Department regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by the Department.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the Principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The Principal shall further determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of-school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

Educational Services and Academic Progress Under Section 37H, 37H½, AND 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal from the classroom or school. The Superintendent or Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Superintendent shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students.

The Superintendent or Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a

list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Students Identified as Having Special Needs

1. All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Mass. General Laws, formerly known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have special needs and whose individualized program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
 - a. Students with Special Needs may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive days, and may also be suspended in excess of ten (10) cumulative days, as fully outlined under M.G.L.c. 71B, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Such suspensions may be carried out without any further or additional process.
 - b. Suspensions or exclusions in excess of ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days may also occur, provided that the conduct for which the student is being disciplined is not a manifestation of their disability, and the District provides educational services which will allow the student to access the general curriculum and to make progress toward their goals.
2. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B allow school personnel to move a student with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, if that student is in possession of a dangerous weapon at school or a school function or on school property, is in possession or uses a controlled substance or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function or on school property, or inflicts serious bodily injury on a person, including him/herself. The appropriate interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP TEAM.
3. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B also allows school personnel the option of asking a hearing officer or a court to move children with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, if they are substantially likely to injure themselves or others in their current placement.
4. When a special needs student has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive or cumulative days in a school year, such that a substantial change in placement is occurring or will occur, the IEP TEAM will meet to conduct a manifestation determination.
5. When a suspension constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, District personnel, the parent/guardian, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the District, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents/guardians, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP—"a manifestation determination."
6. At the manifestation determination, a copy of the Procedural Safeguards will be

given to the parent/guardian.

7. Relevant members of the TEAM meet for the manifestation determination, and they answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student: Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the student's IEP? And is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability. A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the Parent/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined according to the discipline policy in this handbook. The student will receive educational services during this period of suspension or exclusion. If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, then the school may still be able to implement an IAES (see #2 and #3 above). If the IAES is not possible, then the student will remain in their current placement, and the TEAM will arrange for a functional behavioral assessment (if one has not been conducted on the student) and the development or modification of a behavior intervention plan. The Principal or designee will notify the Special Education Office of the suspension offense of a special needs student and a record will be kept of such notices.

Students Identified as Having a Disability and on a Section 504 Plan

Students are expected to meet the expectations for behavior identified in this handbook. A student on a Section 504 plan may be disciplined like any other non-disabled student. However, if the student is going to be suspended for ten (10) or more cumulative days, expelled or suspended for more than fifteen (15) cumulative days (and there is a change in placement as a result), then a manifestation determination review shall be conducted. The students' 504 team shall convene, and answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student:

1. Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the students' 504 plan?
2. Is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability?

A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

Procedural Requirements for Students Not Yet Determined to be Eligible for Special Education

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for special education students if the school had knowledge (as determined by the IDEA) that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school district may be considered to have prior knowledge if, before the behavior that resulted in the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the student's school or to a teacher of the student that the student is in need of special education and related services; or
2. The parent requested an evaluation of the student; or
3. District staff expressed, directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel, specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be deemed to have had knowledge if the parent has not consented to an evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student was completed and resulted in a determination of ineligibility. If the district had no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subjected to disciplinary measures applied to students without disabilities. However, if an evaluation is requested during the time period in which the student is subjected to these disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner.

Referral to and Action By Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

- (A) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or to prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.
- (B) TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS- An agency reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.

Electronic Devices

Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the instructional day. All phones and "smart" watches are to be turned off and secured until after dismissal.

Searches

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student will be conducted in a way that protects the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

The legality of a search of a student, their clothing and/or possessions depends simply on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search (According to New Jersey v. T.L.O. 469 U.S 325 1985). The search by a school official is "justified at its inception" when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that a student or students has violated or is violating the laws or rules of the school." Secondly, that "such a search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Any individual, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by them under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, carrying on their person a firearm, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any school building, or at any school related event without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such school, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Firearm shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. See individual school-site's sanctions for such violations.

Any student, who assaults a Principal, Associate Principal, teacher, instructional assistant or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.

Dress Code

In the Greenfield Public Schools, we encourage self expression and individuality in all of our students. In order to maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, students must refrain from wearing clothing that may be deemed discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, gender, or religion; or depicts alcohol, drugs, weapons or acts of violence. Building administrators will have the final say on questionable articles of clothing and may request that the student change or cover up.

Hats, caps and hoods are not to be worn in school during the school day. Clothing, attire, and accessories found to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process, or which has affected the safety of students, will be determined a violation of the dress code by the school administration.

LAWS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RECORDS

The Regulations Pertaining to Student Records were developed by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure parents, students and former students of their rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records. The regulations have the force of law and apply to all elementary and secondary schools. Below is a summary of the major provisions of the regulations. A copy of the regulations is available for inspection in the main office or guidance office.

A parent or any student who is at least 14 years old has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student not later than two days after the request, unless the student or parent consents to a delay. Copies of the record must be given to the student or parent upon request for a fee of no more than the actual cost of copying.

The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains your name, address, and your birth date; the name and address of your parents or guardians; course titles; grades (or the equivalent when grades are not applicable); grade level completed and the grade completed.

The temporary record consists of all the information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. This information may include your standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities in which you took part and evaluations by your teachers, counselors, or other school staff. A school health record, which gives a general profile of your health, is included. The temporary record shall not contain any anonymous information and will be destroyed after graduation.

As of 1998, Massachusetts Law (General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

At any time that the school receives a request for student records from a parent who does not have physical custody of the child and who has not yet provided the school with the information required by Section 34H, the school should inform the non-custodial parent of the requirements of the law. This may be done by providing the parent with a letter from the school that sets forth the procedures the parent must follow in order to get access to the records.

Destruction of Records:

Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than seven (7) years after that student transfers, graduates or withdraws from the school system. Temporary records are defined as all information in a student record, which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, extracurricular activities and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. When the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the documents be provided to them. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

In addition, each year, the Principal and/or teachers and/or other service providers may destroy the following documents that are considered part of the student's temporary record: disciplinary records (other than documentation of suspensions or expulsions or exclusions), any notes from the parent/guardian or other documents concerning absences, early dismissals, late arrivals, as well as examples of student work. If the eligible student or the parent/guardian wants those records, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school that the documents be provided to them, rather than be destroyed. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

PUBLICATION

Greenfield Public Schools may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent. It is also the practice of the Greenfield School District to give permission for school personnel and the media (e.g., cable television, newspapers, commercial television, radio, and the world wide web) to develop and present in the classroom, in the school hallways, on websites, to the public, print, pictures, and voice related to school programs and students for the purposes of public relations and the dissemination of non-confidential information (i.e., news stories). The Greenfield School District gives such permission without the prior individual approval of parents and caregivers.

If you do not wish for your child's directory information to be released, or to be photographed, and/or videotaped on such occasions, or for any reason, please inform the Principal at the individual school your child is attending, in writing using the form provided at the end of this handbook, prior to September 15th of the school year. It is the parents'/caregivers' responsibility to notify the school in writing, prior to September 15th, if there are any concerns and or restrictions regarding the publicity of their child's picture, name, voice, or representation in the classroom, school building, local media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, or digital recording for teacher/student evaluation purposes. If we do not receive written documentation to the contrary, then we will assume that the school has your permission.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains a provision regarding the disclosure of names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. The District is obligated to provide, upon request, names, addresses and telephone numbers of students in grades 9-12 to military recruiters, charter schools as well as to institutions of higher education. Therefore, student names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be released to military recruiters, charter schools and institutions of higher learning UNLESS the parent/guardian or student notifies the Principal in writing indicating that they DO NOT want this information released.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Several important pieces of federal and state legislation are listed here for your benefit. These laws prohibit discrimination in public schools. The essence of these laws is presented in the following paragraphs:

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." The Assistant Superintendent, 250 Pembroke Street, Kingston, Ma., 781-585-4313, is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator.

Chapter 622

"No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion or national origin."

Section 504

MGL Chapter 76 specifically states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

The Director of Pupil Services is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator. She will coordinate the Greenfield Public Schools' efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the regulations. Any inquiries concerning the application of the regulations to the practices and policies of the Greenfield Public Schools may be addressed to the Director of Pupil Services 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA 01301 or at 413-772-1327 or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20221.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Greenfield Public Schools reaffirm that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. The Greenfield Public Schools also reaffirm its commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights will not be tolerated.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violation to the building principal. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.

3. The Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

WORKING PERMITS

If you hold a full or part-time job, whether school related or not, you must provide your employer with a work permit. This form indicates to your employer that you are still in school and therefore may not be employed during school hours. Work permits may be obtained from the guidance office or the Superintendent's office both during the school year and during the summer. This request is in accordance with the provisions of Section 8695 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PARENTAL OPT-OUT RIGHTS

Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Greenfield Public Schools, through its curricula and instructional materials, promotes respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal regarding curriculum content and may submit a written request to the building principal to opt out of specific portion(s) of the curriculum that conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, at the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s).

Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.

2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.
Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the materials at the school.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves, or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetic photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents/guardians and families are expected.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or;
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or their designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within their school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred they shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or their designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

Disciplinary and Corrective Action

Violation of this protocol is a serious offense. Violators may be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action to stop the conduct and prevent its recurrence. The District is committed to protecting the complainant, and all students, from bullying. Procedural manuals containing responsibilities of staff and students, reporting procedures, complaint process, resolution, and protection against retaliation shall be in place at each level. All disciplinary incidents will be reported using the school disciplinary action process.

HARASSMENT POLICY

If you feel that you are the victim of any type of harassment, including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, you should follow the policy listed below:

1. Report the matter to a school administrator, counselor, teacher and/or other staff member.
2. The assistant principal will then arrange for a prompt investigation. The assistant principal will meet with all of those involved who will have an opportunity to give a statement.
3. If the accusation of harassment has been substantiated by the assistant principal, the principal will be notified. Appropriate discipline will be administered depending on the nature of the offense.

a. Verbal first offenses will be handled by a warning to be followed by much stricter discipline if the offending behavior continues. Parents will be notified.

b. Physical offenses will be taken very seriously. Appropriate discipline will be administered. Parents will be notified.

The Committee recognizes that children learn best and teachers teach best when schools are safe. In safe schools, students and teachers feel physically secure, respected and supported. The Committee promotes Civil Rights and Protecting Students from Harassment, Bullying, and Hate Crimes. The Complaint Procedure in this handbook may also be followed in appropriate circumstances.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The school's support of equal educational opportunity includes the recognition that sexual harassment of students will not be tolerated. Any student who feels that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment should report the matter immediately to a school administrator, counselor, teacher, and/or other staff member who will arrange for a prompt investigation and corrective action where appropriate.

Sexual Harassment Definition

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

1. Submission to such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's education; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for education decisions affecting such student; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1. Assault, inappropriate touching, intentionally impeding movement, comments, gestures, or written communications of a suggestive or derogatory nature.
2. Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. (Reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment)
3. Implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved, or suggesting that a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
4. Coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence or affect the educational opportunities, grades and/or the learning environment of a student.
5. Offering or granting favors or educational benefits, such as grades or recommendations, in exchange for sexual favors.

Other sexual harassing behavior directed towards students, whether committed by management, staff, or students, is also prohibited. Such conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances or propositions;
2. Sexually explicit language or gestures;
3. Touching that an individual interprets as sexual in nature;
4. Any unwelcome physical contact;
5. The presence of sexually provocative photographs, pictures or other material, and the telling of sexual stories or jokes.
6. Verbal or non-verbal behavior about an individual's body that is interpreted as sexual in nature.

Reporting:

Any student who believes he/she is a victim of sexual harassment should talk to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible. Students should avoid trying to solve the problem of sexual harassment alone.

All persons shall promptly report actual knowledge of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator David Messing, Director of Pupil Services.

“Actual knowledge” means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any employee of the district, except that this standard is not met when the only official of the district with actual knowledge is the respondent (where the respondent is an employee). Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. Complaints will be addressed whenever the district has actual knowledge of the allegation.

Formal Complaint:

The Title IX Coordinator must then contact the complainant upon receiving the complaint and do the following:

- Discuss and offer supportive measures;
- Consider the complainant’s wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- Explain that supportive measures may be received with or without filing a formal complaint;
- Determine whether the complainant wishes to file a formal complaint; and
- Explain to the complainant the purpose of filing a formal complaint

Formal complaint means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

If the complainant declines to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must consider whether to sign a formal complaint and start an investigation despite the complainant’s preferences.

This decision may be appropriate when safety or similar concerns lead the district to conclude it must investigate and potentially sanction a respondent.

A Title IX Coordinator’s decision to override the complainant’s decision not to file a formal complaint must be documented in writing along with an explanation of why this decision was necessary.

An informal resolution may be found if a formal complaint is not filed. The Title IX Coordinator can consider offering mediation. The parties must give written consent to

engage in this process. Informal resolution may not be used if the allegation is against an employee respondent.

Prior to Investigating:

Before any investigation can begin, the district must send written notice to both parties including sufficient details. Sufficient details include: identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, 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 is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

The written notice must 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.

The written notice must inform the parties that the District's code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If additional allegations are added during the course of the investigation, additional written notice must be provided.

Investigating

The Title IX Coordinator will designate an investigator and a decision maker, who may not be the same person. The investigator must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of the investigation. The investigator will be responsible for interviewing parties and witnesses, finding facts, and making determinations related to credibility, all of which will go into a written report.

The investigator must avoid all questions that are protected by legal privilege, unless the privilege has been waived, and should avoid asking about the complainant's sexual history unless it is directly relevant to prove consent to the conduct at issue or to prove that the conduct was committed by someone other than the respondent.

Complainants and respondents have a right to have advisors of their choice participate in all aspects of the proceedings. During the investigation, each party must be provided an equal opportunity to present both facts and expert witnesses. The parties will have the opportunity to provide relevant written questions to each other before the decision maker reaches a determination. In the event the decision maker decides not to allow a particular question, the decision maker must explain to the parties why the question is not relevant to the determination.

* 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 investigation shall consist of personal interviews with the complaint, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods deemed pertinent.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the school district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

In addition, the Title IX Coordinator may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the complainant, students and employees pending completion of the investigation of alleged sexual harassment.

Decision Making and Disciplinary Action:

The decision-maker must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of this process. The decision-maker will offer both the complainant and respondent the opportunity to offer additional limited follow-up.

After this process is complete, the decision-maker will create a written determination regarding whether sexual harassment has occurred using a preponderance of the evidence standard. A "preponderance of the evidence" means that it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred.

The written determination must be issued to both parties simultaneously and must include:

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
2. 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, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity will be provided by the recipient to the complainant; and
6. The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal (a copy of, or direct reference to, this policy will suffice).
7. The decision-maker shall further recommend what action, if any, is required.

The report, once finalized, must be submitted to the parties in electronic form, or a hard copy. The parties then have another 10 days to provide additional information before a determination is made.

If there is a finding that sexual harassment occurred, the school district will provide remedies to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school district's education program or activity. Such remedies may include supportive measures.

Formal disciplinary actions may be imposed in the event that the preponderance of the evidence indicates a violation of this policy, up to and including expulsion or termination. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with due process rights under State law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Appeals

Any party may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) school days of receipt of the findings of the formal procedure or a dismissal on the following bases:

1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the investigation that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
3. 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 or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The school district will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties. Both parties will have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

Records

Records must be kept for seven years.

Reprisal:

Reprisal, threats, or intimidation of the victim or a person who provides information regarding a claim of sexual harassment will be treated as a most serious offense, which may result in a recommendation of permanent separation from the school community through expulsion from school.

Frivolous Complaints:

When a complaint of sexual harassment is unfounded, frivolous, or maliciously fabricated, the complainant shall be subject to a range of disciplinary and corrective actions consistent with the Code of Conduct.

Reports to Police:

Depending upon the seriousness and frequency of incidents, the Greenfield or Massachusetts State Police may be contacted by the school administration.

HAZING

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 strictly prohibits any type of hazing or initiation into any student organization which will endanger, either physical or mental, a student's person.

The law specifically states:

*Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term hazing as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly may endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

*Section 18: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

*Section 19: Each secondary school and each public and private college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operation on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18.

Full documentation and explanations are available from the building principal or his designee.

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring themselves, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or

others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements; including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent/guardian of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving and investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents/guardians in discussions about restraint prevention in and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00,
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint".

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents/guardians of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Liaison

The Homeless Education liaison's role is to assist homeless students enroll in school to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible. Further information may be obtained by David Messing, Director of Pupil Services, 413-772-1327

School Placement, Transportation, and Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their school of origin and receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing.

School placement determinations must be based on the best interest of the homeless student. In making decisions regarding best interests, school districts must:

- Presume keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, school placement of siblings, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

For homeless students who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, districts must remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, on-line learning, and charter school programs.

Transportation

School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. Furthermore:

- If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed;
- If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing their education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin; and
- If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students. Each school district's homeless education liaison must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed, in the language of the home, of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

Enrollment

School districts must immediately enroll homeless students in school to provide educational stability and avoid separation from school for days or weeks while documents are located.

