



Book	Policy Manual
Section	November 2025 ACTION item
Title	TREASURER
Code	po0171.4
Status	
Legal	M.C.L.A. 380.1221
Adopted	January 28, 2008

0171.4 - **TREASURER**

The Treasurer of the Board of Education shall:

- A. have care and custody of all monies of the School District and ~~the Treasurer shall~~ deposit funds of the District with a bank or banking corporation or trust company designated by the Board in the proportion and manner directed by the Board;
- B. draw and sign orders upon the district's treasury for money to be disbursed by the district;
- C. may participate in the audit wrap up and draft review meeting with auditors where applicable;
(GK recommendation 11-3-25)
- D. ~~delegate the below actions to the district Superintendent or the CFO:~~
 - a. keep proper books of account;
 - b. keep an account of interest received from invested school funds, and credit interest received to the appropriate fund accounts;
 - c. pay out funds for the purposes specified by law, or, in the case of gifts or donations for the purposes for which the money is given or donated, on proper orders signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the President of the Board;
 - d. perform other duties as may be authorized by the Board, required by law, or appropriate to the duties of the office of treasurer.

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Non-Discrim Fall 2025
Title	Vol. 40, No. 1 - Nondiscrimination - September 2025 Replacement NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT
Code	po1422
Status	
Legal	M.C.L. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq. 20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v) 20 U.S.C. 1232g 20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act 20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq., The Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") 29 U.S.C. 218d, PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act ("PUMP Act") 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq. (in particular 794), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended 34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93) 38 U.S.C. Chapter 43 4301-4335 (see in particular 4311(a) [prohibits discrimination based on military service] and 4312 [reemployment rights]), Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA") 42 U.S.C. 1983 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964 (e.g., Title VI and Title VII), as amended by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act 42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act 42 U.S.C. 2000gg, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act ("PWFA") 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution
Adopted	November 26, 2012
Last Revised	July 1, 2024

Replacement Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1**1422 - NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT**

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions; sexual orientation; and gender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category (collectively, Protected Classes) in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

The Board is committed to providing a work environment that is free from Prohibited Conduct, responding promptly and effectively when it has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, and addressing Prohibited Conduct in its education programs or activities. This commitment applies to all District operations and this policy applies to Prohibited Conduct occurring within or as a part of the District's education programs and activities, whether on school property or at another location during an activity sponsored by the Board.

Persons who commit Prohibited Conduct are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy.

The Board will provide persons who have experienced Prohibited Conduct with ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs or activities.

All school employees share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of Prohibited Conduct.

The Board will take immediate action to address the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct, or has participated in the below-described grievance procedures.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct.
- C. Disregarding, failing to appropriately address, or delaying action to appropriately address allegations of Prohibited Conduct when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating such charges comprises part of one's administrative/supervisory duties.

Definitions:

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

Bullying means: any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's work performance or participation. It may involve: (a) threats; (b) intimidation; (c) stalking; (d) cyberstalking; (e) cyberbullying; (f) physical violence; (g) theft; (h) sexual, religious, or racial harassment; (i) public humiliation; or (j) destruction of property. Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one (1) or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more employees, and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal and/or State civil rights laws. Ordinary teasing, horseplay, arguments, and peer conflict do not constitute bullying for purposes of this policy.

Complainant means: an employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct; or a person, other than an employee, who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct and who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities at the time of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

Complaint means: an oral or written request to the District that objectively can be understood as a request for the District to investigate and make a determination about alleged Prohibited Conduct.

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

Disciplinary sanctions means: consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination that the respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct.

Education programs or activities refer to: all the District's operations including, but not limited to, in-person and online/remote educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all programs and activities operated by the Board on school grounds or on other property owned or occupied by the Board. It also includes events and circumstances that take place off school property/grounds but over which the District asserts disciplinary authority (e.g., at off-campus activities sponsored by the Board).

Exculpatory evidence means: evidence that is favorable to a respondent because it helps excuse, justify, or absolve a respondent of alleged wrongdoing and tends to establish that a respondent did not engage in Prohibited Conduct.

Genetic information means: information about: (a) an individual's genetic tests; (b) the genetic tests of that individual's family members; (c) the manifestation of disease or disorder in family members of the individual (i.e., family medical history); (d) an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; or (e) the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of an embryo legally held by an individual or family member using assistive reproductive technology.

Harassment means: any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against an employee that (a) places the employee in reasonable fear of harm to their person or damage to their property; (b) has the effect of substantially interfering with the employee's work performance; or (c) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school. Each of the following types of harassment involves unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct that is based upon an individual's protected characteristic(s) and has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

- A. **Age Harassment** means: harassment based on negative perceptions about older workers. It also includes harassment based on stereotypes about older workers, even if they are not motivated by animus, such as pressuring an older employee to transfer to a job that is less technology-focused because of the perception that older workers are not well-suited to such work or encouraging an older employee to retire.
- B. **Disability Harassment** means: harassment based upon a person's disability and includes harassment based upon stereotypes about individuals with disabilities in general or about an individual's particular disability. It also includes harassment based on traits or characteristics linked to an individual's disability, such as how the person speaks, looks, or moves. For example, negative comments about an individual's speech patterns, movement, physical impairments, or defects/appearances, or the like. Disability-based harassment includes: (a) harassment because an individual requests or receives reasonable accommodation; (b) harassment because an individual is regarded as having an impairment, even if the individual does not have an actual disability, or a record of disability; (c) harassment because an individual has a record of a disability, even if the individual currently does not have a disability; and (d) harassment based on the disability of an individual with whom the employee is associated. Finally, disability-based harassment may occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.
- C. **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment** means: harassment due to a person's (or their ancestor's) place of origin. Such harassing conduct can include ethnic slurs or epithets, derogatory comments about individuals of a particular nationality, and use of stereotypes about a person's national origin. Additionally, it can include harassment regarding traits or characteristics linked to an individual's national origin, such as physical characteristics, ethnic or cultural characteristics or customs (e.g., surnames, attire, or diet), or linguistic characteristics (e.g., a person's manner of speaking, non-English language accent, or a lack of fluency in English).
- D. **Race/Color Harassment** means: unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct that is based upon an individual's race or color and has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.
- E. **Religious (Creed) Harassment** means: harassment based on a person's surname, religion (including atheism or lack of religious belief), religious traditions and practices, or religious dress/clothing, and includes making offensive comments about the same. It also includes religious slurs or epithets, harassing conduct based on religious stereotypes, and harassment associated with a person's request for and/or receipt of religious accommodation. Religious harassment also involves explicitly or implicitly coercing an employee to engage in religious practices at work.
- F. **Sexual Harassment** means (for purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964): unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an

individual's employment; (b) submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

1. Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.
2. Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Conduct of a sexualized nature, such as unwanted conduct expressing sexual attraction or involving sexual activity (e.g., unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations; unwanted physical and/or sexual contact, including unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching (x)); and obscene gestures **[END OF OPTION]**.
 - b. Sexual attention or sexual coercion, such as demands or pressure for sexual favors (e.g., threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, or other conditions of employment may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances; giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship; leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin).
 - c. Rape, sexual assault, or other acts of sexual violence.
 - d. Discussing or displaying visual depictions of sex acts or sexual remarks (e.g., unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls, texts, etc.; sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings or literature placed in the work environment; asking or telling about sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities; speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history).
 - e. A consensual sexual relationship where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
 - f. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.
 - g. Non-sexual conduct based on sex, such as sex-based epithets; sexist comments (such as remarks that women do not belong in management or that men do not belong in the nursing profession); or facially sex-neutral offensive conduct motivated by sex (such as bullying directed toward employees of one sex).
 - h. Harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition, which may include issues pertaining to lactation, using or not using contraception, or deciding whether to have, or not to have, an abortion.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be objectively offensive (a reasonable person would find it hostile or abusive), subjectively offensive (the complainant actually perceived it as abusive), and either sufficiently severe (a single extremely serious incident) or pervasive (a pattern of behavior), such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment, or creates a hostile or abusive employment environment.

Inculpatory evidence means: evidence that links a respondent to alleged wrongdoing and tends to establish a respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct (i.e., has culpability).

Military status means: a person's past, current, or future membership, service, or obligation in a uniformed service (e.g., Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps). Service in the uniformed services also means the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service, under competent authority, and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It further includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an

examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

Party means: a complainant or respondent.

Pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions means:

- A. "Pregnancy" and "childbirth" refer to the pregnancy or childbirth of a specific employee and include, but are not limited to, current pregnancy; past pregnancy; potential or intended pregnancy (which can include infertility, fertility treatment, and the use of contraception); labor; and childbirth (including vaginal and cesarean delivery).
- B. "Related medical conditions" are medical conditions relating to the pregnancy or childbirth of a specific employee, and may include termination of pregnancy, including via miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion; ectopic pregnancy; preterm labor; pelvic prolapse; nerve injuries; cesarean or perineal wound infection; maternal cardiometabolic disease; gestational diabetes; preeclampsia; HELLP (hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes and low platelets) syndrome; hyperemesis gravidarum; anemia; endometriosis; sciatica; lumbar lordosis; carpal tunnel syndrome; chronic migraines; dehydration; hemorrhoids; nausea or vomiting; edema of the legs, ankles, feet, or fingers; high blood pressure; infection; antenatal (during pregnancy) anxiety, depression, or psychosis; postpartum depression, anxiety, or psychosis; frequent urination; incontinence; loss of balance; vision changes; varicose veins; changes in hormone levels; vaginal bleeding; menstruation; and lactation and conditions related to lactation, such as low milk supply, engorgement, plugged ducts, mastitis, or fungal infections. The preceding list of related medical conditions is not exhaustive.

Prohibited Conduct means: unlawful discrimination or harassment based on a person's Protected Class(es) or retaliation. Such misconduct involves a violation of Federal and/or State civil rights laws.

Relevant means: related to the allegations of Prohibited Conduct under investigation as part of the Board's grievance procedures. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision-maker in determining whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Remedies means: measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person the District identifies as having had their equal access to the District's education programs or activities limited or denied by Prohibited Conduct. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the District's education program or activity after the District determines that Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Respondent means: a person who is alleged to have engaged in Prohibited Conduct.

Retaliation means: intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the District, a student, a Board employee, or any other person authorized by the Board to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education programs or activities, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Federal or State law, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under applicable Federal or State laws or regulations.

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

Supportive measures means: non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after making a report or filing a complaint. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve that party's access to the District's education programs or activities without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment or deter Prohibited Conduct. Supportive measures may include modifications of work schedules, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain work settings; training related to Prohibited Conduct, ~~(-) referral to Employee Assistance Program,~~ **[END OF OPTION]** and other similar measures.

Third Parties means: guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Related Medical Conditions

The Board will not discriminate against an employee based on the person's current pregnancy, potential or intent to become

pregnant, past pregnancy, or medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth, or because the person uses birth control, or has had or not had an abortion.

Additionally, the Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to an employee's known limitation related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, unless the accommodation will cause the District undue hardship.

The Board will treat pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions as any other temporary medical conditions for all job-related purposes, including commencement, duration, and extensions of leave; accrual of seniority and any other benefit or service; reinstatement; and under any fringe benefit offered to employees by virtue of employment.

The Board will provide reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk while at work for the first year after the employee's child's birth. The Board will provide the employee with a space, other than a bathroom, that is clean, shielded from view, free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, and which the employee can use as needed to express breast milk. See Board Policy 6700 – Fair Labor Standards Act.

Nondiscrimination Based on Employee's Genetic Information

The Board prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of the individual's genetic information is also prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity is prohibited.

In accordance with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act ("GINA"), the Board shall not request, require, or purchase genetic information of employees, their family members, or applicants for employment. Further, in compliance with GINA, employees are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to necessary requests for medical information, with the exception that family medical history may be acquired as part of the certification process for FMLA leave, when an employee is asking for leave to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. Applicants for employment are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to requests for medical information as part of the District's application process.

[x] The District recognizes that genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available documents like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, television shows, or the Internet. The District prohibits, however, its employees from searching such sources with the intent of finding or obtaining genetic information or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information. **[END OF OPTION]**

If the District either legally and/or inadvertently receives genetic information about an employee or applicant for employment from the employee, applicant for employment, or a medical provider, it shall be treated as a confidential medical record in accordance with law.