Therefore, homeless education liaisons must ensure that:

- Students who chose to enroll in school where they are temporarily residing must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them;
- If a homeless student arrives without records, the previously attended school district is contacted and the required records requested;
- That homeless students are attending school while the records are being requested;
- Districts remove barriers to homeless students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and
- Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information and therefore cannot be shared with the public including landlords.

FORM A

DO NOT RELEASE FORM - STUDENT INFORMATION

As a parent/guardian you may NOT want your child's information to be released.

**Only return this form if you do not want your child's
information released**

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), a school may release student directory information, including students names and addresses, so long as the school provides public notice of the type of information it releases and allows parents a reasonable period of time to request that the information not be released. Generally, schools provide this notice to parents.

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

The Greenfield Public Schools will release directory information to colleges, scholarship organizations, the military, other post-graduate programs such as technical schools, and other individuals and/or groups upon request.

FORM B

IJNDB-R: EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the district's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the school district network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines they will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- an individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.
- users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately.

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by district administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

SOURCE: MASC, August 2015

Approved by Greenfield School Committee March 10, 2021

EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY: REGULATIONS

Purpose

The Greenfield Public Schools maintain a computer network and computer systems to provide students, faculty and staff with access to a host of resources both internally within the district and on the Internet. These resources include, but are not limited to, desktop, laptop, and tablet computers, personal digital assistants, network and Internet access, e-mail, telephones, voicemail and facsimile machines (collectively to be called "Electronic Resources"). The Greenfield Public Schools network is established to support the educational mission and administrative operations of the individual schools.

Responsibilities

As a student or employee at the Greenfield Public Schools you may have access to Electronic Resources, including the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the public schools community and all expectations regarding standards of behavior as outlined in the Student, Employee or Employee Handbook apply to your actions while utilizing or accessing the network or other Electronic Resources. You are expected to use the Electronic Resources in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but Greenfield Public Schools reserves the right to limit your access. If you believe a website is blocked in error, please contact the Greenfield Public Schools Office of Information Technology to initiate a review. Access to the Greenfield Public Schools network is a privilege and not a right. Unacceptable Uses and Behavior Activities that are considered violations of this electronic resources acceptable use policy and school rules include but are not limited to:

- Illegal Activities
- involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software
- interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking," "cracking," probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type without express permission.
- adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services.
- Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement
- transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.
- plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited.
- tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to

Greenfield Public Schools or other people.

- using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying except as expressly allowed during a school activity.
- attempting to log on to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- trespassing in another's folders, e-mail, work, or files or using another person's account.
- changing computer files that do not belong to you.
- conducting yourself in ways that are harmful to others.
- creating, transferring or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous or threatening messages.
- viewing, storing or transferring obscene, sexually explicit or pornographic material.
- posting or sending e-mail or voicemail messages that are personal attacks, including any prejudicial, discriminatory, racist or sexist content, could cause damage or disruption, contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or harass another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Disciplinary actions Violation of this Acceptable Use Policy is considered a violation of district policy. Some behaviors are considered violations of a major school rule. Violations will result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions (Greenfield Public Schools will decide in its sole discretion which disciplinary action is warranted under the circumstances):

- verbal warning
- written warning
- restriction of access privileges
- removal from a class activity
- removal from a course
- confiscation of computer equipment
- student detention, restrictions or work hours
- suspension or expulsion
- payment for damages due to your actions
- referral to legal authorities

Privacy Users of the network or other Electronic Resources have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Greenfield Public Schools network or on other Electronic Resources (e.g., voicemail and email). Information such as emails transmitted over the network may be a public record. The network is subject to monitoring. Limited Liability Greenfield Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect.

Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Greenfield Public Schools are not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy included in the Parent/Guardian and Student Handbook available on the district website. I understand and agree to abide by the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy.

Printed Name of Student or Staff Member

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent (if Required)

Signature

Date

Greenfield Middle School



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Greenfield Public Schools

**195 Federal Street
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
413-772-1360
Fax: 413-772-1367**

The Greenfield School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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School Committee Policies are located on Greenfield Public Schools' Website:
<https://www.gpsk12.org/gps-district-wide/school-committee/policy-manual>

RELEVANT FORMS

Student Records Opt Out Form
Acceptable Use Policy

Translation Information: If you need assistance reading this document or other school publications, please contact the principal to obtain translation services.

Spanish

Si usted necesita ayuda para leer este documento u otras publicaciones de la escuela, por favor póngase en contacto con el director del edificio para obtener servicios de traducción.

Portuguese

Se você necessitar o auxílio que lê este original ou outras publicações da escola, contate por favor o principal do edifício para obter serviços de tradução.

French

Si vous avez besoin de l'aide pour lire ce document ou des autres publications de l'école, svp entrez en contact avec le principal du bâtiment pour obtenir les services de traduction.

Italian

Se avete bisogno dell'assistenza che leggete questo documento o altre pubblicazioni della scuola, mettasi in contatto con prego il principale della costruzione per ottenere i servizi di traduzione.

German

Wenn Sie Unterstützung dieses Dokument oder andere Schulepublikationen lesend benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit der Gebäudedirektion in Verbindung, um Übersetzungsdienste zu erhalten.

Russian

Если Вам нужна помощь в прочтении этого документа или других публикаций школы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором Вашей школы для получения перевода.

District Phone Numbers:

Central Office

Superintendent

Roland R. Joyal, Jr.
413-772-1326

Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Sullivan
413-772-1315

Pupil Services

David Messing, Director
413-772-1324

Sarah Crawford, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1317

Elaine Mount, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1407

Technology Services

Ian Edwards, Director
413-772-1322

Facilities

Mike Boudreau, Manager
413-772-1406

Food Service Department

TBD, Director
413-772-1334

Business Office

Vera Ayrapetyan, Asst. Business Manager
413-772-1312

Schools

Academy of Early Learning

Jill Taglia, Director
413-772-1390

Federal Street School

Kelly Halpin, Principal
413-772-1380

Discovery School at Four Corners

David Potter, Principal
413-772-1375

Newton School

Carol Jacobs, Principal
413-772-1370

Greenfield Middle School

Michelle Fenimore, Principal
413-772-1360

Greenfield High School

Michael Browning, Principal
413-772-1350

Dear GMS Students and Families:

Welcome Back! I look forward to another year of working collaboratively with our community of students, families, and staff to continue the learning and growth at our school. Everyone at GMS is eager to see all of our Good Humans when school starts!

Our school day runs from 7:45-2:10 each day. Students are welcomed into the building at 7:30 am each morning. **Students are not permitted on school property prior to 7:30 am.** Breakfast is served daily, free of charge, to all students. We have enclosed information about morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal procedures for your reference.

We are continuing the work on strengthening our current practices and strategic initiatives to enhance the academic achievement and social-emotional experience of all our students. To that end, GMS students will participate in an Advisory period each day. This time will provide essential social-emotional skills and build a strong community among their peers. GMS uses the Second Step SEL Curriculum to build social-emotional skills—like nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and meeting goals—so they can thrive in school and in life.

We recognize that education is a collaborative effort between home and school. The Greenfield Middle School Administration Team welcomes and values your input. As part of our continued mission this year, we are working to better support families and students toward positive growth and personal success for each and every student. Throughout the year, general correspondence from the school (newsletters, notices, etc.) will be sent electronically through our SchoolMessenger to your email. Be sure to update your email address and you've opted in to receive SchoolMessenger emails from us. Additionally, we encourage families to visit our district website, www.gpsk12.org.

We are looking forward to a great school year together!

See you in the drop-off line,

Michelle L. Fenimore
Principal

Alan Gates
Associate Principal

GMS Daily Schedule

2025-2026
Period 1 7:45- 8:10
Period 2 8:10-9:02
UA 1 - Gr. 7
Core - Grades 5 and 6
Period 3 9:04 – 9:56
UA 1 - Gr. 5
Core - Grades 6 and 7
Period 4 9:58 – 10:50
UA 1 - Gr. 6
Core - Grades 5 and 7
Period 5 10:52 – 12:22
LUNCH/RECESS
UA 2 - Gr. 7
Core - Grades 5 and 6
Period 6 12:24 – 1:16
UA 2 - Grade 5
Core - Grades 6 and 7
Period 7 1:18 – 2:10
UA 2 - Grade 6
Core - Grades 5 and 7
10:52-11:22 (Gr. 5) Lunch/Recess
11:22-11:52 (Gr. 7) Lunch/Recess
11:52-12:22 (Gr. 6) Lunch/Recess

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operations

The Academy of Early Learning, Discovery School at Four Corners, Federal Street School and Newton School

Arrival: 8:15 am

School Day Begins: 8:30 am

Dismissal 2:55 pm

Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School

Arrival: 7:30 am

School Day Begins: 7:45 am

Dismissal: 2:10 pm

Greenfield Middle School Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Safety of our students is our number one priority. Therefore, we ask that you, both students and families, help in ensuring the safety of all of our students and staff by following the procedures outlined below:

Arrival Procedure:

Doors open to students at 7:30 am. Assigned staff cannot receive and/or be responsible for students that arrive before 7:30 am. Please plan accordingly.

Parent/Guardian Drop Off:

1. Cars will enter the small parking lot on Sanderson Street. Please pull all the way up to the curb to allow for a steady flow of drop-offs. **NO CARS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BUS DROP-OFF AREA (north side of the building)**
2. Students should only exit their vehicle when the vehicle has reached the three orange cones
3. Students arriving between 7:30-7:45 will report to the back doors facing the recess field. Administration and other staff will be there to greet students.
4. 5th grade students will report to the cafeteria, 6th and 7th grade students will report to the gym. All students are expected to enter the building respectfully and orderly. Students will wait in designated areas before being dismissed and escorted by their teachers to Advisory.
5. Students arriving after 7:45 should report to the main office entrance (front door facing Federal Street) for a tardy pass.

Bus Students:

1. Students who ride the bus will exit the bus in the main parking lot on the north side of the building.
2. Students will enter the building through the back doors facing the recess field. Administration and other staff will be there to greet students.

3. 5th grade students will report to the cafeteria, 6th and 7th grade students will report to the gym. All students are expected to enter the building respectfully and orderly. Students will wait in designated areas before being dismissed and escorted by their teacher to Advisory.

Dismissal Procedure:

Dismissal is at 2:10 p.m.

NO CARS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BUS LINE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

Parent/Guardian Pick-Up and Walkers:

1. When picking up students, please form a single line of cars to ensure safety on Sanderson St.
2. Walkers and students being picked up will exit through the Sanderson Street.

Bus students:

1. Bus students will exit, escorted by teachers and staff, through the back doors facing the recess field.
2. Students will be directed by staff to their assigned bus.

*Students waiting to board their bus are expected to be respectful and follow school rules at all times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 413-772-1360.

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the Greenfield Public Schools may cancel school, delay the start of school or determine the need to dismiss early. In those instances, families in Greenfield Public Schools will receive an automated phone message, email and text message through School Messenger. Information about the status of school can also be found on WWLP, Western Mass News and NECN and available on 98.3 WHAI. The information will also be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Attendance Requirements and Punctuality Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to student learning and for them to experience educational success. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year and parents/guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure students are in attendance every day. Students who are absent for 10% of the days they are enrolled (18 days for a student enrolled for the full, 180 day school year) are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism has been shown to negatively impact the academic and social skills needed to succeed in school.

For Absences:	For Tardiness:	For Early Dismissals:	For Messages:
If your child is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the school's absence line at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please provide the student's name, your name and the date for the absence. Schools will dispatch automated calls to absent students' homes approximately 15 mins. after the start of school After 3 days of unexcused absences a staff member will contact the students' homes. Attendance letters will be generated after the 5th, 10th, and 15th absences and will be sent to parents/guardians. After the 7th and 15th day of unexcused absences, school administration will schedule a meeting with	If your child will arrive after the school day begins a parent/guardian should provide a note to the Main Office with the explanation of the tardiness. Please enter the building at the Main Entrance for all arrivals after the start of school. The issue of tardies will be addressed following progressive discipline. If a student is tardy to a particular class more than 3 times, the student will receive an office detention for the fourth and subsequent tardies	If your child needs to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, they should bring a note to the Main Office before school begins. The note should include the time of dismissal, the reason for leaving early and how the student will be leaving (i.e.; student drivers) If your child did not bring a note and needs to leave early, please call the Main Office to inform the school. All students must be signed out in the Main Office and will only be released to people on their Student Contact Information. If other arrangements are needed, please speak to one of our administrative assistants.	If you need to get a message to your child or drop off a forgotten item, please call/visit the Main Office to ensure that your child receives the message/item. We will not disrupt classes for non-emergency situations.

the student and family. Additionally, a home visit may be scheduled no later than the 15th unexcused absence.			

Attendance Communication Responsibilities

- Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school of a planned absence (surgery, medical appointment etc...) as soon as they are able. However, they are asked to inform the school no later than 15 minutes before the start of school. Please call the school main office number and follow the prompts for the absentee call in line. If the school does not receive a message from the parent/guardian by the designated time, then the school will send an automated message to all numbers associated with the parents/guardians informing them of their child's absence from school.
- School: The school is required to notify a parent/guardian of a child's absence if the school has not received notification by the parent/guardian within 3 days of the absence. We are further required to notify parents/guardians if a student has missed 2 or more classes as unexcused in a 5-day period of time or if the student has missed 5 or more unexcused days in the school year. The Principal and/or designee will arrange a meeting with families of students who have 5 or more unexcused absences for the purpose of developing action steps to improve student attendance at school.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in the family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Family vacations are not considered to be excused absences. Families are encouraged to plan vacations during scheduled school vacation weeks to avoid students missing valuable instructional time.

Students must meet the school's attendance requirements in order to earn credit for courses or to be promoted to the next grade. Students who exceed the allowable number of excused or unexcused absences shall not be granted credit for their courses.

School representatives may file a Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) for a student who is habitually absent and misses more than 8 days in a quarter without a proper excuse or is a habitual school offender who doesn't obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the school. A CRA may be considered after multiple attempts to engage parents/guardians which have been unsuccessful in improving attendance. Community agencies, such as the Franklin County Family Resource Center, will also be offered to support families prior to a CRA being filed by the school.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Section 18, students 16 years of age or older who have 10 consecutive absences shall receive written notice of their right to be invited to an exit interview before the student may be administratively unenrolled from school.

If a Special Education student is chronically absent, the IEP team should convene and rewrite the student's IEP to reflect this issue.

Missing Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments, tests or quizzes. Unless arrangements are made, the student may have as many days as missed in order to make up the work. For example, if a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to make up the required work. A minimum 24 hour notice is required to prepare materials should the parent/guardian wish to make a request for student assignments prior to an absence.

Punctuality Expectations and Tardiness

Being on time for all classes and required school functions is expected of all students. At the start of each class, teachers will take classroom attendance. Records of missed classes due to absences, late arrivals, early dismissals or disciplinary referrals will be referenced for course failure deliberations and/or disciplinary consequences. If a student needs to arrive late to a class, they should obtain and provide a pass indicating the reason for their tardiness to be excused.

For families of students with excessive tardies, a meeting with school administration and other applicable staff will be scheduled. A plan to improve student punctuality to school will be developed. If a student's punctuality does not improve, school administrators may utilize progressive discipline up to and including internal suspension.

Absences and School Events

Students who are absent for more than a half day will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. If the activity or event is on a weekend, students who were absent the day before will not be able to attend. This includes any sporting events, concerts, dances etc. Absences that are exempted are not included in this policy.

Building Security and Safety Plan

In order to support facility safety and security within the Greenfield School District for all school personnel, students and visitors, the following district-wide and school-site procedures shall be followed during regular school hours:

Exterior doors to all school buildings are kept locked. Visitors wishing to enter a school building are asked to ring the doorbell to request entry. All visitors are required to proceed to the main office immediately upon entry. During arrival and dismissal, school administrators shall assign available school personnel to areas of the facilities requiring special supervision.

Visitors will be required to sign in, wear a Visitor badge and be escorted to their destination. Prior to leaving the building, individuals must report back to the main office, return the badges, and sign out.

All students arriving late, leaving early, or being taken out and brought back during the school day (e.g. for medical or dental appointments) must report to the main office in the company of parent, guardian or designated person, in order to be signed out/in by the office secretary or other designated individuals. Parents/guardians or other individuals entering the building in order to dismiss or return a student must report to the main office.

Individuals are encouraged to report information which could help keep our schools safe and prevent potential violence. Information should be reported directly to a school administrator.

Safety and Security Procedures

Emergency evacuation routes are posted within each classroom. Safety and security drills will be conducted to review procedures with students and staff. The function of these drills is to create a rapid, safe and organized method of responding to situations. All visitors in the building at the time safety and security protocols are utilized are required to follow the protocols.

Care of School Property and Textbooks

Students are responsible for all school property loaned to them, including library books, textbooks, technology, laboratory equipment, athletic uniforms, band uniforms, musical instruments, and other school property.

Any student who damages, destroys or does not return school issued equipment shall be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Meal Program

The Greenfield Public Schools participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and is required to follow all USDA policies related to these programs. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

The Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Department recognizes the importance of student nutrition and the role proper nutrition plays in successful learning. Students are offered nutritionally-balanced meals each day, which include a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with scratch-cooked and locally-sourced options. The latest menus for each grade level can be found [here](#), and will also be posted to the GPS Food Services Instagram and Facebook pages @GreenfieldSchoolFood. In the 2025-2026 school year all Greenfield Public Schools will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and are therefore able to

provide FREE breakfast and lunch to all students who attend. Charges will still apply to second meals, separately purchased milk, and a la carte items at Greenfield High School.

For online payment and additional payment information, please visit the Food Services Payment Portal under the Food Services Department on the Greenfield Public Schools district website at www.gpsk12.org. The *My School Bucks* link can be found there. From this link, you may pay or prepay your child's account. Please note that there is a \$2.49 transaction fee. It is recommended that you make larger payments at one time to avoid more fees, when using the online payment method. You will need the child's name, student ID number and the zip code 01301, or see our instructions under the dropdown bar on the website.

- 2025-2026 School Lunch Prices: FREE for all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. If students wish to purchase *additional meals* beyond the first free meal, prices are as follows:
 - Elementary - \$3.25
 - Middle - \$3.50
 - High - \$3.75
- Separately Purchased Milk - \$0.60 (Milk is free with school provided meals)
- At Greenfield High School only: additional a la carte items are sold at Greenfield High School. These additional a la carte items include A-list approved snacks and beverages sold individually. Money must be added to accounts in order to purchase any a la carte items at any school location as these are not part of the FREE lunch program offered through the Community Eligibility Provision.

School Council

The School Council is composed of parents/guardians, staff, and community members and serves as a sounding board that can provide perspective for the principal on a variety of school-related topics. Please contact the Principal if you are interested in being a part of this year's School Council. The School Council meets monthly and meetings are open to all.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer council of parents, guardians, and other members of the community concerned with the delivery of appropriate special education services in Greenfield Public Schools. The SEPAC holds regular meetings that are open to the public, and notices of meetings are posted within the schools and on the website. Special education parent advisory councils are a requirement of the current Massachusetts Special Education Regulations. The Regulations specify two of the responsibilities, and others can be added. The two include advising the School Committee on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. The Greenfield SEPAC typically works with the Pupil Services Office to plan workshops for parents including an annual workshop about parents' rights in special education.

Volunteers

We encourage parents/guardians and community members to volunteer in our school.

However, please be reminded that all volunteers who are working in any capacity in the school setting are bound by the laws of confidentiality and will be required to comply with CORI and/or fingerprint requirements. Information obtained through observation or participation in classrooms is completely confidential. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit the website at www.gpsk12.org under Families and Community.

Lost and Found

Lost and found articles are stored in a designated area at each school. If your child has a missing item, please send in a note with a description of the lost item to your child's teacher, or feel free to come to school yourself and ask for the "Lost & Found" area. Unclaimed articles are distributed and donated appropriately periodically. It is strongly recommended that all clothing, especially boots, snow pants, jackets, etc. be marked with your child's name on an inside area.

Toy Guidelines

Please do not send students to school with toys that may be lost, stolen, and/or broken. Many children are upset when their toys are lost or when trading of toys occurs. The best way to avoid this is to keep all toys at home. Schools are not responsible for items that are lost or stolen.

Technology Use and Digital Learning

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to preparing students for a world that is increasingly digital while also balancing the use of technology during the school day. Over the past several years, the district has invested in high-quality instructional materials—many of which include digital components. These tools support differentiated instruction and help personalize learning to meet individual student needs.

At the same time, we recognize concerns about excessive screen time. Educators are encouraged to use discretion and to limit screen time that is not directly connected to the curriculum, including as a reward or incentive. If you have concerns about your student's use of technology in school, please begin by speaking with your child's teacher. If the issue is not resolved, you are encouraged to contact the school principal.

The district supports the right of students and staff to access a variety of information formats and expects all users to act responsibly and appropriately. We apply the same standards of educational value to digital media as we do to other instructional resources.

Technology use is integrated throughout our curriculum in age-appropriate ways and aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students are provided with ongoing instruction in digital citizenship, including how to use technology to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate effectively, and participate in a global society.

Sensitivities and Allergies

Please be aware that many of our students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to certain foods and scents. We kindly ask families and students to:

- Avoid sending snacks or meals that contain high-risk allergens, such as peanuts.
- Refrain from using heavily scented perfumes, lotions, or other fragrance products.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism (copying) of material from any source, for any and all academic works including: papers, presentations or reports, submitting someone else's work as one's own, using google translate, copy and pasting electronic material, the unauthorized removal of test/exam documents/materials from a classroom, photographing test/exam documents, are all considered forms of academic dishonesty.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards will be issued quarterly (semester at elementary) throughout the year; please see the school calendar for the specific dates.

We encourage students and their families to monitor student progress and attendance by accessing the PowerSchool portal. Grades 6 and 7 Parents/guardians and students are issued codes to access their PowerSchool account so that they can see what assignments students have completed and grading information. Grade 5 Parents/guardians and students are issued codes to access their Powerschool accounts to monitor student attendance only.

We mail information about PowerSchool access at the beginning of the school year but if you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Main Office staff.

Honor Roll

Greenfield Middle School recognized exceptional academic achievement each quarter by awarding students with High Honors and Honors..

Referrals of Students Regarding Suspected Disabilities

The parent/guardian of a Greenfield resident who is between the ages of 2.5 years and 22 years old may contact the Pupil Services Office with concerns or to request special education evaluations related to a known or suspected disability. Some examples of areas of concern are academic skills, social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and speech and/or language skills. The Pupil Services Office may be reached at 413-772-1320 ext. 3327. In addition, parents/guardians can share concerns with their child's school principal, who can forward the information to the Pupil Services Office.

Observations of Special Education Programs

1. Parents/guardian's request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made at least five days in advance with the Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal.
2. The Director of Pupil Services or designee shall contact the parent(s)/guardian for initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the

- parents'/guardian's request.
3. When a parent/guardian requests an observation of a special needs student or program, the Director of Pupil Services or designee will seek approval from the Superintendent or designee and the Principal before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulation.
 4. The Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal will work with the classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling and placement of the observer in the classroom).
 5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
 6. If the observer is not the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign a release for the individual to observe.
 7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.
 8. The observer will be informed that they are not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If their presence presents a problem, they will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents/guardians can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and those of others.
 9. If applicable, the observer will be asked to submit their report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
 10. The observer will be informed that they are there to evaluate the appropriateness of a specific educational program to meet the needs of an individual child. They are not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform their contractual job duties.
 11. The observer will be instructed regarding the disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible the observer may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.
 12. A school administrator, or designee, also will observe at the same time and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s)/guardian prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

STUDENT HEALTH

Illness & Injury

If determined by the School Nurse, the student is unable to remain in school, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to make arrangements for dismissal.

Medications

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

Immunizations

As required by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 15, every school child must be "successfully immunized". The Department of Public Health has established the following schedules as legal requirements for children to attend school. Please be aware that these requirements may change annually.

Preschool:

1. IPV (polio), 3 or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), 1 or more doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), four or more doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella, 1 or more doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

Grades K-12:

1. IPV (polio), four or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) , 2 doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), five doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella – two doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.
7. Tdap, 1 dose is required for all students entering grade 7- 11
8. Meningococcal Grade 7-9 1 dose, 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Grade 11-12 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required.

*Varicella vaccination is required unless the student has a diagnosis of chickenpox disease by the HCP or laboratory proof of immunity.

*Physical exam must show the date of at least 1 lead screen for all children born in Massachusetts.

Physical Education Excused Absences

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education classes, please send a note to your

child's teacher. A note written and signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason, will allow an excused absence once per term.

If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education class on an ongoing basis, please provide a note from your child's physician for review by the school nurse. The school nurse may excuse students from Physical Education classes for medical reasons without a doctor's note once per term.

Home and Hospital Instruction

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the Director of Pupil Services shall arrange for provision of educational services in the hospital or an appropriate agreed upon location. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Director of Student Services.

CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

Administrative Discretion

Greenfield Public Schools believe in the use of a restorative approach to address the whole student and needs that have led to their actions. In doing so, administrative flexibility is required in any disciplinary action to account for individual cases, unusual problems not anticipated nor written in school regulation, and maintenance of effective control of behavior in a public school. The administration reserves the right to adjust actions based upon the severities of the offense or mitigating circumstances. Action taken must also meet the reasonableness and protection of the rights of students.

Greenfield Public Schools expect all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment. We incorporate all provisions of the Mass. General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H, 37H½, and 37H¾ in our Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action affecting a student with a disability must comply with the prescribed procedures under state and federal law. Greenfield incorporates all of the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) (disciplining students with disabilities), as well as 603 CMR 28.08 (dispute resolution before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals), in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Disciplinary Procedures

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be decided according to the facts accompanying the case. Effort will be made to discipline students while maintaining them in regular school programs. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the disciplinary process. In many cases, however, the following discipline options may be utilized:

1. Students may be given detention or one of several other disciplinary options, including a

warning. If after school detention is given, parents must make arrangements for safe student transport home. (Scheduling arrangements for detention can be requested for a parent to provide transportation).

2. Bus privileges may be revoked for acts of misbehavior.
3. Students may have school-driving privileges revoked.
4. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.
5. Students may be internally suspended from their regular classes.
6. Students may be externally suspended from school when they are a danger to themselves or others, or when they demonstrate a chronic inability or unwillingness to abide by school regulations. The Principal will decide the length of each suspension.
7. Students may be required to perform school-based community service.
8. Students may be required to pay restitution, write letters of apology, or be assigned special projects.
9. Students may be referred for counseling, risk assessments or psycho-educational evaluations.
10. Greenfield may order a change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.
11. A student may be excluded from school.

Students who do not abide by the rules of the In-House Alternative Program or who do not modify their behavior will be referred to the administration for external suspension.

During the period of suspension, a student may not appear on school property or at school-related activities or events either as a spectator or participant. A violation of this policy will be considered a trespass resulting in immediate notification of the Greenfield Police Department.

Depending upon the reason for suspension, a student may be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities beyond the suspension period. Suspensions that carry over a weekend or vacation period will also eliminate a student's participation from any extra-curricular events that take place on those weekends or vacation periods.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspensions include but are not limited to:

1. Leaving school during school hours without permission.
2. Unauthorized absence(s) from school (truancy) or from class.
3. Repeated unexcused tardiness to school, class and homeroom.
4. Unexcused absence from detention assignments.
5. Gambling on school grounds in any form.
6. Use of or possession of contraband items such as matches, lighters, non-prescribed hypodermic needles, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, fireworks, stink bombs, laser pens or pointers.
7. Use of or possession of beepers.
8. Smoking on school property, in a school bus, or at school functions.
9. Exhibitionism, lewd, wanton and lascivious behavior, sexual contact, disorderly conduct including, but not limited to excessive, distracting and/or inappropriate public displays of affection between students. (M.G.L.A. Ch.272, s.16 & s.53.)

10. The possession, dissemination, or use of obscenity in any form, especially, speech writing or explicit sexual pictures or drawings. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 272, s. 29 & 31.)
11. Intentional acts threatening the health and safety of self and/or others on school property, at school sponsored or related events, and to and from school. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended.
12. Lack of respect for faculty, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to, insubordination, disobedience, use of insulting and/or profane language or gestures, the willful disregard of express or implied directions from a teacher, administrator, or staff member, including but not limited to, the refusal to follow the directions of mandated tests, assessments, or exams, academic dishonesty/cheating, and/or the refusal to follow a mandated program.
13. Theft or vandalism to school property or the property of others in the school setting, whether during or after school hours or at any school activity. Reasonable proof of the offender is necessary. Restitution by the offender is required. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 266, s. 30, 98, 100, 127A, etc.)
14. Chronic school offender: The student who repeatedly disturbs or interrupts the educational process, refuses to work, who falsifies signatures on reports, who refuses to return signed papers to teachers or administrators, who refuses to report to appropriate school personnel, who exhibits offensive behavior on an ongoing basis, and/or who repeatedly violates the code of conduct.
15. Organizing or participating in hazing or bullying behavior.
16. Violation of Civil Rights: Students have the right to be free from discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical attacks on students directed at their racial, ethnic, or religious background, or their disability, and at any form of sexual harassment.
17. Violation of federal or Massachusetts law.
18. Bullying in any form, including verbal abuse, harassment, taunting, name-calling, threats in any form, extortion, intimidation, slander, defamatory statements, whether verbal or written, pushing, shoving, and tripping. This includes asking anyone to verbally abuse, threaten, or intimidate another student on one's behalf.
19. Any school related act, on or off school property, which interferes with or restricts another student's ability to enjoy the educational benefits afforded or offered within, and outside of, the School setting. Such acts include, but are not limited to incidents that interfere with or threaten the well-being or order of the School or its staff, students, or the general public.

In assigning short-term suspensions, administrators are:

- 1) aiming to improve a student's behavior;
- 2) maintaining a safe and orderly school environment; and
- 3) providing for necessary communication between the parent/ guardian and the school

personnel.

Students under suspension remain responsible for completion of all schoolwork and will receive credit accordingly. Suspended students will have the opportunity to take tests and exams given during the suspension period during after school hours or upon their return to school. Teachers are under no obligation to provide help to a student while he or she is under suspension other than to provide notice of assignments.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Under Sections 37H and 37H½:

- A. Possession of a firearm on school premises, at school-sponsored or school related events, including field trips, and athletic games, and to and from school (United States Code, Section 921 of Title 18);
- B. Possession of a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school (M.G.L.A. Ch.269, Section 10);
- C. Assault/ assault and battery upon an administrator, teacher, teacher aide, or other school staff member on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, sections 13A and 13D);
- D. Possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance as defined in M.G.L.A. Ch. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, crack and heroin on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- E. Use or possession of a bomb or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- F. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, a student charged with a felony or the subject of a felony delinquency complaint may be suspended, or a student convicted, adjudicated, or admitting guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency may be expelled, provided that the Superintendent determines, after hearing, that the student's continued presence poses a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension Under Section 37H¾ include but are not limited to:

- A. Possession of a paint gun, BB gun, air rifle, pellet gun, or imitation weapon of any kind;
- B. Assault/assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, Section 15A & 15B);
- C. Possession or misuse of inhalants, glue, synthetic drugs, or any other substance, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic events, and to and from school;
- D. Academic dishonesty/cheating;
- E. Making a bomb threat by any means, including, but not limited to, verbally, electronically, or in writing;
- F. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcohol on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- G. Serious offenses as defined in Grounds for Suspension

H. Bullying, harassment, or hate crimes; and

I. Use or possession of an object that appears to be a firearm, bomb, or dangerous weapon.

Student Conduct on School Vehicles

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school authorities from the time they board the bus to school until they leave the bus which returns them home. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal. In any emergency situation, the bus driver shall be the Principal's designee while the bus is in transit.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with policies approved by the School Committee.

Required Conduct Aboard the Bus

1. Riders must remain in seats when the bus is in motion.
2. Loud noises and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - Talking to the driver
 - Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - Climbing over or under seats
 - Opening or closing windows
 - Leaning out of windows
 - Littering the bus

DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS

Notice of Proposed Suspension

Except in the case of an emergency removal or disciplinary offense defined under M.G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H½ or an in-school suspension as defined by 603 CMR 53.02(6), the school shall provide the student and parent/guardian with written and oral notice of the proposed out-of-school suspension, an opportunity to be heard at hearing, and the opportunity to participate at the hearing. Notice shall set forth in plain language:

- a) the disciplinary offense;
- b) the basis for the charge;
- c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the Principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the

- student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing;
- e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
 - f) the right of the student and student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. In order to conduct a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. Reasonable effort is presumed if the Principal sent written notice and documented at least two attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency situations.

All written communications regarding notice of proposed suspension shall be either by hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Short Term Suspensions: Hearing and Principal Determination

A short-term suspension is the removal of the student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less. Out-of-school short-term suspensions which do not cumulatively over the course of the school year exceed ten (10) days of suspension shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

Principal Hearing. The purpose of the hearing with the Principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts. A parent/guardian present at the hearing shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the Principal will make a determination whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequence. The Principal will provide notification in writing of their determination in the form of an update to the student and parent/guardian, and provide reasons for the determination. If the student is suspended, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the type and duration of the suspension, and shall provide an opportunity for the student to make up assignments and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Long-Term Suspension: Hearing and Principal Determination

A long-term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal will consider in determining whether alternatives to suspension such as loss of privileges, detention, an apology, a student contract, restitution, and/or probation are appropriate.

Additionally, the student shall have the following additional rights:

- i. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- ii. the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's and or parent's/guardian's expense;
- iii. the right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; and
- iv. the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- v. the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal. All participants shall be informed that the hearing is being recorded by audio. A copy of the audio recording will be provided to the student or parent/guardian upon request.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing the Principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension (the use of evidence-based strategies and programs, such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports) what remedy or consequence will be imposed. If the Principal decides to impose a long-term suspension, the written determination shall:

- i. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;

- ii. Set out key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- iii. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- iv. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive a specific list of education services to make academic progress during removal, and the contact information of a school member who can provide more detailed information.
- v. Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the superintendent or their designee (only if a long-term suspension has been imposed) within five (5) calendar days, which may be extended by parent/guardian request in writing an additional seven (7) calendar days.