The District Compliance Officer (see below) shall be responsible for overseeing the District's compliance with applicable Federal regulations and promptly dealing with any inquiries or complaints. The District Compliance Officer or designee shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 is provided to staff members, and that all District requests for health-related information (e.g., to support an employee's request for reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") or a request for sick leave) is accompanied by a written warning that directs the employee or health care provider not to collect or provide genetic information. The warning shall read as follows:

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA") prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II, including the Board of Education, from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by law. To comply with this law, do not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information (unless the request pertains to a request for FMLA leave for purposes of caring for an immediate family member with a serious health condition). "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic test, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services or participated in clinical research that includes genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

~~**[]** The District offers health services (), including a wellness program **[END OF INTERNAL OPTION]**. Participation in the services/program is voluntary. Genetic information (such as family medical history) may be obtained as part of an~~

individual's participation in the service/program. If that occurs, individual genetic information may be provided to the individual receiving the services and to the person's health services providers, but only genetic information in aggregate form will be provided to the Board. **[END OF OPTION]**

District Compliance Officer(s)

The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with the Board's responsibilities under Federal and State laws that prohibit discrimination, including harassment, based on Protected Classes and retaliation (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinator(s)" or "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer(s)") (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officer(s)" or "CO(s)"):

Kate Gregory
Asst. Supt. Personnel & Student Services
(810) 626-2100
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843
kategregory@hartlandschools.us

Anna Kulas Rosenthal
Human Resource Specialist
(810) 626-2129
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843
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☒ The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual who is ultimately responsible for oversight over the Board's compliance with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination based on the basis of Protected Classes and retaliation. **[END OF OPTION]**

☒ The District Compliance Officer may delegate specific duties to one (1) or more designees. **[END OF OPTION]**

The contact information concerning the District Compliance Officer(s) will be published on the School District's website, () and annually **[END OF OPTION]:**

- A. ☐ in parent/student and staff handbooks.
- B. ☐ in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- C. ☐ on each individual school's website.
- D. ☐ in the School District's calendar.
- E. ☐ _____

☒ The District Compliance Officer(s) shall report directly to the Superintendent except when the Superintendent is a party to a complaint (i.e., either the complainant or the respondent). Under such circumstances, the CO(s) shall report directly to **[SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING]** ☒ the Board President ☐ the Board's Legal Counsel ☐ **[OTHER] [END OF INTERNAL OPTIONS]** until the matter in which the Superintendent is a party is concluded. **[END OF OPTION]**

Questions about this policy ☐ and AG 1422 **[END OF OPTION]** should be directed to the District Compliance Officer(s).

The CO(s) is/are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or denial of equal opportunity/access. The CO(s) shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. ☐ Any sections of the District's collective bargaining agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, demotion, discipline, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement set forth above. **[END OF OPTION]** ☐ In addition, as practical, gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. **[END OF OPTION]** Copies of the laws and regulations listed above are available upon request from the CO(s).

The CO(s) will be available during regular work hours to discuss concerns related to Prohibited Conduct, to assist employees, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about Prohibited Conduct, including unwelcome conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

The CO(s) shall monitor the District's education programs and activities for barriers to reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct pursuant to Federal and/or State laws that prohibit discrimination/harassment based on the basis of a Protected Class/Category and retaliation, and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Superintendent shall provide a notice of nondiscrimination to students, parents, guardians, or other authorized legal representatives of elementary and secondary students; employees; applicants for admission and employment; and all unions and professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board. Specifically, the Superintendent shall post the notice of nondiscrimination on the District's website and in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form that it makes available to the persons listed above, or which are otherwise used in connection with the recruitment of employees. ~~() See AG 1422 and Form 1422F1 – Notice and Statement of Nondiscrimination. [END OF OPTION]~~

NOTIFICATION/REPORTS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Any person may provide information to the CO(s) concerning conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct. Such information may be submitted in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail using the CO's(s') published contact information, or by any other means (oral or written) that results in the CO(s) receiving the information. Information may be provided at any time (including during non-work hours). ~~() Anonymous reports may be submitted using () the online reporting form posted at [insert the web address for the reporting form, or insert a hyperlink tied to the phrase "online reporting form"] [or] () the hotline reporting number ([insert phone number]). [END OF OPTION]~~

All Board employees are required to notify the CO(s) of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct. For the Board to fulfill its responsibilities under applicable Federal and/or State laws, if a Board employee has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, the Board employee must notify the/a CO within two (2) days of learning the information or receiving the report. The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to Policy 8462 – Student Abuse and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge about the alleged Prohibited Conduct is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention, and the reporting individual submitted a written notification/report or complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written notification/report or complaint to the CO.

Notification can be provided orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the notification/report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a notification/report or complaint involves allegations of Prohibited Conduct by or involving the CO, the person making the report (i.e., providing the notification or filing the complaint) should submit it to the Superintendent or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report/complaint. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the CO for purposes of addressing that report of Prohibited Conduct.

When a Board employee notifies the CO of suspected Prohibited Conduct, the employee is required to report all known details about the alleged Prohibited Conduct including: (1) the name of the alleged respondent(s); (2) the person who experienced the alleged Prohibited Conduct (i.e., the complainant); (3) other persons involved in the alleged Prohibited Conduct (e.g., witnesses); and (4) any other relevant facts, such as date, time, and location. Failure to provide such notification may result in discipline, up to and including suspension or termination of employment.

Any allegations of misconduct not involving Prohibited Conduct as defined in this policy will be addressed through the procedures outlined in other Board policies ~~() and/or administrative guidelines [END OF OPTION]~~, the applicable Student Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

When a notification/report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct is made, the CO shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) days **[DRAFTING NOTE: The applicable laws and/or regulations do not define "promptly" or otherwise specify within how many days the contact has to be made; Neola suggests "two (2) days."]** of the CO's receipt of the notification/report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct) contact the purported complainant to discuss the availability of

supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a complaint. The CO is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Overview:

The Board adopts the following grievance procedures to provide for the prompt, effective, and equitable resolution of complaints made by employees, applicants, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities (i.e., members of the School District community and Third Parties), or by the CO alleging any act of Prohibited Conduct.

These grievance procedures shall be used for all complaints of Prohibited Conduct unless it involves conduct involving a student, in which case the grievance procedures set forth in Policy 2260 or Policy 5517.01 shall apply. These grievances procedures set forth the means for investigating and resolving claims involving such Prohibited Conduct; in particular, the procedures provide a method for assessing – in a prompt, effective, and equitable manner – whether an applicable Federal or State law was violated and, if it was, how best to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of Prohibited Conduct, timelines are flexible for initiating the grievance procedures; however, individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII") prohibits discrimination in employment. Specifically, it prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and applies to employers with fifteen (15) or more employees. Title IX, on the other hand, specifically prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance, including employment within those institutions. Title IX is addressed by Board Policy 2266 and AG 2266. While both laws aim to prevent sex-based discrimination in the workplace, Title VII applies more broadly to various types of employers, whereas Title IX is limited to educational institutions receiving Federal funds. Ultimately, both laws aim to ensure equal employment opportunities and protect individuals from discrimination. When a District Compliance Officer receives a complaint or notification of alleged misconduct involving sex discrimination (in particular, sexual harassment) that involves an employee complainant and an employee respondent, the District Compliance Officer should consult with the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Board's Legal Counsel concerning which law – it may be both – the District will need to comply with when investigating the allegations.]

Under all circumstances, the CO shall offer and coordinate supportive measures, as appropriate, in accordance with this policy ~~(-) and AG 1422~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.

Complaints:

The following people may make a complaint of Prohibited Conduct – i.e., request that the District investigate and determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred:

A. a "complainant," which includes:

1. an employee of the District who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct; or
2. a person other than an employee of the District who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct at a time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities;

B. an authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of a complainant;

C. the District Compliance Officer.

A person is entitled to make a complaint of unlawful harassment only if they themselves are alleged to have been subjected to the unlawful harassment, or if the CO initiates a complaint.

[DRAFTING NOTE: This paragraph emphasizes that in order for a person to file a complaint of unlawful harassment, the person has to have been subjected to the alleged misconduct directly or be a person who has a legal right to act on behalf of the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct. This is consistent with the prior paragraph, where the complainant is identified as an employee who was "subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct." The following paragraph, on the other hand, expands who can file a complaint – when the alleged Prohibited Conduct does not involve unlawful harassment, or the complaint involves allegations of retaliation – to persons who are aware of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, even if that person was not directly affected by or subject to the alleged Prohibited Conduct.]

With respect to complaints of Prohibited Conduct other than unlawful harassment, or complaints involving allegations of retaliation, in addition to the people listed above, the following persons have a right to make a complaint:

- A. any employee of the District; or
- B. any person other than an employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities at the time of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

The District may consolidate complaints of Prohibited Conduct against more than one (1) respondent, or by more than one (1) complainant against one (1) or more respondents, or by one (1) party against another party, when the allegations of Prohibited Conduct arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one (1) complainant or more than one (1) respondent is involved, references below to a party, complainant, or respondent include the plural, as applicable.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a complaint. A person does not need to wait until the District's internal grievance procedures are completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to alleged violations of applicable Federal or State laws may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, at any time based on the underlying statutory basis for the complaint.

Basic Requirements:

The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably.

All persons involved with implementing the grievance procedures and any other aspects of this Policy, including the District Compliance Officer, the investigator, the decision-maker, and the appeal decisionmaker, **(x)** and the facilitator of the informal resolution process, **[END OF OPTION]** shall be free from any conflicts of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

[x] The CO may serve simultaneously as an investigator and/or a decision-maker. **[END OF OPTION] [DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends the Board select this OPTION; note it is "may" (i.e., optional) so the CO can decide when to serve in both roles and when to designate one or more persons to perform these responsibilities in a given case.]**

If the CO does not intend to serve as the investigator/decision-maker in a specific case, the CO shall designate one (1) or more administrators who are appropriately trained to serve in the role.

In circumstances when the CO and trained administrators do not have time/capacity to serve, or are prevented due to a conflict of interest, bias, or partiality, or other reasons impair the CO and other trained administrators from serving as an investigator/decision-maker in a specific case, the CO shall in consultation with **(x)** and approval of **[END OF OPTION]** the Superintendent or ~~(x)~~ Board **(x)** Board President (as appropriate), **[END OF OPTION]** secure one (1) or more independent third parties to serve as the investigator and/or decision-maker.

The District presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Board expects to complete the major stages of the grievance procedures within the timeframe specified below:

- A. **Evaluation** – The District Compliance Officer will determine whether to dismiss a complaint or investigate it within ten (10) **[INSERT AMOUNT]** days of receiving the complaint. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends that the evaluation stage be completed within ten (10) days of the CO receiving notice of the complaint.]**
- B. **Investigation** – The CO, or designated investigator/decision-maker, shall ordinarily complete the investigation (i.e., collect relevant evidence that is not otherwise impermissible) and issue a Determination (i.e., consider the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and decide whether Prohibited Conduct occurred) within twenty (20) **[INSERT AMOUNT]** days of the CO determining the charges require investigation. **[DRAFTING**

NOTE: Recognizing that it is important for investigations to be completed and Determinations issued in a prompt and equitable manner, Neola recommends that a school district typically complete an investigation and issue a Determination within twenty (20) days.]

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the investigator/decisionmaker is someone other than the CO, upon written request from the investigator/decisionmaker, the CO should be permitted to approve a reasonable extension of time for the investigation to be completed and the Determination issued. If the CO is the investigation/decisionmaker: upon written request from the CO, the Superintendent should be permitted to approve a reasonable extension of time for the investigation to be completed and the Determination issued. In either situation, the administrator granting the extension should communicate to the parties the new deadline along with a rationale for the extension.]

If, however, the CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, determines that the investigation is going to take longer, the CO will so notify the parties (x) and the Superintendent **[END OF OPTION]** and will thereafter keep the parties (x) and the Superintendent **[END OF OPTION]** informed of the status of the matter on a regular basis. **[INSERT TIME PERIOD – E.G., BIWEEKLY OR REGULAR]** basis.