The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through grade 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension

A student who is placed on a long-term suspension shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent if properly and timely filed. A good faith effort shall be made to include the parent/guardian at the hearing. The appeal shall be held within three (3) school days of the appeal, unless the student or parent/guardian requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, which the Superintendent shall grant.

The student and parent/guardian shall have the same rights afforded at the long-term suspension Principal hearing. Within five (5) calendar days of the hearing the Superintendent shall issue their written decision which meets the criteria required of the Principal's determination. If the Superintendent determines the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than that of the Principal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Emergency Removal

A student may be temporarily removed prior to notice and hearing when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. A Principal may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate

provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days, following the day of the emergency removal.

During the emergency, removal the Principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason for the emergency removal. The Principal shall also provide the due process requirements of written notice for suspensions and provide for a hearing which meets the due process requirements of a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable, within the two (2) school day time period, unless an extension of time for the hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent/guardian.

A decision shall be rendered orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day. The decision shall meet all of the due process requirements of a Principal's determination in a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable.

In-School Suspension Under 603 CMR 53:02 (6) & 603 CMR 53.10

In-school suspension is defined as the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not the school premises, for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year.

A Principal may impose an in-school suspension as defined above according to the following procedures:

The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery,

certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

Suspension or Expulsion for Disciplinary Offenses Under M.G.L. 71 §§37H and 37H½

The due process notification and hearing requirements in the preceding sections do not apply to the following disciplinary offenses:

Possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault of staff

A student may be subject to expulsion if found in possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or the student assaults a member of educational staff, and the Principal determines the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the opportunity for a hearing, and the right to have representation at the hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. After said hearing, a Principal may, in their discretion, decide to levy a suspension rather than expulsion. A student expelled for such an infraction shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of their appeal. The student has the right to counsel at the hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student was guilty of the alleged offense.

Felony complaint or issuance of felony delinquency complaint

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony, or the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal may suspend a student for a period of time determined appropriate by the Principal if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student in writing of the charges, the reasons for the suspension (prior to such suspension taking effect), and the right to appeal. The Principal will also provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) the process for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent. The request for appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days. The hearing shall be held within three (3) days of the request. The suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing before the Superintendent. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Felony conviction or adjudication/admission in court of guilt for a felony or felony delinquency

The Principal may expel a student convicted of a felony, or has an adjudication or admission of guilt regarding a felony, if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for the proposed expulsion. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent, as well as the appeal process. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of their request for an appeal the decision no later than five (5) calendar days following the date of the expulsion. The Superintendent hearing shall be held with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Student Suspension and Expulsion Data Collection and Reporting

The District shall collect and annually report data to the Department regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by the Department.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the Principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The Principal shall further determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of-school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

Educational Services and Academic Progress Under Section 37H, 37H½, AND 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal from the classroom or school. The Superintendent or Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Superintendent shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students.

The Superintendent or Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Students Identified as Having Special Needs

1. All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Mass. General Laws, formerly known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have special needs and whose individualized program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
 - a. Students with Special Needs may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive days, and may also be suspended in excess of ten (10) cumulative days, as fully outlined under M.G.L.c. 71B, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Such suspensions may be carried out without any further or additional process.
 - b. Suspensions or exclusions in excess of ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days may also occur, provided that the conduct for which the student is being disciplined is not a manifestation of their disability, and the District provides educational services which will allow the student to access the general curriculum and to make progress toward their goals.
2. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B allow school personnel to move a student with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, if that student is in possession of a dangerous weapon at school or a school function or on school property, is in possession or uses a controlled substance or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function or on school property, or inflicts serious bodily injury on a person, including him/herself. The appropriate interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP TEAM.

3. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B also allow school personnel the option of asking a hearing officer or a court to move children with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, if they are substantially likely to injure themselves or others in their current placement.
4. When a special needs student has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive or cumulative days in a school year, such that a substantial change in placement is occurring or will occur, the IEP TEAM will meet to conduct a manifestation determination.
5. When a suspension constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, District personnel, the parent/guardian, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the District, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents/guardians, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP—"a manifestation determination."
6. At the manifestation determination, a copy of the Procedural Safeguards will be given to the parent/guardian.
7. Relevant members of the TEAM meet for the manifestation determination, and they answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student: Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the student's IEP? And is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability. A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the Parent/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined according to the discipline policy in this handbook. The student will receive educational services during this period of suspension or exclusion. If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, then the school may still be able to implement an IAES (see #2 and #3 above). If the IAES is not possible, then the student will remain in their current placement, and the TEAM will arrange for a functional behavioral assessment (if one has not been conducted on the student) and the development or modification of a behavior intervention plan. The Principal or designee will notify the Special Education Office of the suspension offense of a special needs student and a record will be kept of such notices.

Students Identified as Having a Disability and on a Section 504 Plan

Students are expected to meet the expectations for behavior identified in this handbook. A student on a Section 504 plan may be disciplined like any other non-disabled student. However, if the student is going to be suspended for ten (10) or more cumulative days, expelled or suspended for more than fifteen (15) cumulative days (and there is a change in placement as a result), then a manifestation determination review shall be conducted. The students' 504 team shall convene, and answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student:

1. Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the students' 504 plan?

2. Is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability?

A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

Procedural Requirements for Students Not Yet Determined to be Eligible for Special Education

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for special education students if the school had knowledge (as determined by the IDEA) that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school district may be considered to have prior knowledge if, before the behavior that resulted in the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the student's school or to a teacher of the student that the student is in need of special education and related services; or
2. The parent requested an evaluation of the student; or
3. District staff expressed, directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel, specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be deemed to have had knowledge if the parent has not consented to an evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student was completed and resulted in a determination of ineligibility. If the district had no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subjected to disciplinary measures applied to students without disabilities. However, if an evaluation is requested during the time period in which the student is subjected to these disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner.

Referral to and Action By Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

- (A) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or to prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.
- (B) TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS- An agency reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.

Electronic Devices

Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the instructional day. All phones and "smart" watches are to be turned off and secured until after dismissal. For the 2025-2026 academic year, Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School will utilize cell phone pouches for student devices. Families of students who may require accommodations should contact the building principal to schedule a meeting to discuss the concern.

Searches

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student will be conducted in a way that protects the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

The legality of a search of a student, their clothing and/or possessions depends simply on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search (According to *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S 325 1985). The search by a school official is "justified at its inception" when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that a student or students has violated or is violating the laws or rules of the school." Secondly, that "such a search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Any individual, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by them under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, carrying on their person a firearm, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any school building, or at any school related event without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such school, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Firearm shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. See individual school-site's sanctions for such violations.

Any student, who assaults a Principal, Associate Principal, teacher, instructional assistant or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events,

including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.

Dress Code

In the Greenfield Public Schools, we encourage self expression and individuality in all of our students. In order to maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, students must refrain from wearing clothing that may be deemed discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, gender, or religion; or depicts alcohol, drugs, weapons or acts of violence. Building administrators will have the final say on questionable articles of clothing and may request that the student change or cover up.

Hats, caps and hoods are not to be worn in school during the school day. Clothing, attire, and accessories found to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process, or which has affected the safety of students, will be determined a violation of the dress code by the school administration.

LAWS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RECORDS

The Regulations Pertaining to Student Records were developed by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure parents, students and former students of their rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records. The regulations have the force of law and apply to all elementary and secondary schools. Below is a summary of the major provisions of the regulations. A copy of the regulations is available for inspection in the main office or guidance office.

A parent or any student who is at least 14 years old has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student not later than two days after the request, unless the student or parent consents to a delay. Copies of the record must be given to the student or parent upon request for a fee of no more than the actual cost of copying.

The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains your name, address, and your birth date; the name and address of your parents or guardians; course titles; grades (or the equivalent when grades are not applicable); grade level completed and the grade completed.

The temporary record consists of all the information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. This information may include your standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities in which you took part and evaluations by your teachers, counselors, or other school staff. A school health record, which gives a general profile of your health, is included. The temporary record shall not contain any anonymous information and will be destroyed after graduation.

As of 1998, Massachusetts Law (General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

At any time that the school receives a request for student records from a parent who does not have physical custody of the child and who has not yet provided the school with the information required by Section 34H, the school should inform the non-custodial parent of the requirements of the law. This may be done by providing the parent with a letter from the school that sets forth the procedures the parent must follow in order to get access to the records.

Destruction of Records:

Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than seven (7) years after that student transfers, graduates or withdraws from the school system. Temporary records are defined as all information in a student record, which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, extracurricular activities and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. When the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the documents be provided to them. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

In addition, each year, the Principal and/or teachers and/or other service providers may destroy the following documents that are considered part of the student's temporary record: disciplinary records (other than documentation of suspensions or expulsions or exclusions), any notes from the parent/guardian or other documents concerning absences, early dismissals, late arrivals, as well as examples of student work. If the eligible student or the parent/guardian want those records, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school that the documents be provided to them, rather than be destroyed. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

PUBLICATION

Greenfield Public Schools may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent. It is also the practice of the Greenfield School District to give permission for school personnel and the media (e.g., cable television, newspapers, commercial television, radio, and the world wide web) to develop and present in the classroom, in the school hallways, on websites, to the public, print, pictures, and voice related to school programs and students for the purposes of public relations and the dissemination of non-confidential information (i.e., news stories). The Greenfield School District gives such permission without the prior individual approval of parents and caregivers.

If you do not wish for your child's directory information to be released, or to be photographed, and/or videotaped on such occasions, or for any reason, please inform the Principal at the individual school your child is attending, in writing using the form

provided at the end of this handbook, prior to September 15th of the school year. It is the parents'/caregivers' responsibility to notify the school in writing, prior to September 15th, if there are any concerns and or restrictions regarding the publicity of their child's picture, name, voice, or representation in the classroom, school building, local media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, or digital recording for teacher/student evaluation purposes. If we do not receive written documentation to the contrary, then we will assume that the school has your permission.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains a provision regarding the disclosure of names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. The District is obligated to provide, upon request, names, addresses and telephone numbers of students in grades 9-12 to military recruiters, charter schools as well as to institutions of higher education. Therefore, student names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be released to military recruiters, charter schools and institutions of higher learning UNLESS the parent/guardian or student notifies the Principal in writing indicating that they DO NOT want this information released.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Several important pieces of federal and state legislation are listed here for your benefit. These laws prohibit discrimination in public schools. The essence of these laws is presented in the following paragraphs:

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Chapter 622

"No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion or national origin."

Section 504

MGL Chapter 76 specifically states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

The Director of Pupil Services is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator. She will coordinate the Greenfield Public Schools' efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the regulations. Any inquiries concerning the application of the regulations to the practices and policies of the Greenfield Public Schools may be addressed to the Director of Pupil Services 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA 01301 or at 413-772-1327 or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20221.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Greenfield Public Schools reaffirm that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. The Greenfield Public Schools also reaffirm its commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights will not be tolerated.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violation to the building principal. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.
3. The Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

WORKING PERMITS

If you hold a full or part-time job, whether school related or not, you must provide your employer with a work permit. This form indicates to your employer that you are still in school and therefore may not be employed during school hours. Work permits may be obtained from the guidance office or the Superintendent's office both during the school year and during the summer. This request is in accordance with the provisions of Section 8695 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PARENTAL OPT-OUT RIGHTS

Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Greenfield Public Schools, through its curricula and instructional materials, promotes respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal regarding curriculum content and may submit a written request to the building principal to opt out of specific portion(s) of the curriculum that conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, at the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s).

Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.
2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the materials at the school.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves, or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire

- radio
- electromagnetic photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents/guardians and families are expected.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or;
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or their designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within their school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred they shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this

policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or their designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

Disciplinary and Corrective Action

Violation of this protocol is a serious offense. Violators may be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action to stop the conduct and prevent its recurrence. The District

is committed to protecting the complainant, and all students, from bullying. Procedural manuals containing responsibilities of staff and students, reporting procedures, complaint process, resolution, and protection against retaliation shall be in place at each level. All disciplinary incidents will be reported using the school disciplinary action process.

HARASSMENT POLICY

If you feel that you are the victim of any type of harassment, including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, you should follow the policy listed below:

1. Report the matter to a school administrator, counselor, teacher and/or other staff member.
2. The assistant principal will then arrange for a prompt investigation. The assistant principal will meet with all of those involved who will have an opportunity to give a statement.
3. If the accusation of harassment has been substantiated by the assistant principal, the principal will be notified. Appropriate discipline will be administered depending on the nature of the offense.
 - a. Verbal first offenses will be handled by a warning to be followed by much stricter discipline if the offending behavior continues. Parents will be notified.
 - b. Physical offenses will be taken very seriously. Appropriate discipline will be administered. Parents will be notified.

The Committee recognizes that children learn best and teachers teach best when schools are safe. In safe schools, students and teachers feel physically secure, respected and supported. The Committee promotes Civil Rights and Protecting Students from Harassment, Bullying, and Hate Crimes. The Complaint Procedure in this handbook may also be followed in appropriate circumstances.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The school's support of equal educational opportunity includes the recognition that sexual harassment of students will not be tolerated. Any student who feels that he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment should report the matter immediately to a school administrator, counselor, teacher, and/or other staff member who will arrange for a prompt investigation and corrective action where appropriate.

Sexual Harassment Definition

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where:

1. Submission to such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's education; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for education decisions affecting such student; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1. Assault, inappropriate touching, intentionally impeding movement, comments, gestures, or written communications of a suggestive or derogatory nature.
2. Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. (Reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment)
3. Implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved, or suggesting that a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
4. Coercive sexual behavior used to control, influence or affect the educational opportunities, grades and/or the learning environment of a student.
5. Offering or granting favors or educational benefits, such as grades or recommendations, in exchange for sexual favors.

Other sexual harassing behavior directed towards students, whether committed by management, staff, or students, is also prohibited. Such conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances or propositions;
2. Sexually explicit language or gestures;
3. Touching that an individual interprets as sexual in nature;
4. Any unwelcome physical contact;
5. The presence of sexually provocative photographs, pictures or other material, and the telling of sexual stories or jokes.
6. Verbal or non-verbal behavior about an individual's body that is interpreted as sexual in nature.

Reporting:

Any student who believes he/she is a victim of sexual harassment should talk to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as possible. Students should avoid trying to solve the problem of sexual harassment alone.

All persons shall promptly report actual knowledge of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator David Messing, Director of Pupil Services.

“Actual knowledge” means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any employee of the district, except that this standard is not met when the only official of the district with actual knowledge is the respondent (where the respondent is an employee). Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. Complaints will be addressed whenever the district has actual knowledge of the allegation.

Formal Complaint:

The Title IX Coordinator must then contact the complainant upon receiving the complaint and do the following:

- Discuss and offer supportive measures;
- Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- Explain that supportive measures may be received with or without filing a formal complaint;
- Determine whether the complainant wishes to file a formal complaint; and
- Explain to the complainant the purpose of filing a formal complaint

Formal complaint means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

If the complainant declines to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must consider whether to sign a formal complaint and start an investigation despite the complainant's preferences.

This decision may be appropriate when safety or similar concerns lead the district to conclude it must investigate and potentially sanction a respondent.

A Title IX Coordinator's decision to override the complainant's decision not to file a formal complaint must be documented in writing along with an explanation of why this decision was necessary.

An informal resolution may be found if a formal complaint is not filed. The Title IX Coordinator can consider offering mediation. The parties must give written consent to engage in this process. Informal resolution may not be used if the allegation is against an employee respondent.

Prior to Investigating:

Before any investigation can begin, the district must send written notice to both parties including sufficient details. Sufficient details include: identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, 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 is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

The written notice must 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.

The written notice must inform the parties that the District's code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If additional allegations are added during the course of the investigation, additional written notice must be provided.

Investigating

The Title IX Coordinator will designate an investigator and a decision maker, who may not be the same person. The investigator must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of the investigation. The investigator will be responsible for interviewing parties and witnesses, finding facts, and making determinations related to credibility, all of which will go into a written report.

The investigator must avoid all questions that are protected by legal privilege, unless the privilege has been waived, and should avoid asking about the complainant's sexual history unless it is directly relevant to prove consent to the conduct at issue or to prove that the conduct was committed by someone other than the respondent.

Complainants and respondents have a right to have advisors of their choice participate in all aspects of the proceedings. During the investigation, each party must be provided an equal opportunity to present both fact and expert witnesses. The parties will have the opportunity to provide relevant written questions to each other before the decision maker reaches a determination. In the event the decision maker decides not to allow a particular question, the decision maker must explain to the parties why the question is not relevant to the determination.

* 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 investigation shall consist of personal interviews with the complaint, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods deemed pertinent.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the school district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

In addition, the Title IX Coordinator may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the complainant, students and employees pending completion of the investigation of alleged sexual harassment.

Decision Making and Disciplinary Action:

The decision-maker must not be biased against any of the parties at the outset of this process. The decision-maker will offer both the complainant and respondent the opportunity to offer additional limited follow-up.

After this process is complete, the decision-maker will create a written determination regarding whether sexual harassment has occurred using a preponderance of the evidence standard. A "preponderance of the evidence" means that it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred.