C. Appeal – A party filing an appeal of the CO's decision to dismiss a complaint (x), or the Determination, **[END OF OPTION] must do so within five (5) **[INSERT AMOUNT]** days of receiving the Dismissal (x) or Determination **[END OF OPTION]**. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends the Board allow limited appeals based on the Determination. See DRAFTING NOTE below in the appeal section.]****

The CO, or the Superintendent if the CO is the individual requesting an extension, may approve reasonable extensions of the preceding timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties.

The District will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses. (x) These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to present evidence or otherwise participate in the grievance procedures. **[END OF OPTION]** The parties shall not engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

The CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, shall objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible — including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations shall not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking such evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the District to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- A. evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality; and
- B. a party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the District obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures.

Notice of Allegations:

Upon initiation of the Board's grievance procedures, the District Compliance Officer shall notify the parties of the following:

- A. the Board's grievance procedures (x) and informal resolution process **[END OF OPTION]** associated with claims involving Prohibited Conduct; **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola encourages the Board to include an informal resolution process.]**
- B. sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s); and
- C. retaliation is prohibited.

Should the CO decide, at any point, to investigate allegations that are materially beyond the scope of the initial written notice, the CO will provide a supplemental written notice describing the additional allegations to be investigated.

Dismissal of a Complaint:

The CO may dismiss a complaint of Prohibited Conduct if:

- A. the District is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- B. the respondent is not participating in the District's education program or activity and is not employed by the Board;
- C. the complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all the allegations in the complaint, the CO declines to initiate a complaint, and the District determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct even if proven; or
- D. the District determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct. Before dismissing the complaint, the CO will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the CO will promptly notify, in writing, the complainant of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the CO will also simultaneously notify, in writing, the respondent of the dismissal and the basis for the dismissal.

The CO will further notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed and will provide the complainant with an opportunity to appeal the dismissal of the complaint. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the CO will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed.

Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases:

- A. procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- B. new evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made; and
- C. the CO had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or the individual complainant or respondent, that would change the outcome.

If the dismissal is appealed, the CO will:

- A. notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;
- B. implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- C. ensure that the appeal decision-maker did not take part in the original dismissal of the complaint;
- D. ensure that the appeal decision-maker has been trained consistent with this Policy ~~(-)~~ and AG 1422 **[END OF OPTION]**;
- E. provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- F. notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

When a complaint is dismissed, the CO will, at a minimum:

- A. offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- B. if the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and
- C. take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, to ensure that Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the District's education programs or activities.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola encourages the Board to select the following option so the CO can choose, in appropriate circumstances, to offer the parties the opportunity to participate in an informal resolution process, or to honor the parties' request to use an informal resolution process, to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.]

[x] [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS]

Informal Resolution Process:

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the Board's formal grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The District will not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with Federal, State, or local law.

[END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS]**Adding Allegations and/or Consolidating Complaints:**

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate additional allegations of Prohibited Conduct by the respondent toward the complainant that are not included in the original Notice of Allegations or to consolidate charges raised in a different complaint involving the same respondent, the CO will notify the parties of the additional allegations.

Investigation:

The District will provide for an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the District — not on the parties — to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred.

The CO, or the designated investigator/decision-maker, will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The CO, or the designated investigator/decision-maker, will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible, regardless of relevance.

Determination of Whether Prohibited Conduct Occurred:

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the CO or designated investigator/decision-maker will:

- A. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred. This standard of proof requires the decision-maker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decision-maker, applying the applicable standard, is not persuaded by the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that Prohibited Conduct occurred, regardless of the quantity of the evidence, the decision-maker will not determine that Prohibited Conduct occurred. **[DRAFTING NOTE: While a board of education could elect to use the "clear and convincing" evidence standard of proof, Neola does not recommend it. If a board does select the "clear and convincing" standard, it should use it in all other comparable proceedings. Neola expects it will be a rare situation when a board chooses to use a clear and convincing standard of proof.]**
- B. Notify the parties, in writing, of the determination whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, including the rationale for such determination ~~(-), and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.
- C. Not impose discipline on a respondent for Prohibited Conduct unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct.
- D. If there is a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred, the CO will, as appropriate:
 1. coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the District identifies as having had equal access to the District's education programs or activities limited or denied by the Prohibited Conduct;
 2. coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent (X), including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions **[END OF OPTION]**; and
 3. take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that the Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the District's education programs or activities.
- E. Comply with the grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent.

- F. Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement based solely on the determination of whether Prohibited Conduct occurred.

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the CO dismisses a complaint in the Evaluation stage (i.e., prior to commencing an investigation), the complainant may appeal as set forth above. Neola also recommends the Board include an appeal process related to the Determination.]

[X] [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE - APPEAL OF DETERMINATION]

Appeal of Determinations:

If a party disagrees with the decision-maker's determination as to whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, the party may file an appeal. Appeals must be submitted, in writing, within five (5) (INSERT AMOUNT) days of the appealing party's receipt of the Determination.

A party may appeal a Determination on the following bases:

- A. procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- B. new evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the investigation occurred and the Determination was made; and
- C. the CO, or the designated investigator/decision-maker, had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome;

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may insert additional grounds on which an appeal may be filed.]

- D. ~~() the recommended remedies (including disciplinary sanctions/consequences) are unreasonable in light of the findings of fact (i.e., the nature and severity of the Prohibited Conduct).~~

E. ~~() [OTHER] _____~~

[X] The complainant may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed. [END OF OPTION]

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following options are offered in case the Board wants the Superintendent to serve as the appeal decision-maker or the Board wants to nominally be identified as the appeal decision-maker but will be delegating the responsibility to a person who is properly trained. Neola does not recommend that the Board itself be named as the appeal decision-maker because of the preference for the decision-maker to be trained to render a decision. If the Board wants to serve as the appeal decision-maker, it should discuss this issue with its Legal Counsel. Select OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 below.]

[] [OPTION 1]

~~The CO will designate an appeal decisionmaker, who will be a person who did not conduct the Investigation and render the Determination, and is appropriately trained (), as set forth in AG 1422 [END OF INTERNAL OPTION].~~

~~The CO has authority (), in consultation with () and approval of [END OF OPTION] the Superintendent or () Board () Board President (as appropriate), [END OF OPTIONS] to secure an independent Third Party to serve as the appeal decisionmaker.~~

~~[] In designating an appeal decisionmaker, the CO will work with the Board to identify and appoint an independent Third Party to serve as the appeal decisionmaker—this individual shall be considered to be the Board's designee and will submit the appeal decision to the Board who will promptly adopt it as written and forward it to the CO who will send it simultaneously to the parties. [END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]~~

[END OF OPTION 1]

[X] [OPTION 2]

The Superintendent shall serve as the appeal decision-maker, provided the Superintendent has not been otherwise involved in the grievance procedures (i.e., did not serve as the investigator/decision-maker or informal resolution process facilitator) and is appropriately trained. If the Superintendent is not eligible to serve as the appeal decision-maker, the CO will designate an appeal decision-maker, who will be a person who did not conduct the Investigation and render the Determination, and is appropriately trained ~~(), as set forth in AG 1422 [END OF INTERNAL OPTION].~~

[END OF OPTION 2]**[END OF OPTIONS]**

If a party appeals the Determination, the CO will:

- A. notify the parties of the appeal;
- B. implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- C. provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the Determination;
- D. provide the appeal decision-maker with the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the Determination; and
- E. notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the appeal decision-maker's rationale for the outcome.

Parties Provided a Reasonable and Equal Opportunity to Make a Statement in Support of, or Challenging, the Dismissal (☒) or Determination [END OF OPTION]

When a party files an appeal, the party must set forth the reason(s)/basis/bases for the appeal, and the other party will have five (5) [INSERT AMOUNT] days to provide the appeal decision-maker with a statement in support of their position. Once the decision-maker receives the statement (or the deadline for filing such a statement expires), the appeal decision-maker will have ten (10) [INSERT AMOUNT] days to issue a decision on the appeal.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola suggests any appeals should be filed within five (5) days of the parties receiving written notice of the Determination. Neola further suggests that the timeline for the other party submitting a statement be equivalent to the timeframe in which an appeal has to be filed. Finally, Neola suggests the appeal decisionmaker have ten (10) days from receipt of the statements to issue a decision.]

While a party appealing a Determination may argue the reason/basis for the appeal is that new evidence has been discovered/obtained that would change the outcome and that said new evidence was not reasonably available when the Determination was originally made, the party may not submit the new or additional evidence during the appeal process. Rather, the party appealing should identify/describe in detail the evidence, including how and when it was discovered/obtained, and explain why it was not reasonably available during the Investigation (i.e., prior to the Determination). If the appeal decision-maker accepts the proffered explanation, the appeal decision-maker should remand the case back to the investigator/decision-maker (i.e., reopen the investigation) so the new evidence may be submitted and considered by the other party and the investigator/decision-maker.

The appeal decision-maker shall determine the outcome of the appeal based on the appeal decision-maker's independent review of the record (i.e., the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the written determination) and the appeal decision-maker's application of the law and Board policy to the facts in the record. The appeal decision-maker must give due deference and due weight to the decision-maker's factual findings and credibility determinations and should not overturn them unless non-testimonial extrinsic evidence in the record justifies a contrary conclusion or unless the record read in its entirety compels a contrary conclusion. Generally, the appeal decision-maker is expected to uphold the original Determination unless the appeal decision-maker concludes the original Determination is unlawful, unreasonable, or against the manifest weight of the evidence. Every reasonable presumption must be made in favor of the original Determination.

The appeal decision-maker shall

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board must select either OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 unless the Board appointed an independent Third Party to serve as the Board's appeal decisionmaker, in which case the Board should select OPTION 3.]

(☒) [OPTION 1]

simultaneously notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the outcome.

{END OF OPTION 1}

-

{OR}

~~()~~ {OPTION 2}

~~notify the CO, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the outcome. The CO will then simultaneously notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.~~

~~{END OF OPTION 2}~~**~~{OR}~~****~~()~~ {OPTION 3}**

~~submit the appeal decision to the Board who will promptly adopt it as written and forward it to the CO, who will send it simultaneously to the parties. The appeal decision shall set forth the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.~~

~~{END OF OPTION 3}~~

The **(x)** appeal decisionmaker's ~~()~~ Board's **~~{END OF OPTION}~~** decision shall be final.

[END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE - APPEAL OF DETERMINATION]**Supportive Measures:**

The District will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the District's education programs or activities or provide support during the grievance procedures and/or during the informal resolution process. For allegations of Prohibited Conduct other than prohibited harassment or retaliation, the District's provision of support measures does not require the District, Board employees, or any other person authorized to provide aid, benefit, or service on the District's behalf to alter the alleged discriminatory/retaliatory conduct for the purpose of providing a supportive measure.

The CO shall determine appropriate supportive measures on a case-by-case basis. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the CO deems to be reasonably available. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: modifications of work schedules; mutual restrictions on contact between the parties; changes in work locations; leaves of absence; increased security and monitoring of certain work settings; training related to Prohibited Conduct; ~~() referral to Employee Assistance Program; {END OF OPTION}~~ and other similar measures.

Supportive measures must not unreasonably burden either party and must be designed to protect the safety of the parties and/or the District's educational environment, or to provide support during the Board's grievance procedures or the informal resolution process.

The District will not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons.

The CO may, as appropriate, modify or terminate supportive measures at the conclusion of the grievance procedures, or at the conclusion of the informal resolution process, or the District may continue them beyond that point.

A party may seek additional modification or termination of a supportive measure applicable to them if circumstances change materially.

The District will not disclose information about any supportive measures to persons other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless necessary to provide the supportive measure or restore or preserve a party's access to the District's education programs or activities, or as otherwise permitted under existing law and/or policy.

The Superintendent may place an employee respondent on administrative leave from employment responsibilities during the pendency of the Board's grievance procedures.

Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies:

Following a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred, the District may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include:

- A. **(x)** oral or written warning;

- B. ☒ written reprimands;
- C. ☒ required counseling;
- D. ☒ required training or education;
- E. ☒ demotion;
- F. ☒ suspension with pay;

[END OF OPTIONS]

- G. suspension without pay;
- H. termination; and
- I. any other sanction authorized by any applicable Board policy, Employee/Administrator Handbook, and/or collective bargaining agreement.

The District may also provide remedies, which may include disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The CO will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation and implement appropriate remedies in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should review applicable policy(ies)/administrative guidelines/employee handbooks to determine whether changes are needed to establish timelines associated with imposition of discipline as a result of possible delays caused by the Board implementing the preceding grievance procedures; likewise, the Board may need to discuss with union representatives how implementation of the grievance procedures may impact any disciplinary provisions contained in applicable collective bargaining (e.g., timelines, permitted attendees at investigative interviews, etc.).]

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

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct or retaliation, or participates in an investigation, is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by the U.S. Constitution, the Michigan Constitution, Federal or State law, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including initiating a disciplinary process against a person for a code of conduct violation that does not involve Prohibited Conduct but arises out of the same facts and circumstances as a complaint or information reported about possible Prohibited Conduct, for the purpose of interfering with the exercise of any right or privilege secured by Federal or State law constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a complaint or participating in an investigation is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures set forth above. The District shall initiate its grievance procedures upon receiving any complaint alleging retaliation.

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

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

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a complaint of Prohibited Conduct, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of Prohibited

Conduct, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of relevant Federal or State law or regulations, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the complainant's and respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigation and determination of whether Prohibited Conduct occurred). All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the respondent must be provided the complainant's identity.

During an investigation, the CO or designated investigator/decisionmaker will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to other members of the School District Community or Third Parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

Application of the First Amendment

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ~~(-) and the principles of academic freedom as set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement [END OF OPTION]. In no case will a respondent be found to have committed Prohibited Conduct based on expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment (-) and/or the principles of academic freedom specified in the Board's collective bargaining agreement with its teachers [END OF OPTION].~~

Training

All employees, investigators, decision-makers, facilitators of informal resolution process, the District Compliance Officer(s), and other persons who are responsible for implementing the Board's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures shall receive training related to their duties under applicable Federal and State laws and this policy. ~~[] The training shall be provided promptly upon hiring or a change of position that alters their duties under this policy, and annually thereafter. [END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]~~ The training shall not rely on stereotypes involving Protected Classes.

☒ Training materials will be made available for inspection upon request by members of the public. [END OF OPTION]

Recordkeeping (including retention of investigatory records and materials)

The District Compliance Officer(s) is/are responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy must retain all information, documents, electronically stored information, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation. Records and materials associated with the implementation of this policy shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for the period set forth below, unless required to be maintained for a longer period pursuant to the District's records retention schedule.

[DRAFTING NOTE: For purposes of uniformity, Neola recommends that the Board use the same seven (7) year period for recordkeeping that is required by the 2020 Title IX regulations - see Board Policy 2266; if the Board selects a different timeframe for maintaining the below specified records, it should verify the time period selected is consistent with and/or reflected in its record retention schedule - see AG 8310.]

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

- A. for each complaint of Prohibited Conduct, records documenting the informal resolution process and/or the grievance procedures followed and the resulting outcome;
- B. for each notification that the District Compliance Officer receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, records documenting the actions the District took to implement this policy; and
- C. all materials used to provide the training referenced above ~~(-)~~ and in AG-1422 **[END OF OPTION]**.

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

Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this policy including, but not limited to, District Compliance Officer, investigator, decision-maker, appeal decision-maker, or facilitator of the informal resolution process.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two (2) or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decision-maker, and facilitator of the informal resolution process.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this policy including, but not limited to, the functions assigned to the District Compliance Officer, investigator, decision-maker, appeal decisionmaker, and facilitator of the informal resolution process to any suitably qualified individual, and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following option expressly sets forth authority that the Board has, regardless of whether it is included in this policy, but is offered for those boards of education that may want to affirmatively communicate to/address these issues for readers of this policy.]

[x] Discretion in Application

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

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

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

[END OF OPTION]

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Non-Discrim Fall 2025
Title	Vol. 40, No. 1 - Nondiscrimination - September 2025 Replacement NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT
Code	po3122
Status	
Legal	M.C.L. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq. 20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v) 20 U.S.C. 1232g 20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act 20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq., The Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") 29 U.S.C. 218d, PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act ("PUMP Act") 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq. (in particular 794), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended 34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93) 38 U.S.C. Chapter 43 4301-4335 (see in particular 4311(a) [prohibits discrimination based on military service] and 4312 [reemployment rights]), Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA") 42 U.S.C. 1983 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964 (e.g., Title VI and Title VII), as amended by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act 42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act 42 U.S.C. 2000gg, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act ("PWFA") 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution
Adopted	November 26, 2012
Last Revised	July 1, 2024

Replacement Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1**3122 - NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT**

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions; sexual orientation; and gender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category (collectively, Protected Classes) in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

The Board is committed to providing a work environment that is free from Prohibited Conduct, responding promptly and effectively when it has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, and addressing Prohibited Conduct in its education programs or activities. This commitment applies to all District operations and this policy applies to Prohibited Conduct occurring within or as a part of the District's education programs and activities, whether on school property or at another location during an activity sponsored by the Board.

Persons who commit Prohibited Conduct are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy.

The Board will provide persons who have experienced Prohibited Conduct with ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs or activities.

All school employees share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of Prohibited Conduct.

The Board will take immediate action to address the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct, or has participated in the below-described grievance procedures.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct.
- C. Disregarding, failing to appropriately address, or delaying action to appropriately address allegations of Prohibited Conduct when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating such charges comprises part of one's administrative/supervisory duties.

Definitions:

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

Bullying means: any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's work performance or participation. It may involve: (a) threats; (b) intimidation; (c) stalking; (d) cyberstalking; (e) cyberbullying; (f) physical violence; (g) theft; (h) sexual, religious, or racial harassment; (i) public humiliation; or (j) destruction of property. Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one (1) or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more employees, and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal and/or State civil rights laws. Ordinary teasing, horseplay, arguments, and peer conflict do not constitute bullying for purposes of this policy.

Complainant means: an employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct; or a person, other than an employee, who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct and who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities at the time of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

Complaint means: an oral or written request to the District that objectively can be understood as a request for the District to investigate and make a determination about alleged Prohibited Conduct.

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

Disciplinary sanctions means: consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination that the respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct.

Education programs or activities refer to: all the District's operations including, but not limited to, in-person and online/remote educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all programs and activities operated by the Board on school grounds or on other property owned or occupied by the Board. It also includes events and circumstances that take place off school property/grounds but over which the District asserts disciplinary authority (e.g., at off-campus activities sponsored by the Board).

Exculpatory evidence means: evidence that is favorable to a respondent because it helps excuse, justify, or absolve a respondent of alleged wrongdoing and tends to establish that a respondent did not engage in Prohibited Conduct.

Genetic information means: information about: (a) an individual's genetic tests; (b) the genetic tests of that individual's family members; (c) the manifestation of disease or disorder in family members of the individual (i.e., family medical history); (d) an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; or (e) the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of an embryo legally held by an individual or family member using assistive reproductive technology.

Harassment means: any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against an employee that (a) places the employee in reasonable fear of harm to their person or damage to their property; (b) has the effect of substantially interfering with the employee's work performance; or (c) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school. Each of the following types of harassment involves unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct that is based upon an individual's protected characteristic(s) and has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

- A. **Age Harassment** means: harassment based on negative perceptions about older workers. It also includes harassment based on stereotypes about older workers, even if they are not motivated by animus, such as pressuring an older employee to transfer to a job that is less technology-focused because of the perception that older workers are not well-suited to such work or encouraging an older employee to retire.
- B. **Disability Harassment** means: harassment based upon a person's disability and includes harassment based upon stereotypes about individuals with disabilities in general or about an individual's particular disability. It also includes harassment based on traits or characteristics linked to an individual's disability, such as how the person speaks, looks, or moves. For example, negative comments about an individual's speech patterns, movement, physical impairments, or defects/appearances, or the like. Disability-based harassment includes: (a) harassment because an individual requests or receives reasonable accommodation; (b) harassment because an individual is regarded as having an impairment, even if the individual does not have an actual disability, or a record of disability; (c) harassment because an individual has a record of a disability, even if the individual currently does not have a disability; and (d) harassment based on the disability of an individual with whom the employee is associated. Finally, disability-based harassment may occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.
- C. **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment** means: harassment due to a person's (or their ancestor's) place of origin. Such harassing conduct can include ethnic slurs or epithets, derogatory comments about individuals of a particular nationality, and use of stereotypes about a person's national origin. Additionally, it can include harassment regarding traits or characteristics linked to an individual's national origin, such as physical characteristics, ethnic or cultural characteristics or customs (e.g., surnames, attire, or diet), or linguistic characteristics (e.g., a person's manner of speaking, non-English language accent, or a lack of fluency in English).
- D. **Race/Color Harassment** means: unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct that is based upon an individual's race or color and has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.
- E. **Religious (Creed) Harassment** means: harassment based on a person's surname, religion (including atheism or lack of religious belief), religious traditions and practices, or religious dress/clothing, and includes making offensive comments about the same. It also includes religious slurs or epithets, harassing conduct based on religious stereotypes, and harassment associated with a person's request for and/or receipt of religious accommodation. Religious harassment also involves explicitly or implicitly coercing an employee to engage in religious practices at work.
- F. **Sexual Harassment** means (for purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964): unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an

individual's employment; (b) submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

1. Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.
2. Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Conduct of a sexualized nature, such as unwanted conduct expressing sexual attraction or involving sexual activity (e.g., unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations; unwanted physical and/or sexual contact, including unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching (x); and obscene gestures [END OF OPTION]).
 - b. Sexual attention or sexual coercion, such as demands or pressure for sexual favors (e.g., threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, or other conditions of employment may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances; giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship; leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin).
 - c. Rape, sexual assault, or other acts of sexual violence.
 - d. Discussing or displaying visual depictions of sex acts or sexual remarks (e.g., unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls, texts, etc.; sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings or literature placed in the work environment; asking or telling about sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities; speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history).
 - e. A consensual sexual relationship where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
 - f. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.
 - g. Non-sexual conduct based on sex, such as sex-based epithets; sexist comments (such as remarks that women do not belong in management or that men do not belong in the nursing profession); or facially sex-neutral offensive conduct motivated by sex (such as bullying directed toward employees of one sex).
 - h. Harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition, which may include issues pertaining to lactation, using or not using contraception, or deciding whether to have, or not to have, an abortion.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be objectively offensive (a reasonable person would find it hostile or abusive), subjectively offensive (the complainant actually perceived it as abusive), and either sufficiently severe (a single extremely serious incident) or pervasive (a pattern of behavior), such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment, or creates a hostile or abusive employment environment.

Inculpatory evidence means: evidence that links a respondent to alleged wrongdoing and tends to establish a respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct (i.e., has culpability).

Military status means: a person's past, current, or future membership, service, or obligation in a uniformed service (e.g., Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps). Service in the uniformed services also means the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service, under competent authority, and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It further includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an

examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

Party means: a complainant or respondent.

Pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions means:

- A. "Pregnancy" and "childbirth" refer to the pregnancy or childbirth of a specific employee and include, but are not limited to, current pregnancy; past pregnancy; potential or intended pregnancy (which can include infertility, fertility treatment, and the use of contraception); labor; and childbirth (including vaginal and cesarean delivery).
- B. "Related medical conditions" are medical conditions relating to the pregnancy or childbirth of a specific employee, and may include termination of pregnancy, including via miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion; ectopic pregnancy; preterm labor; pelvic prolapse; nerve injuries; cesarean or perineal wound infection; maternal cardiometabolic disease; gestational diabetes; preeclampsia; HELLP (hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes and low platelets) syndrome; hyperemesis gravidarum; anemia; endometriosis; sciatica; lumbar lordosis; carpal tunnel syndrome; chronic migraines; dehydration; hemorrhoids; nausea or vomiting; edema of the legs, ankles, feet, or fingers; high blood pressure; infection; antenatal (during pregnancy) anxiety, depression, or psychosis; postpartum depression, anxiety, or psychosis; frequent urination; incontinence; loss of balance; vision changes; varicose veins; changes in hormone levels; vaginal bleeding; menstruation; and lactation and conditions related to lactation, such as low milk supply, engorgement, plugged ducts, mastitis, or fungal infections. The preceding list of related medical conditions is not exhaustive.

Prohibited Conduct means: unlawful discrimination or harassment based on a person's Protected Class(es) or retaliation. Such misconduct involves a violation of Federal and/or State civil rights laws.