The written determination must be issued to both parties simultaneously and must include:

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
2. 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, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the recipient's code of conduct to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the recipient's education program or activity will be provided by the recipient to the complainant; and
6. The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal (a copy of, or direct reference to, this policy will suffice).
7. The decision-maker shall further recommend what action, if any, is required.

The report, once finalized, must be submitted to the parties in electronic form, or a hard copy. The parties then have another 10 days to provide additional information before a determination is made.

If there is a finding that sexual harassment occurred, the school district will provide remedies to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the school district's education program or activity. Such remedies may include supportive measures.

Formal disciplinary actions may be imposed in the event that the preponderance of the evidence indicates a violation of this policy, up to and including expulsion or termination. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with due process rights under State law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Appeals

Any party may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) school days of receipt of the findings of the formal procedure or a dismissal on the following bases:

1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the investigation that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
3. 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 or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The school district will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties. Both parties will have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

Records

Records must be kept for seven years.

Reprisal:

Reprisal, threats, or intimidation of the victim or a person who provides information regarding a claim of sexual harassment will be treated as a most serious offense, which may result in a recommendation of permanent separation from the school community through expulsion from school.

Frivolous Complaints:

When a complaint of sexual harassment is unfounded, frivolous, or maliciously fabricated, the complainant shall be subject to a range of disciplinary and corrective actions consistent with the Code of Conduct.

Reports to Police:

Depending upon the seriousness and frequency of incidents, the Greenfield or Massachusetts State Police may be contacted by the school administration.

HAZING

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 strictly prohibits any type of hazing or initiation into any student organization which will endanger, either physical or mental, a student's person.

The law specifically states:

*Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or both such fine and imprisonment. The term hazing as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly may endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

*Section 18: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

*Section 19: Each secondary school and each public and private college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operation on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18.

Full documentation and explanations are available from the building principal or his designee.

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the

unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring themselves, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements; including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent/guardian of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving an investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents/guardians in discussions about restraint prevention in and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00,
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff

directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint".

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents/guardians of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Liaison

The Homeless Education liaison's role is to assist homeless students enroll in school to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible. Further information may be obtained by David Messing, Director of Pupil Services, 413-772-1327

School Placement, Transportation, and Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their school of origin and receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing.

School placement determinations must be based on the best interest of the homeless student. In making decisions regarding best interests, school districts must:

- Presume keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, school placement of siblings, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

For homeless students who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, districts must remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, on-line learning, and charter school programs.

Transportation

School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. Furthermore:

- If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed;
- If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing their education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin; and
- If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students. Each school district's homeless education liaison must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed, in the language of the home, of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

Enrollment

School districts must immediately enroll homeless students in school to provide educational stability and avoid separation from school for days or weeks while documents are located.

Therefore, homeless education liaisons must ensure that:

- Students who chose to enroll in school where they are temporarily residing must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them;

- If a homeless student arrives without records, the previously attended school district is contacted and the required records requested;
- That homeless students are attending school while the records are being requested;
- Districts remove barriers to homeless students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and
- Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information and therefore cannot be shared with the public including landlords.

FORM A

DO NOT RELEASE FORM - STUDENT INFORMATION

As a parent/guardian you may NOT want your child's information to be released.

**Only return this form if you do not want your child's
information released**

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), a school may release student directory information, including students names and addresses, so long as the school provides public notice of the type of information it releases and allows parents a reasonable period of time to request that the information not be released. Generally, schools provide this notice to parents.

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

The Greenfield Public Schools will release directory information to colleges, scholarship organizations, the military, other post-graduate programs such as technical schools, and other individuals and/or groups upon request.

FORM B

IJNDB-R: EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the district's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the school district network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines they will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- an individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.
- users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately.

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by district administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

SOURCE: MASC, August 2015

Approved by Greenfield School Committee March 10, 2021

EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY: REGULATIONS

Purpose

The Greenfield Public Schools maintain a computer network and computer systems to provide students, faculty and staff with access to a host of resources both internally within the district and on the Internet. These resources include, but are not limited to, desktop, laptop, and tablet computers, personal digital assistants, network and Internet access, e-mail, telephones, voicemail and facsimile machines (collectively to be called "Electronic Resources"). The Greenfield Public Schools network is established to support the educational mission and administrative operations of the individual schools.

Responsibilities

As a student or employee at the Greenfield Public Schools you may have access to Electronic Resources, including the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the public schools community and all expectations regarding standards of behavior as outlined in the Student, Employee or Employee Handbook apply to your actions while utilizing or accessing the network or other Electronic Resources. You are expected to use the Electronic Resources in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but Greenfield Public Schools reserves the right to limit your access. If you believe a website is blocked in error, please contact the Greenfield Public Schools Office of Information Technology to initiate a review. Access to the Greenfield Public Schools network is a privilege and not a right. Unacceptable Uses and Behavior Activities that are considered violations of this electronic resources acceptable use policy and school rules include but are not limited to:

- Illegal Activities
- involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software
- interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking," "cracking," probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type without express permission.
- adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services.
- Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement
- transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.
- plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited.
- tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to Greenfield Public Schools or other people.
- using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying except as expressly allowed during a school activity.

- attempting to log on to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- trespassing in another's folders, e-mail, work, or files or using another person's account.
- changing computer files that do not belong to you.
- conducting yourself in ways that are harmful to others.
- creating, transferring or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous or threatening messages.
- viewing, storing or transferring obscene, sexually explicit or pornographic material.
- posting or sending e-mail or voicemail messages that are personal attacks, including any prejudicial, discriminatory, racist or sexist content, could cause damage or disruption, contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or harassing another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Disciplinary actions Violation of this Acceptable Use Policy is considered a violation of district policy. Some behaviors are considered violations of a major school rule. Violations will result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions (Administrators in the Greenfield Public Schools will decide in its sole discretion which disciplinary action is warranted under the circumstances):

- verbal warning
- written warning
- restriction of access privileges
- removal from a class activity
- removal from a course
- confiscation of computer equipment
- student detention, restrictions or work hours
- suspension or expulsion
- payment for damages due to your actions
- referral to legal authorities

Privacy Users of the network or other Electronic Resources have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Greenfield Public Schools network or on other Electronic Resources (e.g., voicemail and email). Information such as emails transmitted over the network may be a public record. The network is subject to monitoring. Limited Liability Greenfield Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Greenfield Public Schools are not

responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy included in the Parent/Guardian and Student Handbook available on the district website. I understand and agree to abide by the Greenfield Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy.

Printed Name of Student or Staff Member

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent (if Required)

Signature

Date

Greenfield High School



FAMILY HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Greenfield Public Schools

**21 Barr Avenue
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301
413-772-1350
Fax: 413-774-6204**

The Greenfield School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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School Committee Policies are located on Greenfield Public Schools' Website:
<https://www.gpsk12.org/gps-district-wide/school-committee/policy-manual>

RELEVANT FORMS

Student Records Opt Out Form
Acceptable Use Policy

Translation Information: If you need assistance reading this document or other school publications, please contact the principal to obtain translation services.

Spanish

Si usted necesita ayuda para leer este documento u otras publicaciones de la escuela, por favor póngase en contacto con el director del edificio para obtener servicios de traducción.

Portuguese

Se você necessitar o auxílio que lê este original ou outras publicações da escola, contate por favor o principal do edifício para obter serviços de tradução.

French

Si vous avez besoin de l'aide pour lire ce document ou des autres publications de l'école, svp entrez en contact avec le principal du bâtiment pour obtenir les services de traduction.

Italian

Se avete bisogno dell'assistenza che leggete questo documento o altre pubblicazioni della scuola, mettasi in contatto con prego il principale della costruzione per ottenere i servizi di traduzione.

German

Wenn Sie Unterstützung dieses Dokument oder andere Schulepublikationen lesend benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit der Gebäudedirektion in Verbindung, um Übersetzungsdienste zu erhalten.

Russian

Если Вам нужна помощь в прочтении этого документа или других публикаций школы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором Вашей школы для получения перевода.

District Phone Numbers:

Central Office

Superintendent

Roland R. Joyal, Jr.
413-772-1326

Assistant Superintendent

Stephen Sullivan
413-772-1315

Pupil Services

David Messing, Director
413-772-1324

Sarah Crawford, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1317

Elaine Mount, Asst. Dir. of Pupil Services
413-772-1407

Technology Services

Ian Edwards, Director
413-772-1322

Facilities

Mike Boudreau, Manager
413-772-1406

Food Service Department

TBD, Director
413-772-1334

Business Office

Vera Ayrapetyan, Asst. Business Manager
413-772-1312

Schools

Academy of Early Learning

Jill Taglia, Principal
413-772-1390

Federal Street School

Kelly Halpin, Principal
413-772-1380

Discovery School at Four Corners

David Potter, Principal
413-772-1375

Newton School

Carol Jacobs, Principal
413-772-1370

Greenfield Middle School

Michelle Fenimore, Principal
413-772-1360

Greenfield High School

Michael Browning, Principal
413-772-1350

Principal's Welcome Back Address

Hi GHS Family,

As we move into our second year as an Admin team, we are excited about the relationships we created with our families, students and staff and we can't wait to grow those relationships when we see you in the many events and activities that await the new year! We are also invigorated to build on the opportunities to see our students grow and develop into responsible and engaging citizens, continually holding a high standard for what it means to be part of the Green Wave Nation!

I encourage both families and students to engage with us with a renewed mindset, looking for new ways to be involved. Our monthly newsletters, which are sent via SchoolMessenger, as well as other media formats, are great ways to see what is happening and how you can be a part of it.

The school day is from 7:45-2:10 daily, and our doors open at 7:15 a.m., with free breakfast available in the cafeteria each morning! Arrival and dismissal procedures are included below.

The biggest reason we are all here, is YOU, the student, and we want to see you, and that doesn't happen, unless you are HERE, so we will work with you and your family, to ensure that this is a shared priority, because we care about and want to celebrate your successes. This is why we have grown our efforts around attendance, to include any time you are not present in class, including tardiness and early dismissals, and are committed to support you in being present in class.

This year, we continue to build our capacity for growth as we launch a new ELA curriculum, as well as continue to grow our work with our science curriculum we started last year! We, as a staff, are also engaged district wide to expand our instructional, as well as social and emotional skills, to better serve the whole student.

We also want to hear from you on ways we can grow, so keep sharing and we'll keep listening!

Let's have a great year together!

Mike Browning
Principal

Ray Dandurand
Associate Principal

Robin Warner
Associate Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours of Operations

Greenfield High School
Arrival: 7:30 am
School Day Begins: 7:45am
Dismissal: 2:10pm

GHS Schedule

Monday and Wednesday Schedule:

Period 1 : 7:45- 9:21am

Period 3 : 9:25-11:02am

Period 5 : 11:06- 12:36pm

(1st Lunch: 11:06-11:36am, 2nd Lunch: 11:36-12:06pm, 3rd Lunch: 12:06- 12:36pm)

Period 7 : 12:40-2:10pm

Tuesday and Thursday Schedule:

Period 2 : 7:45- 9:21am

Period 4 : 9:25-11:02am

Period 5 : 11:06- 12:36pm

(1st Lunch: 11:06-11:36am, 2nd Lunch: 11:36-12:06pm, 3rd Lunch: 12:06- 12:36pm)

Period 6 : 12:40-2:10pm

Friday Schedule:

Period 1 : 7:45-8:31am

Period 2 : 8:35-9:21am

Period 3 : 9:25-10:11am

Period 4 : 10:15-11:02am

Period 5 : 11:06-12:36pm (Advisory for 30 mins.)

(1st Lunch: 11:06-11:36am, 2nd Lunch: 11:36-12:06pm, 3rd Lunch: 12:06- 12:36pm)

Period 6 : 12:40-1:23pm

Period 7 : 1:27-2:10pm

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Morning arrival:

- Students being bussed to school will be dropped off in the rear of the building.
- Students being transported by parents will be dropped off in the front of the building.

Afternoon Dismissal:

- Students being bussed home will get on the bus in the rear of the building.
- Students being picked up from school by their parents, will be picked up in the front of the building.

Student dismissal during the school day: (*Front of the Building*)

Parents/Guardians will need to come into the building to dismiss their child.

School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the Greenfield Public Schools may cancel school, delay the start of school or determine the need to dismiss early. In those instances, families in Greenfield Public Schools will receive an automated phone message, email and text message through School Messenger. Information about the status of school can also be found on WWLP, Western Mass News and NECN and available on 98.3 WHAI. The information will also be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Attendance Requirements and Punctuality Expectations

Regular attendance is essential to student learning and for them to experience educational success. Students are expected to be in attendance every day of the school year and parents/guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure students are in attendance every day. Students who are absent for 10% of the days they are enrolled (18 days for a student enrolled for the full, 180 day school year) are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism has been shown to negatively impact the academic and social skills needed to succeed in school.

For Absences:	For Tardiness:	For Early Dismissals:	For Messages:
If your child is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the school's absence line at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. Please provide the student's name, your name and the date for the absence. Schools will dispatch automated calls to absent students' homes approximately 15 mins. after the start of school After 3 days of unexcused absences a staff member will contact the students' homes. Attendance letters will be generated after the 5th, 10th, and 15th absences and will be sent to parents/guardians. After the 7th and 15th day of unexcused absences, school administration will schedule a meeting with the student and family. Additionally, a home visit may be scheduled no later than the 15th unexcused absence.	If your child will arrive after the school day begins a parent/guardian should provide a note to the Main Office with the explanation of the tardiness. Please enter the building at the Main Entrance for all arrivals after the start of school. The issue of tardies will be addressed following progressive discipline. If a student is tardy to a particular class more than 3 times, the student will receive an office detention for the fourth and subsequent tardies	If your child needs to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, they should bring a note to the Main Office before school begins. The note should include the time of dismissal, the reason for leaving early and how the student will be leaving (i.e.; student drivers) If your child did not bring a note and needs to leave early, please call the Main Office to inform the school. All students must be signed out in the Main Office and will only be released to people on their Student Contact Information. If other arrangements are needed, please speak to one of our administrative assistants.	If you need to get a message to your child or drop off a forgotten item, please call/visit the Main Office to ensure that your child receives the message/item. We will not disrupt classes for non-emergency situations.

Attendance Communication Responsibilities

Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school of a planned absence (surgery, medical appointment etc...) as soon as they are able. However, they are asked to inform the school no later than 15 minutes before the start of school. Please call the school main office number and follow the prompts for the absentee call in line. If the school does not receive a message from the parent/guardian by the designated time, then the school will send an automated message to all numbers associated with the parents/guardians informing them of their child's absence from school.

School: The school is required to notify a parent/guardian of a child's absence if the school has not received notification by the parent/guardian within 3 days of the absence. We are further required to notify parents/guardians if a student has missed 2 or more classes as unexcused in a 5-day period of time or if the student has missed 5 or more unexcused days in the school year. The Principal and/or designee will arrange a meeting with families of students who have 5 or more unexcused absences for the purpose of developing action steps to improve student attendance at school.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in the family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Family vacations are not considered to be excused absences. Families are encouraged to plan vacations during scheduled school vacation weeks to avoid students missing valuable instructional time.

Students must meet the school's attendance requirements in order to earn credit for courses or to be promoted to the next grade. Students who exceed the allowable number of excused or unexcused absences shall not be granted credit for their courses.

School representatives may file a Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) for a student who is habitually absent and misses more than 8 days in a quarter without a proper excuse or is a habitual school offender who doesn't obey the lawful and reasonable commands of the school. A CRA may be considered after multiple attempts to engage parents/guardians which have been unsuccessful in improving attendance. Community agencies, such as the Franklin County Family Resource Center, will also be offered to support families prior to a CRA being filed by the school.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Section 18, students 16 years of age or older who have 10 consecutive absences shall receive written notice of their right to be invited to an exit interview before the student may be administratively unenrolled from school. If a Special Education student is chronically absent, the IEP team should convene and rewrite the student's IEP to reflect this issue.

Missing Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all missed assignments, tests or quizzes. Unless arrangements are made, the student may have as many days as missed in order to make up the work. For example, if a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to make up the required work. A minimum 24 hour notice is required to prepare materials should the parent/guardian wish to make a request for student assignments prior to an absence.

Punctuality Expectations and Tardiness

Being on time for all classes and required school functions is expected of all students. At the start of each class, teachers will take classroom attendance. Records of missed classes due to absences, late arrivals, early dismissals or disciplinary referrals will be referenced for course failure deliberations and/or disciplinary consequences. If a student needs to arrive late to a class, they should obtain and provide a pass indicating the reason for their tardiness to be excused.

For families of students with excessive tardies, a meeting with school administration and other applicable staff will be scheduled. A plan to improve student punctuality to school will be developed. If a student's punctuality does not improve, school administrators may utilize progressive discipline up to and including internal suspension.

Absences and School Events

Students who are absent for more than a half day will not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities on that day. If the activity or event is on a weekend, students who were absent the day before will not be able to attend. This includes any sporting events, concerts, dances etc. Absences that are exempted are not included in this policy.