Relevant means: related to the allegations of Prohibited Conduct under investigation as part of the Board's grievance procedures. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decisionmaker in determining whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Remedies means: measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person the District identifies as having had their equal access to the District's education programs or activities limited or denied by Prohibited Conduct. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the District's education program or activity after the District determines that Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Respondent means: a person who is alleged to have engaged in Prohibited Conduct.

Retaliation means: intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the District, a student, a Board employee, or any other person authorized by the Board to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education programs or activities, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Federal or State law, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under applicable Federal or State laws or regulations.

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

Supportive measures means: non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after making a report or filing a complaint. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve that party's access to the District's education programs or activities without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment or deter Prohibited Conduct. Supportive measures may include modifications of work schedules, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain work settings; training related to Prohibited Conduct, ~~(-) referral to Employee Assistance Program, [END OF OPTION]~~ and other similar measures.

Third Parties means: guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Related Medical Conditions

The Board will not discriminate against an employee based on the person's current pregnancy, potential or intent to become

pregnant, past pregnancy, or medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth, or because the person uses birth control, or has had or not had an abortion.

Additionally, the Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to an employee's known limitation related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, unless the accommodation will cause the District undue hardship.

The Board will treat pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions as any other temporary medical conditions for all job-related purposes, including commencement, duration, and extensions of leave; accrual of seniority and any other benefit or service; reinstatement; and under any fringe benefit offered to employees by virtue of employment.

The Board will provide reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk while at work for the first year after the employee's child's birth. The Board will provide the employee with a space, other than a bathroom, that is clean, shielded from view, free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, and which the employee can use as needed to express breast milk. See Board Policy 6700 – Fair Labor Standards Act.

Nondiscrimination Based on Employee's Genetic Information

The Board prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of the individual's genetic information is also prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity is prohibited.

In accordance with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act ("GINA"), the Board shall not request, require, or purchase genetic information of employees, their family members, or applicants for employment. Further, in compliance with GINA, employees are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to necessary requests for medical information, with the exception that family medical history may be acquired as part of the certification process for FMLA leave, when an employee is asking for leave to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. Applicants for employment are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to requests for medical information as part of the District's application process.

[X] The District recognizes that genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available documents like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, television shows, or the Internet. The District prohibits, however, its employees from searching such sources with the intent of finding or obtaining genetic information or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information. **[END OF OPTION]**

If the District either legally and/or inadvertently receives genetic information about an employee or applicant for employment from the employee, applicant for employment, or a medical provider, it shall be treated as a confidential medical record in accordance with law.

The District Compliance Officer (see below) shall be responsible for overseeing the District's compliance with applicable Federal regulations and promptly dealing with any inquiries or complaints. The District Compliance Officer or designee shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 is provided to staff members, and that all District requests for health-related information (e.g., to support an employee's request for reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") or a request for sick leave) is accompanied by a written warning that directs the employee or health care provider not to collect or provide genetic information. The warning shall read as follows:

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA") prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II, including the Board of Education, from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by law. To comply with this law, do not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information (unless the request pertains to a request for FMLA leave for purposes of caring for an immediate family member with a serious health condition). "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic test, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services or participated in clinical research that includes genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

~~**[]** The District offers health services (), including a wellness program **[END OF INTERNAL OPTION]**. Participation in the services/program is voluntary. Genetic information (such as family medical history) may be obtained as part of an~~

~~individual's participation in the service/program. If that occurs, individual genetic information may be provided to the individual receiving the services and to the person's health services providers, but only genetic information in aggregate form will be provided to the Board. [END OF OPTION]~~

District Compliance Officer(s)

[DRAFTING NOTES:

1. Neola suggests the Board appoint both a male and a female to serve as the District Compliance Officers. By appointing two (2) District Compliance Officers, there should always be a District Compliance Officer available to address a claim that pertains to the other District Compliance Officer. If, however, the Board appoints more than one (1) District Compliance Officer, Neola recommends that it designate one (1) of the District Compliance Officers to retain ultimate oversight over the assigned responsibilities and ensure the Board's consistent compliance with its responsibilities under applicable Federal and State laws that prohibit unlawful discrimination/harassment based on protected classes and retaliation. Alternatively, the Board could appoint a District Compliance Officer and one (1) or more persons to assist the District Compliance Officer with performance of the responsibilities identified in this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. Often the person(s) designated to assist a District Compliance Officer is/are called Deputy or Assistant Compliance Officer(s). If the Board elects this alternative approach, it would designate a District Compliance Officer for purposes of this policy, and then designate the other position(s) through its AG. The person(s) in the alternative support role(s) will need to be trained in the same manner as the District Compliance Officer (see AG 1422).
2. The Board must list in this policy either the Name(s) or Title(s) of the District Compliance Officer(s); while the Board may list both the Name(s) and Title(s), Neola suggests that the Board only list the Title(s) in this policy (so the Board does not need to revise/amend the policy whenever there is a change in the actual person(s) holding the designated position(s)), but list both the Name(s) and Title(s) in the requisite notices/postings (e.g., website) and publications (e.g., handbooks). The District will also need to decide whether to list the Name(s) and Title(s), or just the Title(s), in Administrative Guideline 1422. If the District elects to identify the District Compliance Officer in the AG (see DRAFTING NOTE in the AG; again, if the District lists the Name(s) and Title(s), it will need to remember to update the AG whenever there is a change in the actual person(s) holding the designated position(s). No matter what, the Board will need to amend its policy and update its AG, requisite notices/postings, and publications, whenever it changes the Title of the position(s) designated to serve as the District Compliance Officer(s).
3. Reminder: Whenever a new person begins to serve as the District Compliance Officer (or in a support role to the District Compliance Officer), the District needs to make sure the new person is appropriately trained, in a timely manner, to fulfill the responsibilities of the position to which the person is assigned.]

[END OF DRAFTING NOTES]

The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with the Board's responsibilities under Federal and State laws that prohibit discrimination, including harassment, based on Protected Classes and retaliation (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinator(s)" or "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer(s)") (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officer(s)" or "CO(s)"):

Kate Gregory
Asst. Supt. Personnel & Student Services
(810) 626-2100
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843
kategregory@hartlandschools.us

Anna Kulas Rosenthal
Human Resource Specialist
(810) 626-2129
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843
annakulasrosenthal@hartlandschools.us

[DRAFTING NOTE: The District may want to create a static (i.e., fixed) District Compliance Officer -specific email address and phone number that will not change when the person(s) and/or position(s) designated to be

the CO(s) change(s) – e.g., CO4CivilRights@(insert District's domain) – which the Technology Director/Department can program to be forwarded to the actual individual(s) serving as the District Compliance Officer(s) at any given time. Likewise, the District may want to establish a static Telephone Number for the position of District Compliance Officer that can be forwarded to, and accessed by, the actual person(s) serving in the CO position(s) at any given time. These two (2) steps will help reduce the information that needs to be updated in policy, AG, and/or the requisite notices/postings and publications when changes occur to the specific person(s)/position(s) designated to serve as the CO(s).]

☒ The Board designates the Superintendent [DRAFTING NOTE: Insert Name and/or Title of the District Compliance Officer who is ultimately responsible for the District's compliance with its responsibilities under Federal and State laws that prohibit discrimination/harassment based on Protected Classes and retaliation as the individual who is ultimately responsible for oversight over the Board's compliance with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination based on the basis of Protected Classes and retaliation. [END OF OPTION]

☒ The District Compliance Officer may delegate specific duties to one (1) or more designees. [END OF OPTION]

The contact information concerning the District Compliance Officer(s) will be published on the School District's website, () and annually [END OF OPTION]:

- A. ~~() in parent/student and staff handbooks.~~
- B. ~~() in the School District Annual Report to the public.~~
- C. ~~() on each individual school's website.~~
- D. ~~() in the School District's calendar.~~
- E. ~~() _____.~~

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may want to select the following option when the Superintendent is not the CO. While Neola recognizes that this may not always be possible, it may be preferable to have the CO be someone other than the Superintendent because then – if the CO serves as the investigator and decisionmaker – the Superintendent can serve as the appeal decisionmaker or the facilitator for the informal resolution process.]

☒ The District Compliance Officer(s) shall report directly to the Superintendent except when the Superintendent is a party to a complaint (i.e., either the complainant or the respondent). Under such circumstances, the CO(s) shall report directly to [SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING] (x) the Board President ~~() the Board's Legal Counsel () _____~~ [OTHER] [END OF INTERNAL OPTIONS] until the matter in which the Superintendent is a party is concluded. [END OF OPTION]

Questions about this policy ~~() and AG 1422 [END OF OPTION]~~ should be directed to the District Compliance Officer(s).

The CO(s) is/are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or denial of equal opportunity/access. The CO(s) shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. ~~() Any sections of the District's collective bargaining agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, demotion, discipline, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement set forth above. [END OF OPTION] [] In addition, as practical, gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. [END OF OPTION] Copies of the laws and regulations listed above are available upon request from the CO(s).~~

The CO(s) will be available during regular work hours to discuss concerns related to Prohibited Conduct, to assist employees, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about Prohibited Conduct, including unwelcome conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

The CO(s) shall monitor the District's education programs and activities for barriers to reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct pursuant to Federal and/or State laws that prohibit discrimination/harassment based on the basis of a Protected Class/Category and retaliation, and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Superintendent shall provide a notice of nondiscrimination to students, parents, guardians, or other authorized legal representatives of elementary and secondary students; employees; applicants for admission and employment; and all unions and professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board. Specifically, the Superintendent shall post the notice of nondiscrimination on the District's website and in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form that it makes available to the persons listed above, or which are otherwise used in connection with the recruitment of employees. ~~() See AG 1422 and Form 1422F1—Notice and Statement of Nondiscrimination.~~ **[END OF OPTION]**

NOTIFICATION/REPORTS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Any person may provide information to the CO(s) concerning conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct. Such information may be submitted in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail using the CO's(s') published contact information, or by any other means (oral or written) that results in the CO(s) receiving the information. Information may be provided at any time (including during non-work hours). ~~() Anonymous reports may be submitted using () the online reporting form posted at _____~~ **[insert the web address for the reporting form, or insert a hyperlink tied to the phrase "online reporting form"]** ~~[or () the hotline reporting number (_____~~ **[insert phone number]]**. **[END OF OPTION]**

All Board employees are required to notify the CO(s) of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct. For the Board to fulfill its responsibilities under applicable Federal and/or State laws, if a Board employee has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, the Board employee must notify the/a CO within two (2) days of learning the information or receiving the report. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The applicable statutes and regulations do not specify within how many days the Board employee must notify the CO of receiving notification/a report of Prohibited Conduct; Neola suggests "two (2) days". Alternatively, the Board could make this language more open-ended – e.g., " * * * must immediately/promptly notify the/a CO of such information or report."]** The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to Policy 8462 – Student Abuse and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge about the alleged Prohibited Conduct is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention, and the reporting individual submitted a written notification/report or complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written notification/report or complaint to the CO.

Notification can be provided orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the notification/report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a notification/report or complaint involves allegations of Prohibited Conduct by or involving the CO, the person making the report (i.e., providing the notification or filing the complaint) should submit it to the Superintendent or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report/complaint. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the CO for purposes of addressing that report of Prohibited Conduct. **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Superintendent is the CO, substitute "Board President" in place of "Superintendent."]**

When a Board employee notifies the CO of suspected Prohibited Conduct, the employee is required to report all known details about the alleged Prohibited Conduct including: (1) the name of the alleged respondent(s); (2) the person who experienced the alleged Prohibited Conduct (i.e., the complainant); (3) other persons involved in the alleged Prohibited Conduct (e.g., witnesses); and (4) any other relevant facts, such as date, time, and location. Failure to provide such notification may result in discipline, up to and including suspension or termination of employment.

Any allegations of misconduct not involving Prohibited Conduct as defined in this policy will be addressed through the procedures outlined in other Board policies ~~() and/or administrative guidelines~~ **[END OF OPTION]**, the applicable Student Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

When a notification/report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct is made, the CO shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) days **[DRAFTING NOTE: The applicable laws and/or regulations do not define "promptly" or otherwise specify within how many days the contact has to be made; Neola suggests "two (2) days."]** of the CO's receipt of the notification/report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct) contact the purported complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a complaint. The CO is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Overview:

The Board adopts the following grievance procedures to provide for the prompt, effective, and equitable resolution of complaints made by employees, applicants, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities (i.e., members of the School District community and Third Parties), or by the CO alleging any act of Prohibited Conduct.