Building Security and Safety Plan

In order to support facility safety and security within the Greenfield School District for all school personnel, students and visitors, the following district-wide and school-site procedures shall be followed during regular school hours:

Exterior doors to all school buildings are kept locked. Visitors wishing to enter a school building are asked to ring the doorbell to request entry. All visitors are required to proceed to the main office immediately upon entry. During arrival and dismissal, school administrators shall assign available school personnel to areas of the facilities requiring special supervision.

Visitors will be required to sign in, wear a visitor badge and be escorted to their destination. Prior to leaving the building, individuals must report back to the main office, return the badges, and sign out.

All students arriving late, leaving early, or being dismissed and brought back during the school day (e.g. for medical or dental appointments) must report to the main office in the company of parent, guardian or designated person, in order to be signed out/in by the office secretary or other designated individuals. Parents/guardians or other individuals entering the building in order to dismiss or return a student must report to the main office.

Individuals are encouraged to report information which could help keep our schools safe and prevent potential violence. Information should be reported directly to a school administrator.

Safety and Security Procedures

Emergency evacuation routes are posted within each classroom. Safety and security drills will be conducted to review procedures with students and staff. The function of these drills is to create a rapid, safe and organized method of responding to situations. All visitors in the building at the time safety and security protocols are utilized are required to follow the protocols.

Care of School Property and Textbooks

Students are responsible for all school property loaned to them, including library books, textbooks, technology, laboratory equipment, athletic uniforms, band uniforms, musical instruments, and other school property.

Any student who damages, destroys or does not return school issued equipment shall be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

Meal Program

The Greenfield Public Schools participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and is required to follow all USDA policies related to these programs. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

The Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Department recognizes the importance of student nutrition and the role proper nutrition plays in successful learning. Students are offered nutritionally-balanced meals each day, which include a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with scratch-cooked and locally-sourced options. The latest menus for each grade level can be found here, and will also be posted to the GPS Food Services Instagram and Facebook pages @GreenfieldSchoolFood.

In the 2025-2026 school year, all Greenfield Public Schools will operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and all students will receive FREE breakfast and lunch at school without families having to submit a household application. Charges will still apply to second meals, separately purchased milk, and a la carte items at Greenfield High School. See below for pricing. All students who are “directly certified” for free or reduced price meals through the state Virtual Gateway will receive a letter in the mail by the end of September. ***Please keep this letter for your records as proof of your child’s eligibility status.*** Please note, CEP does not mean that all students have free/reduced eligibility status for programs such as Summer EBT or outside discounts from utility companies or recreational activities.

Payment information, including instructions for loading your student's online account via the SchoolCafe Family Hub, can be found here on our website. Please note, funds are only needed for purchasing additional meals, separate milk, and a la carte items at GHS.

- 2025-2026 School Meal Prices: FREE for all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. If students wish to purchase *additional meals* beyond the first free meal, prices are as follows:
 - Breakfast (all schools) - \$2.00
 - Elementary / Preschool Lunch - \$3.25
 - Middle School Lunch - \$3.50
 - High School Lunch- \$3.75
- Separately Purchased Milk* - \$0.60
*Milk is free with reimbursable meals. Under "Offer vs. Serve" a student in grades K-12 may take milk and two other items (one of which needs to be ½ cup fruit or vegetable) to create a free reimbursable meal.
- A la Carte Items**
 - Water: \$1.00
 - Flavored water & juice: \$1.50
 - Chips & other treats (e.g. popcorn, rice krispy treats, fruit chews): \$1.00
 - Cookies: \$0.75
 - Pudding cup: \$0.75
 - Fruit & yogurt parfait: \$2.00**These items are sold only at Greenfield High School and include A-List approved snacks and beverages sold individually. Students may purchase a la carte items with cash, check, or a positive SchoolCafe account balance.

School Council

The School Council is composed of parents/guardians, staff, and community members and serves as a sounding board that can provide perspective for the principal on a variety of school-related topics. Please contact the Principal if you are interested in being a part of this year's School Council. The School Council meets monthly and meetings are open to all.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer council of parents, guardians, and other members of the community concerned with the delivery of appropriate special education services in Greenfield Public Schools. The SEPAC holds regular meetings that are open to the public, and notices of meetings are posted within the schools and on the website. Special education parent advisory councils are a requirement of the current Massachusetts Special Education Regulations. The Regulations specify two of the responsibilities, and others can be added. The two include advising the School Committee on matters pertaining to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. The Greenfield SEPAC typically works with the Pupil Services Office to plan workshops for parents

including an annual workshop about parents' rights in special education.

English Learner Parent Advisory Council

The Greenfield Public Schools facilitate an English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) to promote and support the success of English Learners (ELs). The ELPAC is a collaborative partnership between the school district, families, and community organizations. Participation is voluntary and is open to all parents of students identified or previously identified as English Learners. ELPACs are intended by law to advise school districts and schools regarding matters that impact ELs, such as providing advice on English learner education programs, meeting regularly with school officials about educational opportunities for ELs, and providing input on school or district improvement plans as they relate to ELs. Volunteers can provide support in a number of ways including being a representative on your child's school council, serving as a liaison for other parents who share your language background, and sharing skills and knowledge with others.

Volunteers

We encourage parents/guardians and community members to volunteer in our school. However, please be reminded that all volunteers who are working in any capacity in the school setting are bound by the laws of confidentiality and will be required to comply with CORI and/or fingerprint requirements. Information obtained through observation or participation in classrooms is completely confidential. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit the website at www.gpsk12.org under Families and Community.

Lost and Found

Lost and found articles are stored in a designated area at each school. If your child has a missing item, please send in a note with a description of the lost item to your child's teacher, or feel free to come to school yourself and ask for the "Lost & Found" area. Unclaimed articles are distributed and donated appropriately periodically. It is strongly recommended that all clothing, especially boots, snow pants, jackets, etc. be marked with your child's name on an inside area.

Technology Use and Digital Learning

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to preparing students for a world that is increasingly digital while also balancing the use of technology during the school day. Over the past several years, the district has invested in high-quality instructional materials—many of which include digital components. These tools support differentiated instruction and help personalize learning to meet individual student needs.

At the same time, we recognize concerns about excessive screen time. Educators are encouraged to use discretion and to limit screen time that is not directly connected to the curriculum, including as a reward or incentive. If you have concerns about your student's use of technology in school, please begin by speaking with your child's teacher. If the issue is not resolved, you are encouraged to contact the school principal.

The district supports the right of students and staff to access a variety of information formats and expects all users to act responsibly and appropriately. We apply the same standards of

educational value to digital media as we do to other instructional resources.

Technology use is integrated throughout our curriculum in age-appropriate ways and aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students are provided with ongoing instruction in digital citizenship, including how to use technology to seek knowledge, think critically, communicate effectively, and participate in a global society.

Sensitivities and Allergies

Please be aware that many of our students and staff have allergies or sensitivities to certain foods and scents. We kindly ask families and students to:

- Avoid sending snacks or meals that contain high-risk allergens, such as peanuts.
- Refrain from using heavily scented perfumes, lotions, or other fragrance products.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarism (copying) of material from any source, for any and all academic works including: papers, presentations or reports, submitting someone else's work as one's own, using google translate, copy and pasting electronic material, the unauthorized removal of test/exam documents/materials from a classroom, photographing test/exam documents, are all considered forms of academic dishonesty.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards will be issued quarterly throughout the year; please see the school calendar for the specific dates. Progress reports will be issued at the midpoint of each quarter or later if needed.

We encourage students and their families to monitor student progress and attendance by accessing the PowerSchool portal. Parents/guardians and students are issued codes to access their PowerSchool account so that they can see what assignments students have completed and grading information. We mail information about PowerSchool access at the beginning of the school year but if you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Main Office staff.

Graduation Requirements

Credit Distribution and Additional Information Below

- a. Twenty (20) credits of English courses
- b. Fifteen (15) credits of Math courses
- c. Fifteen (15) credits of Science courses

- d. Fifteen (15) credits of Social Studies courses

*The students of the Class of 2025 and all others moving forward are required to take an additional 2.5 credit Social Studies course focused on civics skills and dispositions

- e. Five (5) credits of Health courses
- f. Ten (10) credits of Wellness courses
- g. One 2.5 credit Technology course
- h. Ten (10) credits of Arts and Humanities courses
- i. Twenty Seven and a half (27.5) credits additional courses

Total credits needed to Graduate: 120 credits

For students interested in attending college, it is recommended that students take four years in all core subject areas including world language. We encourage all students to explore a rich array of electives and fields of study.

Credit Distribution and Additional Information

1. The Science requirement must include:

- a. Life Science
- b. Physical Science
- c. At least one Additional Science

Students interested in attending college are encouraged to take either physical science or chemistry after grade 9. Double courses in science are allowed, e.g. to prepare for a college major in engineering, pre-med, research biology, etc.

2. The Social Studies requirement must include:

- a. U.S. History I
- b. U.S. History II
- c. Modern World History

3. The Humanities/Arts requirement can be met by any of the courses from one or more of the following departments:

- a. Art
- b. World Language

- c. Music
- d. Film
- e. Culinary Arts
- f. Business
- g. ELA offerings (creative writing, philosophy)
- h. History offerings (psychology, current events, law)

The Health/Wellness requirement must include:

- a. 1 Semester Health A (recommended for grade 9)
- b. 1 Semester Health B (recommended for grade 10)
- c. 2 Semesters Wellness (recommended for grade 9 or 10)
- d. 2 Semesters Wellness (recommended for grade 11 or 12)

Referrals of Students Regarding Suspected Disabilities

The parent/guardian of a Greenfield resident who is between the ages of 2.5 years and 22 years old may contact the Pupil Services Office with concerns or to request special education evaluations related to a known or suspected disability. Some examples of areas of concern are academic skills, social/emotional and/or behavioral difficulties, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and speech and/or language skills. The Pupil Services Office may be reached at 413-772-1324. In addition, parents/guardians can share concerns with their child's school principal, who can forward the information to the Pupil Services Office.

Observations of Special Education Programs

1. Parents'/guardian's request to observe their child(ren), current program, or a potential placement must be made at least five days in advance with the Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal.
2. The Director of Pupil Services or designee shall contact the parent(s)/guardian for initial scheduling conversation within five (5) days of receipt of the parents'/guardian's request.
3. When a parent/guardian requests an observation of a student receiving special education services or programs, the Director of Pupil Services or designee will seek approval from the Superintendent or designee and the Principal before it is processed. Such approval may only be withheld for those reasons outlined within law and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulation.
4. The Director of Pupil Services or designee and/or Principal will work with the

classroom teacher and the observer to set up the specifics of the observation (including, but not limited to, scheduling and placement of the observer in the classroom).

5. The number, frequency, and duration of observation periods will be determined on an individual student basis in accordance with law and regulation. The start and end time of observation periods and a schedule of observation periods will be stated in advance. In order to minimize classroom or student disruption, the length of individual observation periods may be limited.
6. If the observer is not the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian must sign a release for the individual to observe.
7. The number of observers at any one time may be limited.
8. The observer will be informed that they are not to interfere with the educational environment of the classroom. If their presence presents a problem, they will be asked to leave. This notice is particularly important, since the presence of parents/guardians can influence both the performance of their child(ren) and that of others.
9. If applicable, the observer will be asked to submit their report of the observation in advance of any follow-up TEAM meeting.
10. The observer will be informed that they are not there to evaluate a teacher's ability to perform their contractual job duties.
11. The observer will be instructed regarding the prohibition of disclosure of confidential or personally identifiable information relating to other children. Staff must be mindful of removing materials which may be part of students' records from plain view. In the event that removal is not possible, the observer may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement.
12. A school administrator, or designee, also will observe at the same time and take notes as to what is observed, paying particular attention to note anything that is non-typical concerning the period. This observation summary will be placed in the student's file and provided to the parent(s)/guardian prior to any follow-up TEAM meeting.

STUDENT HEALTH

Illness & Injury

If determined by the School Nurse, the student is unable to remain in school, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to make arrangements for dismissal.

Annual Health Information Form

Parents/Guardians must complete the annual Health Information Form for each student. This includes the names and contact information of those individuals that the student may be released to in the event of illness or injury. It also includes permission for the school nurse to administer appropriate over-the-counter medications to the student, if needed.

Medications

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to

them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

Immunizations

As required by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 15, every school child must be "successfully immunized". The Department of Public Health has established the following schedules as legal requirements for children to attend school. Please be aware that these requirements may change annually.

Preschool:

1. IPV (polio), 3 or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), 1 or more doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), four or more doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella, 1 or more doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.

Grades K-12:

1. IPV (polio), four or more doses
2. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) , 2 doses
3. DTaP/DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), five doses
4. Hepatitis B, 3 doses
5. Varicella – two doses
6. Hib (haemophilus influenza), 1-4 doses. The number of doses is determined by vaccine product and age the series begins.
7. Tdap, 1 dose is required for all students entering grade 7- 11
8. Meningococcal Grade 7-10 1 dose, 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required. Grade 11-12 2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required.

*Varicella vaccination is required unless the student has a diagnosis of chickenpox disease by the HCP or laboratory proof of immunity.

*Physical exam must show the date of at least 1 lead screen for all children born in Massachusetts.

Physical Education Excused Absences

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education classes, please send a note to your child's teacher. A note written and signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason, will allow an excused absence once per term.

If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in Physical Education class on an ongoing basis, please provide a note from your child's physician for review by the school nurse. The school nurse may excuse students from Physical Education classes for medical reasons without a doctor's note once per term.

Home or Hospital Instruction

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the student is eligible to receive educational services in that setting, temporarily, from the school district. The students' parents must submit the form called Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons to the Director of Pupil Services, and the Director of Pupil Services shall arrange for provision of educational services in the hospital or a home for students who meet the criteria. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Director of Student Services.

CODE OF CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

Administrative Discretion

Greenfield Public Schools believe in the use of a restorative approach to address the whole student and needs that have led to their actions. In doing so, administrative flexibility is required in any disciplinary action to account for individual cases, unusual problems not anticipated nor written in school regulation, and maintenance of effective control of behavior in a public school. The administration reserves the right to adjust actions based upon the severities of the offense or mitigating circumstances. Action taken must also meet the reasonableness and protection of the rights of students.

Greenfield Public Schools expect all students to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Disciplinary measures are used to maintain a safe and stable school environment. We incorporate all provisions of the Mass. General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H, 37H½, and 37H¾ in our Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary action affecting a student with a disability must comply with the prescribed procedures under state and federal law. Greenfield incorporates all of the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) (disciplining students with disabilities), as well as 603 CMR 28.08 (dispute resolution before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals), in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Disciplinary Procedures

Each discipline case will carry its own merit and will be decided according to the facts accompanying the case. Effort will be made to discipline students while maintaining them in regular school programs. Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in the disciplinary process. In many cases, however, the following discipline options may be utilized:

1. Students may be given detention or one of several other disciplinary options, including a warning. If after school detention is given, parents must make arrangements for safe student transport home. (Scheduling arrangements for detention can be requested for a parent to provide transportation).

2. Bus privileges may be revoked for acts of misbehavior.
3. Students may have school-driving privileges revoked.
4. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities.
5. Students may be internally suspended from their regular classes.
6. Students may be externally suspended from school when they are a danger to themselves or others, or when they demonstrate a chronic inability or unwillingness to abide by school regulations. The Principal will decide the length of each suspension.
7. Students may be required to perform school-based community service.
8. Students may be required to pay restitution, write letters of apology, or be assigned special projects.
9. Students may be referred for counseling, risk assessments or psycho-educational evaluations.
10. Greenfield may order a change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.
11. A student may be excluded from school.

Students who do not abide by the rules of the In-House Alternative Program or who do not modify their behavior will be referred to the administration for external suspension.

During the period of suspension, a student may not appear on school property or at school-related activities or events either as a spectator or participant. A violation of this policy will be considered a trespass resulting in immediate notification of the Greenfield Police Department.

Depending upon the reason for suspension, a student may be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities beyond the suspension period. Suspensions that carry over a weekend or vacation period will also eliminate a student's participation from any extra-curricular events that take place on those weekends or vacation periods.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspensions include but are not limited to:

1. Leaving school during school hours without permission.
2. Unauthorized absence(s) from school (truancy) or from class.
3. Repeated unexcused tardiness to school, class and homeroom.
4. Unexcused absence from detention assignments.
5. Gambling on school grounds in any form.
6. Use of or possession of contraband items such as matches, lighters, non-prescribed hypodermic needles, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, fireworks, stink bombs, laser pens or pointers.
7. Use of or possession of beepers.
8. Smoking on school property, in a school bus, or at school functions.
9. Exhibitionism, lewd, wanton and lascivious behavior, sexual contact, disorderly conduct including, but not limited to excessive, distracting and/or inappropriate public displays of affection between students. (M.G.L.A. Ch.272, s.16 & s.53.)
10. The possession, dissemination, or use of obscenity in any form, especially, speech writing or explicit sexual pictures or drawings. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 272, s. 29 & 31.)
11. Intentional acts threatening the health and safety of self and/or others on school property, at

school sponsored or related events, and to and from school. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended.