These grievance procedures shall be used for all complaints of Prohibited Conduct unless it involves conduct involving a student, in which case the grievance procedures set forth in Policy 2260 or Policy 5517.01 shall apply. These grievances procedures set forth the means for investigating and resolving claims involving such Prohibited Conduct; in particular, the procedures provide a method for assessing – in a prompt, effective, and equitable manner – whether an applicable Federal or State law was violated and, if it was, how best to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of Prohibited Conduct, timelines are flexible for initiating the grievance procedures; however, individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII") prohibits discrimination in employment. Specifically, it prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and applies to employers with fifteen (15) or more employees. Title IX, on the other hand, specifically prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance, including employment within those institutions. Title IX is addressed by Board Policy 2266 and AG 2266. While both laws aim to prevent sex-based discrimination in the workplace, Title VII applies more broadly to various types of employers, whereas Title IX is limited to educational institutions receiving Federal funds. Ultimately, both laws aim to ensure equal employment opportunities and protect individuals from discrimination. When a District Compliance Officer receives a complaint or notification of alleged misconduct involving sex discrimination (in particular, sexual harassment) that involves an employee complainant and an employee respondent, the District Compliance Officer should consult with the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Board's Legal Counsel concerning which law – it may be both – the District will need to comply with when investigating the allegations.]

Under all circumstances, the CO shall offer and coordinate supportive measures, as appropriate, in accordance with this policy ~~(-)~~ and AG 1422 **[END OF OPTION]**.

Complaints:

The following people may make a complaint of Prohibited Conduct – i.e., request that the District investigate and determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred:

A. a "complainant," which includes:

1. an employee of the District who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct; or
2. a person other than an employee of the District who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct at a time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities;

B. an authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of a complainant;

C. the District Compliance Officer.

A person is entitled to make a complaint of unlawful harassment only if they themselves are alleged to have been subjected to the unlawful harassment, or if the CO initiates a complaint.

[DRAFTING NOTE: This paragraph emphasizes that in order for a person to file a complaint of unlawful harassment, the person has to have been subjected to the alleged misconduct directly or be a person who has a legal right to act on behalf of the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct. This is consistent with the prior paragraph, where the complainant is identified as an employee who was "subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct." The following paragraph, on the other hand, expands who can file a complaint – when the alleged Prohibited Conduct does not involve unlawful harassment, or the

complaint involves allegations of retaliation – to persons who are aware of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, even if that person was not directly affected by or subject to the alleged Prohibited Conduct.]

With respect to complaints of Prohibited Conduct other than unlawful harassment, or complaints involving allegations of retaliation, in addition to the people listed above, the following persons have a right to make a complaint:

- A. any employee of the District; or
- B. any person other than an employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities at the time of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

The District may consolidate complaints of Prohibited Conduct against more than one (1) respondent, or by more than one (1) complainant against one (1) or more respondents, or by one (1) party against another party, when the allegations of Prohibited Conduct arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one (1) complainant or more than one (1) respondent is involved, references below to a party, complainant, or respondent include the plural, as applicable.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a complaint. A person does not need to wait until the District's internal grievance procedures are completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to alleged violations of applicable Federal or State laws may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, at any time based on the underlying statutory basis for the complaint.

Basic Requirements:

The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably.

All persons involved with implementing the grievance procedures and any other aspects of this Policy, including the District Compliance Officer, the investigator, the decisionmaker, and the appeal decisionmaker, (x) and the facilitator of the informal resolution process, [END OF OPTION] shall be free from any conflicts of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

(x) The CO may serve simultaneously as an investigator and/or a decisionmaker. [END OF OPTION] [DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends the Board select this OPTION; note it is "may" (i.e., optional) so the CO can decide when to serve in both roles and when to designate one or more persons to perform these responsibilities in a given case.]

If the CO does not intend to serve as the investigator/decisionmaker in a specific case, the CO shall designate one (1) or more administrators who are appropriately trained to serve in the role.

In circumstances when the CO and trained administrators do not have time/capacity to serve, or are prevented due to a conflict of interest, bias, or partiality, or other reasons impair the CO and other trained administrators from serving as an investigator/decisionmaker in a specific case, the CO shall in consultation with (x) and approval of [END OF OPTION] the Superintendent or ~~(-)~~ Board (x) Board President (as appropriate), [END OF OPTION] secure one (1) or more independent third parties to serve as the investigator and/or decisionmaker.

The District presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Board expects to complete the major stages of the grievance procedures within the timeframe specified below:

A. **Evaluation** – The District Compliance Officer will determine whether to dismiss a complaint or investigate it within ten (10) [INSERT AMOUNT] days of receiving the complaint. [DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends that the evaluation stage be completed within ten (10) days of the CO receiving notice of the complaint.]

B. **Investigation** – The CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, shall ordinarily complete the investigation (i.e., collect relevant evidence that is not otherwise impermissible) and issue a Determination (i.e., consider the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and decide whether Prohibited Conduct occurred) within twenty (20) [INSERT AMOUNT] days of the CO determining the charges require investigation. [DRAFTING NOTE: Recognizing that it is important for investigations to be completed and Determinations issued in a prompt and equitable manner, Neola recommends that a school district typically complete an investigation and issue a Determination within twenty (20) days.]

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the investigator/decisionmaker is someone other than the CO, upon written request from the investigator/decisionmaker, the CO should be permitted to approve a reasonable

extension of time for the investigation to be completed and the Determination issued. If the CO is the investigation/decisionmaker: upon written request from the CO, the Superintendent should be permitted to approve a reasonable extension of time for the investigation to be completed and the Determination issued. In either situation, the administrator granting the extension should communicate to the parties the new deadline along with a rationale for the extension.]

If, however, the CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, determines that the investigation is going to take longer, the CO will so notify the parties (x) and the Superintendent [END OF OPTION] and will thereafter keep the parties (x) and the Superintendent [END OF OPTION] informed of the status of the matter on a regular basis [INSERT TIME PERIOD – E.G., BIWEEKLY OR REGULAR] basis.

C. Appeal – A party filing an appeal of the CO's decision to dismiss a complaint (x), or the Determination, [END OF OPTION] must do so within five (5) [INSERT AMOUNT] days of receiving the Dismissal (x) or Determination [END OF OPTION]. [DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends the Board allow limited appeals based on the Determination. See DRAFTING NOTE below in the appeal section.]

The CO, or the Superintendent if the CO is the individual requesting an extension, may approve reasonable extensions of the preceding timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties.

The District will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses. x These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to present evidence or otherwise participate in the grievance procedures. [END OF OPTION] The parties shall not engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

The CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, shall objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible — including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations shall not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking such evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the District to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- A. evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality; and
- B. a party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the District obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures.

Notice of Allegations:

Upon initiation of the Board's grievance procedures, the District Compliance Officer shall notify the parties of the following:

- A. the Board's grievance procedures (x) and informal resolution process [END OF OPTION] associated with claims involving Prohibited Conduct; [DRAFTING NOTE: Neola encourages the Board to include an informal resolution process.]
- B. sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s); and
- C. retaliation is prohibited.

Should the CO decide, at any point, to investigate allegations that are materially beyond the scope of the initial written notice, the CO will provide a supplemental written notice describing the additional allegations to be investigated.

Dismissal of a Complaint:

The CO may dismiss a complaint of Prohibited Conduct if:

- A. the District is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- B. the respondent is not participating in the District's education program or activity and is not employed by the Board;
- C. the complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all the allegations in the complaint, the CO declines to initiate a complaint, and the District determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that

remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct even if proven; or

- D. the District determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct. Before dismissing the complaint, the CO will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the CO will promptly notify, in writing, the complainant of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the CO will also simultaneously notify, in writing, the respondent of the dismissal and the basis for the dismissal.

The CO will further notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed and will provide the complainant with an opportunity to appeal the dismissal of the complaint. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the CO will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed.

Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases:

- A. procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- B. new evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made; and
- C. the CO had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or the individual complainant or respondent, that would change the outcome.

If the dismissal is appealed, the CO will:

- A. notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;
- B. implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- C. ensure that the appeal decisionmaker did not take part in the original dismissal of the complaint;
- D. ensure that the appeal decisionmaker has been trained consistent with this Policy ~~(→) and AG 1422~~ **[END OF OPTION];**
- E. provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- F. notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

When a complaint is dismissed, the CO will, at a minimum:

- A. offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- B. if the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and
- C. take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, to ensure that Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the District's education programs or activities.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola encourages the Board to select the following option so the CO can choose, in appropriate circumstances, to offer the parties the opportunity to participate in an informal resolution process, or to honor the parties' request to use an informal resolution process, to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.]

(x) [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS]

Informal Resolution Process:

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the Board's formal grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The District will not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with Federal, State, or local law.

[END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS]**Adding Allegations and/or Consolidating Complaints:**

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate additional allegations of Prohibited Conduct by the respondent toward the complainant that are not included in the original Notice of Allegations or to consolidate charges raised in a different complaint involving the same respondent, the CO will notify the parties of the additional allegations.

Investigation:

The District will provide for an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the District — not on the parties — to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred.

The CO, or the designated investigator/decisionmaker, will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The CO, or the designated investigator/decisionmaker, will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible, regardless of relevance.

Determination of Whether Prohibited Conduct Occurred:

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the CO or designated investigator/decisionmaker will:

- A. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred. This standard of proof requires the decisionmaker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decisionmaker, applying the applicable standard, is not persuaded by the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that Prohibited Conduct occurred, regardless of the quantity of the evidence, the decisionmaker will not determine that Prohibited Conduct occurred. **[DRAFTING NOTE: While a board of education could elect to use the "clear and convincing" evidence standard of proof, Neola does not recommend it. If a board does select the "clear and convincing" standard, it should use it in all other comparable proceedings. Neola expects it will be a rare situation when a board chooses to use a clear and convincing standard of proof.]**
- B. Notify the parties, in writing, of the determination whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, including the rationale for such determination ~~(-), and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.
- C. Not impose discipline on a respondent for Prohibited Conduct unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct.
- D. If there is a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred, the CO will, as appropriate:
 1. coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the District identifies as having had equal access to the District's education programs or activities limited or denied by the Prohibited Conduct;
 2. coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, ☒ including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions **[END OF OPTION]**; and
 3. take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that the Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the District's education programs or activities.
- E. Comply with the grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent.
- F. Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement based solely on the determination of whether Prohibited Conduct occurred.

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the CO dismisses a complaint in the Evaluation stage (i.e., prior to commencing an investigation), the complainant may appeal as set forth above. Neola also recommends the Board include an appeal process related to the Determination.]

x [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE - APPEAL OF DETERMINATION]**Appeal of Determinations:**

If a party disagrees with the decisionmaker's determination as to whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, the party may file an appeal. Appeals must be submitted, in writing, within five (5) (INSERT AMOUNT) days of the appealing party's receipt of the Determination.

A party may appeal a Determination on the following bases:

- A. procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- B. new evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the investigation occurred and the Determination was made; and
- C. the CO, or the designated investigator/decisionmaker, had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome;

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may insert additional grounds on which an appeal may be filed.]

- D. ~~() the recommended remedies (including disciplinary sanctions/consequences) are unreasonable in light of the findings of fact (i.e., the nature and severity of the Prohibited Conduct).~~

E. ~~() [OTHER] _____.~~

(x) The complainant may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed. **[END OF OPTION]**

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following options are offered in case the Board wants the Superintendent to serve as the appeal decisionmaker or the Board wants to nominally be identified as the appeal decisionmaker but will be delegating the responsibility to a person who is properly trained. Neola does not recommend that the Board itself be named as the appeal decisionmaker because of the preference for the decisionmaker to be trained to render a decision. If the Board wants to serve as the appeal decisionmaker, it should discuss this issue with its Legal Counsel. Select OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 below.]