12. Lack of respect for faculty, staff, and visitors, including, but not limited to, insubordination, disobedience, use of insulting and/or profane language or gestures, the willful disregard of express or implied directions from a teacher, administrator, or staff member, including but not limited to, the refusal to follow the directions of mandated tests, assessments, or exams, academic dishonesty/cheating, and/or the refusal to follow a mandated program.
13. Theft or vandalism to school property or the property of others in the school setting, whether during or after school hours or at any school activity. Reasonable proof of the offender is necessary. Restitution by the offender is required. If warranted, a determination as to referral to law enforcement may be recommended. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 266, s. 30, 98, 100, 127A, etc.)
14. Chronic school offender: The student who repeatedly disturbs or interrupts the educational process, refuses to work, who falsifies signatures on reports, who refuses to return signed papers to teachers or administrators, who refuses to report to appropriate school personnel, who exhibits offensive behavior on an ongoing basis, and/or who repeatedly violates the code of conduct.
15. Organizing or participating in hazing or bullying behavior.
16. Violation of Civil Rights: Students have the right to be free from discrimination based upon race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or handicap. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical attacks on students directed at their racial, ethnic, or religious background, or their disability, and at any form of sexual harassment.
17. Violation of federal or Massachusetts law.
18. Bullying in any form, including verbal abuse, harassment, taunting, name-calling, threats in any form, extortion, intimidation, slander, defamatory statements, whether verbal or written, pushing, shoving, and tripping. This includes asking anyone to verbally abuse, threaten, or intimidate another student on one's behalf.
19. Any school related act, on or off school property, which interferes with or restricts another student's ability to enjoy the educational benefits afforded or offered within, and outside of, the School setting. Such acts include, but are not limited to incidents that interfere with or threaten the well-being or order of the School or its staff, students, or the general public.

In assigning short-term suspensions, administrators are:

- 1) aiming to improve a student's behavior;
- 2) maintaining a safe and orderly school environment; and
- 3) providing for necessary communication between the parent/ guardian and the school personnel.

Students under suspension remain responsible for completion of all schoolwork and will receive

credit accordingly. Suspended students will have the opportunity to take tests and exams given during the suspension period during after school hours or upon their return to school. Teachers are under no obligation to provide help to a student while he or she is under suspension other than to provide notice of assignments.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion Under Sections 37H and 37H½:

- A. Possession of a firearm on school premises, at school-sponsored or school related events, including field trips, and athletic games, and to and from school (United States Code, Section 921 of Title 18);
- B. Possession of a dangerous weapon, other than a firearm, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school (M.G.L.A. Ch.269, Section 10);
- C. Assault/ assault and battery upon an administrator, teacher, teacher aide, or other school staff member on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, sections 13A and 13D);
- D. Possession, use and/or distribution of an illegal drug or controlled substance as defined in M.G.L.A. Ch. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, crack and heroin on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- E. Use or possession of a bomb or any other explosive or incendiary device;
- F. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, a student charged with a felony or the subject of a felony delinquency complaint may be suspended, or a student convicted, adjudicated, or admitting guilt with respect to a felony or felony delinquency may be expelled, provided that the Superintendent determines, after hearing, that the student's continued presence poses a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the School.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension Under Section 37H¾ include but are not limited to:

- A. Possession of a paint gun, BB gun, air rifle, pellet gun, or imitation weapon of any kind;
- B. Assault/assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on school premises, at school- sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school. (M.G.L.A. Ch. 265, Section 15A & 15B);
- C. Possession or misuse of inhalants, glue, synthetic drugs, or any other substance, on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic events, and to and from school;
- D. Academic dishonesty/cheating;
- E. Making a bomb threat by any means, including, but not limited to, verbally, electronically, or in writing;
- F. Possession, use and/or distribution of alcohol on school premises, at school-sponsored or school-related events, including field trips and athletic games, and to and from school;
- G. Serious offenses as defined in Grounds for Suspension
- H. Bullying, harassment, or hate crimes; and
- I. Use or possession of an object that appears to be a firearm, bomb, or dangerous weapon.

Student Conduct on School Vehicles

Students are under the jurisdiction of the school authorities from the time they board the bus to school until they leave the bus which returns them home. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal. In any emergency situation, the bus driver shall be the Principal's designee while the bus is in transit.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with policies approved by the School Committee.

Required Conduct Aboard the Bus

1. Riders must remain in seats when the bus is in motion.
2. Loud noises and shouting are not permitted.
3. Profanity and obscene language are forbidden.
4. Smoking is prohibited.
5. The following disturbances are prohibited:
 - Pushing or wrestling
 - Annoying other passengers or disturbing their possessions
 - Talking to the driver
 - Throwing objects within the bus or out of windows
 - Climbing over or under seats
 - Opening or closing windows
 - Leaning out of windows
 - Littering the bus

DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS

Notice of Proposed Suspension

Except in the case of an emergency removal or disciplinary offense defined under M.G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H½ or an in-school suspension as defined by 603 CMR 53.02(6), the school shall provide the student and parent/guardian with written and oral notice of the proposed out-of-school suspension, an opportunity to be heard at hearing, and the opportunity to participate at the hearing. Notice shall set forth in plain language:

- a) the disciplinary offense;
- b) the basis for the charge;
- c) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- d) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the Principal concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the

- student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing;
- e) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
 - f) the right of the student and student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. In order to conduct a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. Reasonable effort is presumed if the Principal sent written notice and documented at least two attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency situations.

All written communications regarding notice of proposed suspension shall be either by hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Short Term Suspensions: Hearing and Principal Determination

A short-term suspension is the removal of the student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less. Out-of-school short-term suspensions which do not cumulatively over the course of the school year exceed ten (10) days of suspension shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

Principal Hearing. The purpose of the hearing with the Principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts. A parent/guardian present at the hearing shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the Principal will make a determination whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequence. The Principal will provide notification in writing of their determination in the form of an update to the student and parent/guardian, and provide reasons for the determination. If the student is suspended, the Principal shall inform the parent/guardian of the type and duration of the suspension, and shall provide an opportunity for the student to make up assignments and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the address provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the Principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

Long-Term Suspension: Hearing and Principal Determination

A long-term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student has committed the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal will consider in determining whether alternatives to suspension such as loss of privileges, detention, an apology, a student contract, restitution, and/or probation are appropriate.

Additionally, the student shall have the following additional rights:

- i. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- ii. the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's and or parent's/guardian's expense;
- iii. the right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; and
- iv. the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- v. the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal. All participants shall be informed that the hearing is being recorded by audio. A copy of the audio recording will be provided to the student or parent/guardian upon request.

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing the Principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension (the use of evidence-based strategies and programs, such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive interventions and supports) what remedy or consequence will be imposed. If the Principal decides to impose a long-term suspension, the written determination shall:

- i. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;

- ii. Set out key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
- iii. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
- iv. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive a specific list of education services to make academic progress during removal, and the contact information of a school member who can provide more detailed information.
- v. Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the superintendent or their designee (only if a long-term suspension has been imposed) within five (5) calendar days, which may be extended by parent/guardian request in writing an additional seven (7) calendar days.

The long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in grades pre-k through grade 3, the Principal shall send their determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons prior to imposing an out-of-school suspension, whether short-term or long-term, before the suspension takes effect.

All written communications regarding the hearing and Principal determination shall be either hand delivery or delivered by first-class mail, certified mail, or email to the provided by the parent/guardian for school communications (or other method agreed to by the principal and parent/guardian) in English, and in the primary language in the home if other than English, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension

A student who is placed on a long-term suspension shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent if properly and timely filed. A good faith effort shall be made to include the parent/guardian at the hearing. The appeal shall be held within three (3) school days of the appeal, unless the student or parent/guardian requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, which the Superintendent shall grant.

The student and parent/guardian shall have the same rights afforded at the long-term suspension Principal hearing. Within five (5) calendar days of the hearing the Superintendent shall issue their written decision which meets the criteria required of the Principal's determination. If the Superintendent determines the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than that of the Principal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Emergency Removal

A student may be temporarily removed prior to notice and hearing when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. A Principal may not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days, following the day of the emergency removal.

During the emergency, removal the Principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason for the emergency removal. The Principal shall also provide the due process requirements of written notice for suspensions and provide for a hearing which meets the due process requirements of a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable, within the two (2) school day time period, unless an extension of time for the hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent/guardian.

A decision shall be rendered orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day. The decision shall meet all of the due process requirements of a Principal's determination in a long-term suspension or short-term suspension, as applicable.

In-School Suspension Under 603 CMR 53:02 (6) & 603 CMR 53.10

In-school suspension is defined as the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not the school premises, for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year.

A Principal may impose an in-school suspension as defined above according to the following procedures:

The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

Suspension or Expulsion for Disciplinary Offenses Under M.G.L. 71 §§37H and 37H½

The due process notification and hearing requirements in the preceding sections do not apply to the following disciplinary offenses:

Possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault of staff

A student may be subject to expulsion if found in possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or the student assaults a member of educational staff, and the Principal determines the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the opportunity for a hearing, and the right to have representation at the hearing, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. After said hearing, a Principal may, in their discretion, decide to levy a suspension rather than expulsion. A student expelled for such an infraction shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of their appeal. The student has the right to counsel at the hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student was guilty of the alleged offense.

Felony complaint or issuance of felony delinquency complaint

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony, or the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal may suspend a student for a period of time determined appropriate by the Principal if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The Principal shall notify the student in writing of the charges, the reasons for the suspension (prior to such suspension taking effect), and the right to appeal. The Principal will also provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) the process for appealing the suspension to the Superintendent. The request for appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days. The hearing shall be held within three (3) days of the request. The suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing before the Superintendent. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Felony conviction or adjudication/admission in court of guilt for a felony or felony delinquency

The Principal may expel a student convicted of a felony, or has an adjudication or admission of guilt regarding a felony, if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for the proposed expulsion. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal the decision

to the Superintendent, as well as the appeal process. The expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of their request for an appeal the decision no later than five (5) calendar days following the date of the expulsion. The Superintendent hearing shall be held with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent has the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Student Suspension and Expulsion Data Collection and Reporting

The District shall collect and annually report data to the Department regarding in-school suspensions, short-term and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, access to education services under 603 CMR 53.13, and such other information as may be required by the Department. Such data shall be reported in a manner and form directed by the Department.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status. In reviewing the data, the Principal shall assess the extent of in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, and emergency removals under 603 CMR 53.07, and the impact of such disciplinary action on selected student populations. The Principal shall further determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to modify disciplinary practices due to over-reliance on expulsion, or in-school or out-of-school suspension, or emergency removals, or the impact of such suspensions, removals, and expulsions on selected student populations compared with other students.

Educational Services and Academic Progress Under Section 37H, 37H½, AND 37H¾

Any student who is serving an in-school suspension, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal from the classroom or school. The Superintendent or Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Superintendent shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education

services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students.

The Superintendent or Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

Discipline for Students with Disabilities

Students Identified as Having Special Needs

1. All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Mass. General Laws, formerly known as Chapter 766, requires that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation TEAM to have special needs and whose individualized program is described in an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
 - a. Students with Special Needs may be suspended for up to ten (10) consecutive days, and may also be suspended in excess of ten (10) cumulative days, as fully outlined under M.G.L.c. 71B, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Such suspensions may be carried out without any further or additional process.
 - b. Suspensions or exclusions in excess of ten (10) consecutive days or ten (10) cumulative days may also occur, provided that the conduct for which the student is being disciplined is not a manifestation of their disability, and the District provides educational services which will allow the student to access the general curriculum and to make progress toward their goals.
2. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B allow school personnel to move a student with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, if that student is in possession of a dangerous weapon at school or a school function or on school property, is in possession or uses a controlled substance or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function or on school property, or inflicts serious bodily injury on a person, including him/herself. The appropriate interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the IEP TEAM.
3. The IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B also allow school personnel the option of asking a hearing officer or a court to move children with disabilities to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days, if they are substantially likely to injure themselves or others in their current placement.
4. When a special needs student has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive or cumulative days in a school year, such that a substantial change in placement is occurring or will occur, the IEP TEAM will meet to conduct a

manifestation determination.

5. When a suspension constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, District personnel, the parent/guardian, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the District, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents/guardians, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP—"a manifestation determination."
6. At the manifestation determination, a copy of the Procedural Safeguards will be given to the parent/guardian.
7. Relevant members of the TEAM meet for the manifestation determination, and they answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student: Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the student's IEP? And is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability. A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the Parent/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined according to the discipline policy in this handbook. The student will receive educational services during this period of suspension or exclusion. If the TEAM finds that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's disability, then the school may still be able to implement an IAES (see #2 and #3 above). If the IAES is not possible, then the student will remain in their current placement, and the TEAM will arrange for a functional behavioral assessment (if one has not been conducted on the student) and the development or modification of a behavior intervention plan. The Principal or designee will notify the Special Education Office of the suspension offense of a special needs student and a record will be kept of such notices.

Students Identified as Having a Disability and on a Section 504 Plan

Students are expected to meet the expectations for behavior identified in this handbook. A student on a Section 504 plan may be disciplined like any other non-disabled student. However, if the student is going to be suspended for ten (10) or more cumulative days, expelled or suspended for more than fifteen (15) cumulative days (and there is a change in placement as a result), then a manifestation determination review shall be conducted. The students' 504 team shall convene, and answer two questions, after reviewing relevant documents and the misconduct of the student:

1. Is the misconduct the result of failure to implement the students' 504 plan?
2. Is the misconduct caused by, or does it have a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability?

A summary of the manifestation determination review will be written and a copy provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible after the review, but no later than five (5) school days after the review.

Procedural Requirements for Students Not Yet Determined to be Eligible for Special Education

A child who has not been determined to be eligible for special education and related services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Student Code of Conduct, may assert any of the protections provided for special education students if the school had knowledge (as determined by the IDEA) that the child was a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school district may be considered to have prior knowledge if, before the behavior that resulted in the disciplinary action occurred:

1. The parent of the student expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the student's school or to a teacher of the student that the student is in need of special education and related services; or
2. The parent requested an evaluation of the student; or
3. District staff expressed, directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel, specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be deemed to have had knowledge if the parent has not consented to an evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student was completed and resulted in a determination of ineligibility. If the district had no knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subjected to disciplinary measures applied to students without disabilities. However, if an evaluation is requested during the time period in which the student is subjected to these disciplinary measures, the district must conduct the evaluation in an expedited manner.

Referral to and Action By Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

- (A) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit an agency from reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities or to prevent State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a child with a disability.
- (B) TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS- An agency reporting a crime committed by a child with a disability shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the child are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the agency reports the crime.

Electronic Devices

Cell phone use by students is not permitted during the instructional day. All phones and "smart" watches are to be turned off and secured until after dismissal. For the 2024-2025 academic year, Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield High School will utilize cell phone pouches for student devices. Families of students who may require accommodations should contact the building principal to schedule a meeting to discuss the concern.

Searches

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Nevertheless, exercise of that authority by school officials places unusual demands upon their judgment so as to protect each child's constitutional rights to personal privacy and protection from coercion and to act in the best interest of all students and the schools.

Searches by school officials of students' automobiles or the student will be conducted in a way that protects the students' rights consistent with the responsibility of the school system to provide an atmosphere conducive to the educational process.

The legality of a search of a student, their clothing and/or possessions depends simply on the reasonableness, under all circumstances, of the search (According to *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* 469 U.S 325 1985). The search by a school official is "justified at its inception" when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that a student or students has violated or is violating the laws or rules of the school." Secondly, that "such a search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction."

Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

Any individual, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by them under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, carrying on their person a firearm, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any school building, or at any school related event without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such school, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Firearm shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. See individual school-site's sanctions for such violations.

Any student, who assaults a Principal, Associate Principal, teacher, instructional assistant or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.

Dress Code

In the Greenfield Public Schools, we encourage self expression and individuality in all of our students. In order to maintain a safe and welcoming school environment, students must refrain from wearing clothing that may be deemed discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, gender, or religion; or depicts alcohol, drugs, weapons or acts of violence. Building administrators will have

the final say on questionable articles of clothing and may request that the student change or cover up.

Hats, caps and hoods are not to be worn in school during the school day. Clothing, attire, and accessories found to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process, or which has affected the safety of students, will be determined a violation of the dress code by the school administration.

ATHLETICS

Philosophy

The athletic program is set up to be an important part of the students' overall secondary school experience. Our coach's job is to see that as many of our high school students as possible have a chance to compete in interscholastic athletics. It is important that our coaches do as much as they can to prepare our teams so they may conduct themselves favorably. It is our job to see that sportsmanship, health, and citizenship are taught along with the fundamentals of the activity that we are engaged in.

Eligibility

In order for a student-athlete to "try-out" and participate on a sports team, the following criteria must be met:

- All student-athletes must pass a physical examination within 13 months from the first day of physical participation. Physical examinations must be completed by the school physician or by a private physician. Student-athletes can use the MIAA health history/physical clearance form or their private physicians' form. All physicals must be delivered to the Athletic Director's office or the school nurse's office.
- All students must have completed the student health form/health history form (This is the front side of the MIAA health history/physical clearance form) and concussion form signed by both the student-athlete and parent.. All student athletes need these forms on file in the nurse's office. • All student-athletes must have a **70** grade point average during the last marking period preceding the sports season. Student-athletes participating in the fall season must have a **70** grade point average for the previous year.
- Emergency Card must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and secured in the travel medical kit.
- The Athletic Code must be completed and turned into the coach.
- Review all Massachusetts Hazing Laws with all coaches and athletes.
- Review all individual team rules and regulations.

LAWS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STUDENT RECORDS

The Regulations Pertaining to Student Records were developed by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure parents, students and former students of their rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment and destruction of student records. The regulations have the force of law and apply to all elementary and secondary schools. Below is a summary of the major provisions of the regulations. A copy of the regulations is available for inspection in the main office or guidance office.

A parent or any student who is at least 14 years old has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student not later than two days after the request, unless the student or parent consents to a delay. Copies of the record must be given to the student or parent upon request for a fee of no more than the actual cost of copying.

The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains your name, address, and your birth date; the name and address of your parents or guardians; course titles; grades (or the equivalent when grades are not applicable); grade level completed and the grade completed.

The temporary record consists of all the information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript. This information may include your standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities in which you took part and evaluations by your teachers, counselors, or other school staff. A school health record, which gives a general profile of your health, is included. The temporary record shall not contain any anonymous information and will be destroyed after graduation.

As of 1998, Massachusetts Law (General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H) specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

At any time that the school receives a request for student records from a parent who does not have physical custody of the child and who has not yet provided the school with the information required by Section 34H, the school should inform the non-custodial parent of the requirements of the law. This may be done by providing the parent with a letter from the school that sets forth the procedures the parent must follow in order to get access to the records.

Destruction of Records:

Notice is hereby given that the temporary record of a student will be destroyed no later than seven (7) years after that student transfers, graduates or withdraws from the school system. Temporary records are defined as all information in a student record, which is not contained in the transcript. Such information may include standardized test results, extracurricular activities and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. When the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from school, and if the eligible student or the parent/guardian want the

temporary record, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school, that the documents be provided to them. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

In addition, each year, the Principal and/or teachers and/or other service providers may destroy the following documents that are considered part of the student's temporary record: disciplinary records (other than documentation of suspensions or expulsions or exclusions), any notes from the parent/guardian or other documents concerning absences, early dismissals, late arrivals, as well as examples of student work. If the eligible student or the parent/guardian want those records, they must request, in writing, prior to the last day of school that the documents be provided to them, rather than be destroyed. No additional notice, other than this Notice in the handbook, will be provided to the student or his parent/guardian of such destruction.

PUBLICATION

Greenfield Public Schools may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent. It is also the practice of the Greenfield School District to give permission for school personnel and the media (e.g., cable television, newspapers, commercial television, radio, and the world wide web) to develop and present in the classroom, in the school hallways, on websites, to the public, print, pictures, and voice related to school programs and students for the purposes of public relations and the dissemination of non-confidential information (i.e., news stories). The Greenfield School District gives such permission without the prior individual approval of parents and caregivers.

If you do not wish for your child's directory information to be released, or to be photographed, and/or videotaped on such occasions, or for any reason, please inform the Principal at the individual school your child is attending, in writing using the form provided at the end of this handbook, prior to September 15th of the school year. It is the parents'/caregivers' responsibility to notify the school in writing, prior to September 15th, if there are any concerns and or restrictions regarding the publicity of their child's picture, name, voice, or representation in the classroom, school building, local media outlets, such as newspaper, television, radio, or digital recording for teacher/student evaluation purposes. If we do not receive written documentation to the contrary, then we will assume that the school has your permission.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains a provision regarding the disclosure of names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. The District is obligated to provide, upon request, names, addresses and telephone numbers of students in grades 9-12 to military recruiters, charter schools as well as to institutions of higher education. Therefore, student names, addresses, and telephone numbers will be released to military recruiters, charter schools and institutions of higher learning UNLESS the parent/guardian or student notifies the Principal in writing indicating that they DO NOT want this information released.

REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Several important pieces of federal and state legislation are listed here for your benefit. These laws prohibit discrimination in public schools. The essence of these laws is presented in the following paragraphs:

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." David Messing is the Title IX Coordinator.

Chapter 622

"No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion or national origin."

Section 504

MGL Chapter 76 specifically states, "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

The Director of Pupil Services is the Title IX, Chapter 622 and Section 504 Coordinator. She will coordinate the Greenfield Public Schools' efforts to carry out the responsibilities of the regulations. Any inquiries concerning the application of the regulations to the practices and policies of the Greenfield Public Schools may be addressed to the Director of Pupil Services 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA 01301 or at 413-772-1327 or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20221.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Greenfield Public Schools reaffirm that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. The Greenfield Public Schools also reaffirm its commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or exercise of civil rights will not be tolerated.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violation to the building principal. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.

2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.
3. The Equal Opportunity/Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

WORKING PERMITS

If you hold a full or part-time job, whether school related or not, you must provide your employer with a work permit. This form indicates to your employer that you are still in school and therefore may not be employed during school hours. Work permits may be obtained from the guidance office or the Superintendent's office both during the school year and during the summer. This request is in accordance with the provisions of Section 8695 of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PARENTAL OPT-OUT RIGHTS

Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Greenfield Public Schools, through its curricula and instructional materials, promotes respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal regarding curriculum content and may submit a written request to the building principal to opt out of specific portion(s) of the curriculum that conflict with their sincerely held religious beliefs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, at the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students in our schools will be notified in writing of the courses we offer that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. The Superintendent of Schools will determine the administrator(s) responsible for sending the notice(s).

Parents/guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student, by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment.
 2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.
- Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the materials at the school.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue.

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves, or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology, any electronic communication, or use of artificial intelligence, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetic photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also encompass the use of artificial intelligence to create or modify images, or to utilize AI in ways that enhance, facilitate, or automate actions that create any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents/guardians and families are expected.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
- On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
- At school bus stops;
- On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or;
- Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;

Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or their designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within their school.

Reporting

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report.

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

Investigation Procedures

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred they shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall usually be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The timeline may be extended beyond fourteen days when an allegation of bullying is inclusive of an allegation of sex-based harassment under Title IX. The District may follow the investigatory process and timelines outlined in the District's Title IX grievance process and may issue a bullying determination within the Title IX determination or after the conclusion of the Title IX determination.

The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or their designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

Target Assistance

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

Training and Assessment

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook.

The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

Disciplinary and Corrective Action

Violation of this protocol is a serious offense. Violators may be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action to stop the conduct and prevent its recurrence. The district is committed to protecting the complainant, and all students, from bullying. Procedural manuals containing responsibilities of staff and students, reporting procedures, complaint process,

resolution, and protection against retaliation shall be in place at each level. All disciplinary incidents will be reported using the school disciplinary action process.

HARASSMENT POLICY

If you feel that you are the victim of any type of harassment, including, but not limited to, cyber bullying, you should follow the policy listed below:

1. Report the matter to a school administrator, counselor, teacher and/or other staff member.
2. The assistant principal will then arrange for a prompt investigation. The assistant principal will meet with all of those involved who will have an opportunity to give a statement.
3. If the accusation of harassment has been substantiated by the assistant principal, the principal will be notified. Appropriate discipline will be administered depending on the nature of the offense.
 - a. Verbal first offenses will be handled by a warning to be followed by much stricter discipline if the offending behavior continues. Parents will be notified.
 - b. Physical offenses will be taken very seriously. Appropriate discipline will be administered. Parents will be notified.

The Committee recognizes that children learn best and teachers teach best when schools are safe. In safe schools, students and teachers feel physically secure, respected and supported. The Committee promotes Civil Rights and Protecting Students from Harassment, Bullying, and Hate Crimes. The Complaint Procedure in this handbook may also be followed in appropriate circumstances.

SEX-BASED HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

Greenfield Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination and sex-based harassment in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX. The Greenfield Public Schools are committed to maintaining an education and work environment for all school community members that is free from all forms of harassment, including sex-based harassment and sex-based discrimination.

Sex-based discrimination is discrimination based on sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Sex-based harassment is harassment on the basis of sex, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Sex-based harassment includes:

- u *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the School to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the School's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- u *Hostile environment harassment*. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (*i.e.*, creates a hostile environment).

u *Specific offenses*. An offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation such as sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, etc.

While it is not possible to list all those additional circumstances that may constitute sex-based harassment, the following are some examples of conduct, which if unwelcome, may constitute sex-based harassment, depending on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct or its pervasiveness:

- Unwelcome sexual advances-whether they involve physical touching or not;
- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one's sex life; comment on an individual's body, comment about an individual's sexual activity and/or sexual orientation and/or gender identity, deficiencies, or prowess;
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons;
- Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, suggestive or insulting comments;
- Inquiries into one's sexual experiences; and,
- Discussion of one's sexual activities.

The definition of sex-based harassment is broad and in addition to the above examples, other conduct, whether it is intended or not, that is unwelcome and has the effect of creating an environment that is hostile, offensive, intimidating, to male, female, or gender non-conforming students or employees may also constitute sexual harassment.

Because the District takes allegations of harassment, including sex-based harassment, seriously, the District will respond promptly to complaints of harassment including sex-based harassment, and following an investigation where it is determined that such inappropriate conduct has occurred, we will act promptly to eliminate the conduct and impose corrective action as is necessary, including disciplinary action where appropriate.

Greenfield Public Schools are committed to ensuring that sex-based discrimination and sex-based harassment does not continue or recur within our education program or activities. To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment or to make a complaint regarding such under Title IX, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator for the Greenfield Public Schools is:

Name: David Messing
Title: Director of Pupil Services
Address: 195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA
Phone: (413) 772-1324
Email: davmes1@gpsk12.org

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to Greenfield Public Schools Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Greenfield Public Schools nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at gpsk12.org.

Retaliation against a complainant, witness, or any other participant in an investigation because they have filed a harassment or sex-based harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment or sexual harassment investigation or proceeding, is strictly prohibited. Anyone found to have retaliated against another in violation of Greenfield Public Schools policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Retaliation is any intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, including in an informal resolution process.

Any person who experiences retaliation for exercising their rights under Title IX can file a retaliation complaint with the Title IX Coordinator.

HAZING

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 strictly prohibits any type of hazing or initiation into any student organization which will endanger, either physical or mental, a student's person.

The law specifically states:

*Section 17: Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one hundred days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term hazing as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly may endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

*Section 18: Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section 17 and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

*Section 19: Each secondary school and each public and private college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operation on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18.

Full documentation and explanations are available from the building principal or his designee.

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring themselves, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements; including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent/guardian of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving an investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents/guardians in discussions about restraint prevention in and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00,
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint".

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents/guardians of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) ensures homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

Homeless children and youths are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Liaison

The Homeless Education liaison's role is to assist homeless students enroll in school to ensure that they receive the educational services for which they are eligible. Further information may be obtained by David Messing, Director of Pupil Services, 413-772-1324.

School Placement, Transportation, and Enrollment

Homeless students have the right to remain enrolled in their school of origin and receive transportation or immediately enroll in the school district where they are temporarily residing.

School placement determinations must be based on the best interest of the homeless student. In making decisions regarding best interests, school districts must:

- Presume keeping the student in the school of origin until the end of the year in which the student obtains permanent housing is in the student's best interest except when doing so is contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth.
- Consider student-centered factors related to the student's best interest including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless students, school placement of siblings, giving priority to the request of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth

For homeless students who meet the relevant eligibility criteria, districts must remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities, including magnet schools, summer school, career and technical education, advanced placement, on-line learning, and charter school programs.

Transportation

School districts must adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. Furthermore:

- If the homeless student continues to live in the area served by the district in which the school of origin is located, that district must provide or arrange transportation if needed;
- If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing their education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin; and
- If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

In addition, districts must provide transportation services to homeless students that meet Massachusetts state law and are comparable to those received by other students. Each school district's homeless education liaison must ensure that the parent or guardian of a homeless student, and any unaccompanied homeless youth, is fully informed, in the language of the home, of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected.

Enrollment

School districts must immediately enroll homeless students in school to provide educational stability and avoid separation from school for days or weeks while documents are located. Therefore, homeless education liaisons must ensure that:

- Students who chose to enroll in school where they are temporarily residing must be enrolled immediately, even if they do not bring the records usually required for enrollment with them;
- If a homeless student arrives without records, the previously attended school district is contacted and the required records requested;
- That homeless students are attending school while the records are being requested;
- Districts remove barriers to homeless students receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and
- Information about a homeless student's living situation shall be treated as a student education record and not be deemed to be directory information and therefore cannot be shared with the public including landlords.

FORM A

DO NOT RELEASE FORM - STUDENT INFORMATION

As a parent/guardian you may NOT want your child's information to be released.

**Only return this form if you do not want your child's
information released**

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION RELEASE

Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), a school may release student directory information, including students names and addresses, so long as the school provides public notice of the type of information it releases and allows parents a reasonable period of time to request that the information not be released. Generally, schools provide this notice to parents.

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

The Greenfield Public Schools will release directory information to colleges, scholarship organizations, the military, other post-graduate programs such as technical schools, and other individuals and/or groups upon request.

FORM B

File: IJNDB

EMPOWERED DIGITAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The School Committee recognizes the need for students to be prepared to contribute to and excel in a connected, global community. To that end, the district provides ongoing student instruction that develops digital citizenship skill sets for using technology as a tool. Information and communication technology are an integrated part of our curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards, including seeking knowledge and understanding; thinking critically and solving problems; listening, communicating, and interacting effectively; and engaging and competing in a global environment.

Availability

The Superintendent or designee shall implement, monitor, and evaluate the district's system/network for instructional and administrative purposes.

All users shall acknowledge that they understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the school district network is a privilege and when using them in accordance with School District guidelines they will retain that privilege.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative guidelines, regulations, procedures, and user agreements, consistent with law and policy, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Digital devices, software, and networks shall be used in school for educational purposes and activities.
- An individual's personal information (including home/mobile phone numbers, mailing addresses, and passwords) and that of others shall be kept private.
- Individuals will show respect for themselves and others when using technology including social media.
- Users shall give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work
- Users shall report inappropriate use of technology immediately

These procedures shall be reviewed annually by district administration together with students and teachers and shall provide a springboard for teaching and learning around topics such as internet safety, digital citizenship, and ethical use of technology.

SOURCE: MASC

Student Responsibilities

As a student at the Greenfield Public Schools you will have access to electronic resources, including the network and Internet. The network is viewed as an extension of the public schools community and all expectations regarding standards of behavior as outlined in the

Student Handbook apply to your actions while utilizing or accessing the network or other electronic resources. You are expected to use the electronic resources in a mature, ethical, and responsible manner. Personal use is allowed but Greenfield Public Schools reserves the right to limit your access. Access to the Greenfield Public Schools network is a privilege and not a right. Unacceptable uses and prohibited behavior are considered violations of the Empowered Digital Use Policy and school rules, and include but are not limited to:

- Illegal Activities
- Involvement in any activity prohibited by law
- Intentional use of invasive software such as "viruses," "worms," "Trojan Horses" and other malicious software
- Interfering with the normal and proper operation of this network, the Internet or any other network. This includes: "hacking," "cracking," probing, attempting to gain access to network servers and equipment, utilizing excessive amounts of bandwidth, and setting up servers on the network of any type.
- Adversely affecting the ability of others to use equipment or services.
- Transferring, utilizing or storing materials in violation of copyright laws or license agreements. This includes software, music files, images and text.
- Plagiarizing work found on the Internet - all sources of work must be cited and credited.
- Tampering with computers, printers, network devices and other equipment belonging to Greenfield Public Schools.
- Using the network for financial and/or personal gain or for political lobbying
- Attempting to log on to the network as the system administrator or gain access beyond your authorized access level.
- Attempting to bypass security systems and software.
- Sharing passwords or using someone else's password or attempting to discover another person's password.
- Trespassing in another's folders, e-mail, work, or files or using another person's account.
- Changing computer files that do not belong to you.
- Creating, transferring, viewing or otherwise using any text, image, movie, or sound recording that contains pornography, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- Sending or forwarding "chain" type letters, hate mail, anonymous or threatening messages.
- Posting or sending e-mail or voicemail messages that are personal attacks, including any prejudicial, discriminatory, racist or sexist content, or that could cause damage or disruption, contain false or defamatory information about a person or organization, or harassing another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- Posting personal contact information about yourself or other people. This includes your address, telephone number, school address, etc.

Violation of this Empowered Digital Use Policy or violations of a school rule may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and referral to law enforcement.

Privacy

Users of the network or other electronic resources have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Greenfield Public Schools network or on other Electronic Resources (e.g., voicemail and email). Information such as emails transmitted over the network may be a public record. The network is subject to monitoring.

Limited Liability

Greenfield Public Schools makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the network will be error-free or without defect. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. Greenfield Public Schools are not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. Greenfield Public Schools will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through your use of the system. You are responsible for your activities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have completely read the Greenfield Public Schools Empowered Digital Use Policy included in the Parent/Guardian and Student Handbook available on the district website. I understand and agree to abide by the Greenfield Public Schools Empowered Digital Use Policy.

Printed Name of Student

Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent (required if student is under 18 yo)

Signature

Date