~~[] [OPTION 1]~~

~~The CO will designate an appeal decisionmaker, who will be a person who did not conduct the Investigation and render the Determination, and is appropriately trained (), as set forth in AG 1422 [END OF INTERNAL OPTION].~~

~~The CO has authority (), in consultation with () and approval of [END OF OPTION] the Superintendent or () Board () Board President (as appropriate), [END OF OPTIONS] to secure an independent Third Party to serve as the appeal decisionmaker.~~

~~[] In designating an appeal decisionmaker, the CO will work with the Board to identify and appoint an independent Third Party to serve as the appeal decisionmaker—this individual shall be considered to be the Board's designee and will submit the appeal decision to the Board who will promptly adopt it as written and forward it to the CO who will send it simultaneously to the parties. [END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]~~

~~[END OF OPTION 1]~~**(x) [OPTION 2]**

The Superintendent shall serve as the appeal decisionmaker, provided the Superintendent has not been otherwise involved in the grievance procedures (i.e., did not serve as the investigator/decisionmaker or informal resolution process facilitator) and is appropriately trained. If the Superintendent is not eligible to serve as the appeal decisionmaker, the CO will designate an appeal decisionmaker, who will be a person who did not conduct the Investigation and render the Determination, and is appropriately trained ~~(), as set forth in AG 1422 [END OF INTERNAL OPTION].~~

[END OF OPTION 2]**[END OF OPTIONS]**

If a party appeals the Determination, the CO will:

- A. notify the parties of the appeal;
- B. implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- C. provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the Determination;
- D. provide the appeal decisionmaker with the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the Determination; and
- E. notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.

Parties Provided a Reasonable and Equal Opportunity to Make a Statement in Support of, or Challenging, the Dismissal (x) or Determination [END OF OPTION]

When a party files an appeal, the party must set forth the reason(s)/basis/bases for the appeal, and the other party will have five (5) [INSERT AMOUNT] days to provide the appeal decisionmaker with a statement in support of their position. Once the decisionmaker receives the statement (or the deadline for filing such a statement expires), the appeal decisionmaker will have ten (10) [INSERT AMOUNT] days to issue a decision on the appeal.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola suggests any appeals should be filed within five (5) days of the parties receiving written notice of the Determination. Neola further suggests that the timeline for the other party submitting a statement be equivalent to the timeframe in which an appeal has to be filed. Finally, Neola suggests the appeal decisionmaker have ten (10) days from receipt of the statements to issue a decision.]

While a party appealing a Determination may argue the reason/basis for the appeal is that new evidence has been discovered/obtained that would change the outcome and that said new evidence was not reasonably available when the Determination was originally made, the party may not submit the new or additional evidence during the appeal process. Rather, the party appealing should identify/describe in detail the evidence, including how and when it was discovered/obtained, and explain why it was not reasonably available during the Investigation (i.e., prior to the Determination). If the appeal decisionmaker accepts the proffered explanation, the appeal decisionmaker should remand the case back to the investigator/decisionmaker (i.e., reopen the investigation) so the new evidence may be submitted and considered by the other party and the investigator/decisionmaker.

The appeal decisionmaker shall determine the outcome of the appeal based on the appeal decisionmaker's independent review of the record (i.e., the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the written determination) and the appeal decisionmaker's application of the law and Board policy to the facts in the record. The appeal decisionmaker must give due deference and due weight to the decisionmaker's factual findings and credibility determinations and should not overturn them unless non-testimonial extrinsic evidence in the record justifies a contrary conclusion or unless the record read in its entirety compels a contrary conclusion. Generally, the appeal decisionmaker is expected to uphold the original Determination unless the appeal decisionmaker concludes the original Determination is unlawful, unreasonable, or against the manifest weight of the evidence. Every reasonable presumption must be made in favor of the original Determination.

The appeal decisionmaker shall

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board must select either OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 unless the Board appointed an independent Third Party to serve as the Board's appeal decisionmaker, in which case the Board should select OPTION 3.]

(x) [OPTION 1]

simultaneously notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the outcome.

{END OF OPTION 1}

{OR}

() [OPTION 2]

~~notify the CO, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the outcome. The CO will then simultaneously notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.~~

{END OF OPTION 2}**{OR}****() {OPTION 3}**

~~submit the appeal decision to the Board who will promptly adopt it as written and forward it to the CO, who will send it simultaneously to the parties. The appeal decision shall set forth the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.~~

{END OF OPTION 3}

The **(x)** appeal decisionmaker's ~~() Board's {END OF OPTION}~~ decision shall be final.

{END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE - APPEAL OF DETERMINATION}**Supportive Measures:**

The District will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the District's education programs or activities or provide support during the grievance procedures and/or during the informal resolution process. For allegations of Prohibited Conduct other than prohibited harassment or retaliation, the District's provision of support measures does not require the District, Board employees, or any other person authorized to provide aid, benefit, or service on the District's behalf to alter the alleged discriminatory/retaliatory conduct for the purpose of providing a supportive measure.

The CO shall determine appropriate supportive measures on a case-by-case basis. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the CO deems to be reasonably available. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: modifications of work schedules, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties; changes in work locations; leaves of absence; increased security and monitoring of certain work settings; training related to Prohibited Conduct; ~~() referral to Employee Assistance Program; {END OF OPTION}~~ and other similar measures.

Supportive measures must not unreasonably burden either party and must be designed to protect the safety of the parties and/or the District's educational environment, or to provide support during the Board's grievance procedures or the informal resolution process.

The District will not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons.

The CO may, as appropriate, modify or terminate supportive measures at the conclusion of the grievance procedures, or at the conclusion of the informal resolution process, or the District may continue them beyond that point.

A party may seek additional modification or termination of a supportive measure applicable to them if circumstances change materially.

The District will not disclose information about any supportive measures to persons other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless necessary to provide the supportive measure or restore or preserve a party's access to the District's education programs or activities, or as otherwise permitted under existing law and/or policy.

The Superintendent may place an employee respondent on administrative leave from employment responsibilities during the pendency of the Board's grievance procedures.

Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies:

Following a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred, the District may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include:

- A. **(x)** oral or written warning;
- B. **(x)** written reprimands;
- C. **(x)** required counseling;
- D. **(x)** required training or education;

E. ☒ demotion;

F. ☒ suspension with pay;

[END OF OPTIONS]

G. suspension without pay;

H. termination; and

I. any other sanction authorized by any applicable Board policy, Employee/Administrator Handbook, and/or collective bargaining agreement.

The District may also provide remedies, which may include disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The CO will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation and implement appropriate remedies in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should review applicable policy(ies)/administrative guidelines/employee handbooks to determine whether changes are needed to establish timelines associated with imposition of discipline as a result of possible delays caused by the Board implementing the preceding grievance procedures; likewise, the Board may need to discuss with union representatives how implementation of the grievance procedures may impact any disciplinary provisions contained in applicable collective bargaining (e.g., timelines, permitted attendees at investigative interviews, etc.).]

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

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct or retaliation, or participates in an investigation, is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by the U.S. Constitution, the Michigan Constitution, Federal or State law, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including initiating a disciplinary process against a person for a code of conduct violation that does not involve Prohibited Conduct but arises out of the same facts and circumstances as a complaint or information reported about possible Prohibited Conduct, for the purpose of interfering with the exercise of any right or privilege secured by Federal or State law constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a complaint or participating in an investigation is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures set forth above. The District shall initiate its grievance procedures upon receiving any complaint alleging retaliation.

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

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

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a complaint of Prohibited Conduct, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of Prohibited Conduct, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of relevant Federal or State law or regulations, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the complainant's and respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigation and determination of whether Prohibited Conduct occurred). All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be

maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the respondent must be provided the complainant's identity.

During an investigation, the CO or designated investigator/decisionmaker will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to other members of the School District Community or Third Parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

Application of the First Amendment

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ~~(-) and the principles of academic freedom as set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement~~ **[END OF OPTION]**. ~~In no case will a respondent be found to have committed Prohibited Conduct based on expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment (-) and/or the principles of academic freedom specified in the Board's collective bargaining agreement with its teachers~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.

Training

All employees, investigators, decisionmakers, facilitators of informal resolution process, the District Compliance Officer(s), and other persons who are responsible for implementing the Board's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures shall receive training related to their duties under applicable Federal and State laws and this policy. ~~(-) The training shall be provided promptly upon hiring or a change of position that alters their duties under this policy, and annually thereafter.~~ **[END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]** The training shall not rely on stereotypes involving Protected Classes.

(x) Training materials will be made available for inspection upon request by members of the public. **[END OF OPTION]**

Recordkeeping (including retention of investigatory records and materials)

The District Compliance Officer(s) is/are responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy must retain all information, documents, electronically stored information, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation. Records and materials associated with the implementation of this policy shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for the period set forth below, unless required to be maintained for a longer period pursuant to the District's records retention schedule.

[DRAFTING NOTE: For purposes of uniformity, Neola recommends that the Board use the same seven (7) year period for recordkeeping that is required by the 2020 Title IX regulations - see Board Policy 2266; if the Board selects a different timeframe for maintaining the below specified records, it should verify the time period selected is consistent with and/or reflected in its record retention schedule - see AG 8310.]

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

- A. for each complaint of Prohibited Conduct, records documenting the informal resolution process and/or the grievance procedures followed and the resulting outcome;
- B. for each notification that the District Compliance Officer receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, records documenting the actions the District took to implement this policy; and

C. all materials used to provide the training referenced above ~~(-)~~ and in AG 1422 **[END OF OPTION]**.

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

Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this policy including, but not limited to, District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decisionmaker, or facilitator of the informal resolution process.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two (2) or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decisionmaker, and facilitator of the informal resolution process.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this policy including, but not limited to, the functions assigned to the District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decisionmaker, and facilitator of the informal resolution process to any suitably qualified individual, and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following option expressly sets forth authority that the Board has, regardless of whether it is included in this policy, but is offered for those boards of education that may want to affirmatively communicate to/address these issues for readers of this policy.]

(x) Discretion in Application

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

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

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

[END OF OPTION]

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Non-Discrim Fall 2025
Title	Vol. 40, No. 1 - Nondiscrimination - September 2025 Replacement NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT
Code	po4122
Status	
Legal	M.C.L. 37.2101 et seq., 37.1101 et seq. 20 U.S.C. 1092(F)(6)(A)(v) 20 U.S.C. 1232g 20 U.S.C. Section 1681, Title IX of Education Amendment Act 20 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq., Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq., The Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") 29 U.S.C. 218d, PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act ("PUMP Act") 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 29 U.S.C. 701 et seq. (in particular 794), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended 34 C.F.R. Part 110 (7/27/93) 38 U.S.C. Chapter 43 4301-4335 (see in particular 4311(a) [prohibits discrimination based on military service] and 4312 [reemployment rights]), Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA") 42 U.S.C. 1983 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., Civil Rights Act of 1964 (e.g., Title VI and Title VII), as amended by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act 42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act 42 U.S.C. 2000gg, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act ("PWFA") 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., Age Discrimination Act of 1975 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution
Adopted	November 26, 2012
Last Revised	July 1, 2024

Replacement Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1**4122 - NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND ANTI-HARASSMENT**

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions; sexual orientation; and gender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category (collectively, Protected Classes) in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

The Board is committed to providing a work environment that is free from Prohibited Conduct, responding promptly and effectively when it has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, and addressing Prohibited Conduct in its education programs or activities. This commitment applies to all District operations and this policy applies to Prohibited Conduct occurring within or as a part of the District's education programs and activities, whether on school property or at another location during an activity sponsored by the Board.

Persons who commit Prohibited Conduct are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy.

The Board will provide persons who have experienced Prohibited Conduct with ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs or activities.

All school employees share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of Prohibited Conduct.

The Board will take immediate action to address the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct, or has participated in the below-described grievance procedures.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct.
- C. Disregarding, failing to appropriately address, or delaying action to appropriately address allegations of Prohibited Conduct when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating such charges comprises part of one's administrative/supervisory duties.

Definitions:

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

Bullying means: any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's work performance or participation. It may involve: (a) threats; (b) intimidation; (c) stalking; (d) cyberstalking; (e) cyberbullying; (f) physical violence; (g) theft; (h) sexual, religious, or racial harassment; (i) public humiliation; or (j) destruction of property. Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one (1) or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more employees, and that bullying is based upon one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal and/or State civil rights laws. Ordinary teasing, horseplay, arguments, and peer conflict do not constitute bullying for purposes of this policy.

Complainant means: an employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct; or a person, other than an employee, who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct and who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities at the time of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

Complaint means: an oral or written request to the District that objectively can be understood as a request for the District to investigate and make a determination about alleged Prohibited Conduct.

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

Disciplinary sanctions means: consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination that the respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct.

Education programs or activities refer to: all the District's operations including, but not limited to, in-person and online/remote educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all programs and activities operated by the Board on school grounds or on other property owned or occupied by the Board. It also includes events and circumstances that take place off school property/grounds but over which the District asserts disciplinary authority (e.g., at off-campus activities sponsored by the Board).

Exculpatory evidence means: evidence that is favorable to a respondent because it helps excuse, justify, or absolve a respondent of alleged wrongdoing and tends to establish that a respondent did not engage in Prohibited Conduct.

Genetic information means: information about: (a) an individual's genetic tests; (b) the genetic tests of that individual's family members; (c) the manifestation of disease or disorder in family members of the individual (i.e., family medical history); (d) an individual's request for, or receipt of, genetic services, or the participation in clinical research that includes genetic services by the individual or a family member of the individual; or (e) the genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or a pregnant woman who is a family member of the individual and the genetic information of an embryo legally held by an individual or family member using assistive reproductive technology.

Harassment means: any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against an employee that (a) places the employee in reasonable fear of harm to their person or damage to their property; (b) has the effect of substantially interfering with the employee's work performance; or (c) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school. Each of the following types of harassment involves unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct that is based upon an individual's protected characteristic(s) and has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

- A. **Age Harassment** means: harassment based on negative perceptions about older workers. It also includes harassment based on stereotypes about older workers, even if they are not motivated by animus, such as pressuring an older employee to transfer to a job that is less technology-focused because of the perception that older workers are not well-suited to such work or encouraging an older employee to retire.
- B. **Disability Harassment** means: harassment based upon a person's disability and includes harassment based upon stereotypes about individuals with disabilities in general or about an individual's particular disability. It also includes harassment based on traits or characteristics linked to an individual's disability, such as how the person speaks, looks, or moves. For example, negative comments about an individual's speech patterns, movement, physical impairments, or defects/appearances, or the like. Disability-based harassment includes: (a) harassment because an individual requests or receives reasonable accommodation; (b) harassment because an individual is regarded as having an impairment, even if the individual does not have an actual disability, or a record of disability; (c) harassment because an individual has a record of a disability, even if the individual currently does not have a disability; and (d) harassment based on the disability of an individual with whom the employee is associated. Finally, disability-based harassment may occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.
- C. **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment** means: harassment due to a person's (or their ancestor's) place of origin. Such harassing conduct can include ethnic slurs or epithets, derogatory comments about individuals of a particular nationality, and use of stereotypes about a person's national origin. Additionally, it can include harassment regarding traits or characteristics linked to an individual's national origin, such as physical characteristics, ethnic or cultural characteristics or customs (e.g., surnames, attire, or diet), or linguistic characteristics (e.g., a person's manner of speaking, non-English language accent, or a lack of fluency in English).
- D. **Race/Color Harassment** means: unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct that is based upon an individual's race or color and has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.
- E. **Religious (Creed) Harassment** means: harassment based on a person's surname, religion (including atheism or lack of religious belief), religious traditions and practices, or religious dress/clothing, and includes making offensive comments about the same. It also includes religious slurs or epithets, harassing conduct based on religious stereotypes, and harassment associated with a person's request for and/or receipt of religious accommodation. Religious harassment also involves explicitly or implicitly coercing an employee to engage in religious practices at work.
- F. **Sexual Harassment** means (for purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964): unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an

individual's employment; (b) submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work performance; or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

1. Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.
2. Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Conduct of a sexualized nature, such as unwanted conduct expressing sexual attraction or involving sexual activity (e.g., unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations; unwanted physical and/or sexual contact, including unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching (x); and obscene gestures [END OF OPTION].
 - b. Sexual attention or sexual coercion, such as demands or pressure for sexual favors (e.g., threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, or other conditions of employment may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances; giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship; leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin).
 - c. Rape, sexual assault, or other acts of sexual violence.
 - d. Discussing or displaying visual depictions of sex acts or sexual remarks (e.g., unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls, texts, etc.; sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings or literature placed in the work environment; asking or telling about sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities; speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history).
 - e. A consensual sexual relationship where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
 - f. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.
 - g. Non-sexual conduct based on sex, such as sex-based epithets; sexist comments (such as remarks that women do not belong in management or that men do not belong in the nursing profession); or facially sex-neutral offensive conduct motivated by sex (such as bullying directed toward employees of one sex).
 - h. Harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition, which may include issues pertaining to lactation, using or not using contraception, or deciding whether to have, or not to have, an abortion.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be objectively offensive (a reasonable person would find it hostile or abusive), subjectively offensive (the complainant actually perceived it as abusive), and either sufficiently severe (a single extremely serious incident) or pervasive (a pattern of behavior), such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment, or creates a hostile or abusive employment environment.

Inculpatory evidence means: evidence that links a respondent to alleged wrongdoing and tends to establish a respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct (i.e., has culpability).

Military status means: a person's past, current, or future membership, service, or obligation in a uniformed service (e.g., Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps). Service in the uniformed services also means the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service, under competent authority, and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It further includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an

examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

Party means: a complainant or respondent.

Pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions means:

- A. "Pregnancy" and "childbirth" refer to the pregnancy or childbirth of a specific employee and include, but are not limited to, current pregnancy; past pregnancy; potential or intended pregnancy (which can include infertility, fertility treatment, and the use of contraception); labor; and childbirth (including vaginal and cesarean delivery).
- B. "Related medical conditions" are medical conditions relating to the pregnancy or childbirth of a specific employee, and may include termination of pregnancy, including via miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion; ectopic pregnancy; preterm labor; pelvic prolapse; nerve injuries; cesarean or perineal wound infection; maternal cardiometabolic disease; gestational diabetes; preeclampsia; HELLP (hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes and low platelets) syndrome; hyperemesis gravidarum; anemia; endometriosis; sciatica; lumbar lordosis; carpal tunnel syndrome; chronic migraines; dehydration; hemorrhoids; nausea or vomiting; edema of the legs, ankles, feet, or fingers; high blood pressure; infection; antenatal (during pregnancy) anxiety, depression, or psychosis; postpartum depression, anxiety, or psychosis; frequent urination; incontinence; loss of balance; vision changes; varicose veins; changes in hormone levels; vaginal bleeding; menstruation; and lactation and conditions related to lactation, such as low milk supply, engorgement, plugged ducts, mastitis, or fungal infections. The preceding list of related medical conditions is not exhaustive.

Prohibited Conduct means: unlawful discrimination or harassment based on a person's Protected Class(es) or retaliation. Such misconduct involves a violation of Federal and/or State civil rights laws.

Relevant means: related to the allegations of Prohibited Conduct under investigation as part of the Board's grievance procedures. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decisionmaker in determining whether the alleged Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Remedies means: measures provided, as appropriate, to a complainant or any other person the District identifies as having had their equal access to the District's education programs or activities limited or denied by Prohibited Conduct. These measures are provided to restore or preserve that person's access to the District's education program or activity after the District determines that Prohibited Conduct occurred.

Respondent means: a person who is alleged to have engaged in Prohibited Conduct.

Retaliation means: intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the District, a student, a Board employee, or any other person authorized by the Board to provide aid, benefit, or service under the District's education programs or activities, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Federal or State law, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under applicable Federal or State laws or regulations.

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

Supportive measures means: non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after making a report or filing a complaint. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve that party's access to the District's education programs or activities without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment or deter Prohibited Conduct. Supportive measures may include modifications of work schedules, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain work settings; training related to Prohibited Conduct, ~~(-) referral to Employee Assistance Program, [END OF OPTION]~~ and other similar measures.

Third Parties means: guests and/or visitors on District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Related Medical Conditions

The Board will not discriminate against an employee based on the person's current pregnancy, potential or intent to become

pregnant, past pregnancy, or medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth, or because the person uses birth control, or has had or not had an abortion.

Additionally, the Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to an employee's known limitation related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, unless the accommodation will cause the District undue hardship.

The Board will treat pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions as any other temporary medical conditions for all job-related purposes, including commencement, duration, and extensions of leave; accrual of seniority and any other benefit or service; reinstatement; and under any fringe benefit offered to employees by virtue of employment.

The Board will provide reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk while at work for the first year after the employee's child's birth. The Board will provide the employee with a space, other than a bathroom, that is clean, shielded from view, free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, and which the employee can use as needed to express breast milk. See Board Policy 6700 – Fair Labor Standards Act.

Nondiscrimination Based on Employee's Genetic Information

The Board prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of the individual's genetic information is also prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity is prohibited.

In accordance with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act ("GINA"), the Board shall not request, require, or purchase genetic information of employees, their family members, or applicants for employment. Further, in compliance with GINA, employees are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to necessary requests for medical information, with the exception that family medical history may be acquired as part of the certification process for FMLA leave, when an employee is asking for leave to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. Applicants for employment are directed not to provide any genetic information, including the individual's family medical history, in response to requests for medical information as part of the District's application process.

☒ The District recognizes that genetic information may be acquired through commercially and publicly available documents like newspapers, books, magazines, periodicals, television shows, or the Internet. The District prohibits, however, its employees from searching such sources with the intent of finding or obtaining genetic information or accessing sources from which they are likely to acquire genetic information. **[END OF OPTION]**

If the District either legally and/or inadvertently receives genetic information about an employee or applicant for employment from the employee, applicant for employment, or a medical provider, it shall be treated as a confidential medical record in accordance with law.

The District Compliance Officer (see below) shall be responsible for overseeing the District's compliance with applicable Federal regulations and promptly dealing with any inquiries or complaints. The District Compliance Officer or designee shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 is provided to staff members, and that all District requests for health-related information (e.g., to support an employee's request for reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") or a request for sick leave) is accompanied by a written warning that directs the employee or health care provider not to collect or provide genetic information. The warning shall read as follows:

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA") prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II, including the Board of Education, from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by law. To comply with this law, do not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information (unless the request pertains to a request for FMLA leave for purposes of caring for an immediate family member with a serious health condition). "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic test, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services or participated in clinical research that includes genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

☐ The District offers health services (), including a wellness program **[END OF INTERNAL OPTION]**. Participation in the services/program is voluntary. Genetic information (such as family medical history) may be obtained as part of an

~~individual's participation in the service/program. If that occurs, individual genetic information may be provided to the individual receiving the services and to the person's health services providers, but only genetic information in aggregate form will be provided to the Board. [END OF OPTION]~~

District Compliance Officer(s)

[DRAFTING NOTES:

1. Neola suggests the Board appoint both a male and a female to serve as the District Compliance Officers. By appointing two (2) District Compliance Officers, there should always be a District Compliance Officer available to address a claim that pertains to the other District Compliance Officer. If, however, the Board appoints more than one (1) District Compliance Officer, Neola recommends that it designate one (1) of the District Compliance Officers to retain ultimate oversight over the assigned responsibilities and ensure the Board's consistent compliance with its responsibilities under applicable Federal and State laws that prohibit unlawful discrimination/harassment based on protected classes and retaliation. Alternatively, the Board could appoint a District Compliance Officer and one (1) or more persons to assist the District Compliance Officer with performance of the responsibilities identified in this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. Often the person(s) designated to assist a District Compliance Officer is/are called Deputy or Assistant Compliance Officer(s). If the Board elects this alternative approach, it would designate a District Compliance Officer for purposes of this policy, and then designate the other position(s) through its AG. The person(s) in the alternative support role(s) will need to be trained in the same manner as the District Compliance Officer (see AG 1422).
2. The Board must list in this policy either the Name(s) or Title(s) of the District Compliance Officer(s); while the Board may list both the Name(s) and Title(s), Neola suggests that the Board only list the Title(s) in this policy (so the Board does not need to revise/amend the policy whenever there is a change in the actual person(s) holding the designated position(s)), but list both the Name(s) and Title(s) in the requisite notices/postings (e.g., website) and publications (e.g., handbooks). The District will also need to decide whether to list the Name(s) and Title(s), or just the Title(s), in Administrative Guideline 1422 if the District elects to identify the District Compliance Officer in the AG (see DRAFTING NOTE in the AG; again, if the District lists the Name(s) and Title(s), it will need to remember to update the AG whenever there is a change in the actual person(s) holding the designated position(s). No matter what, the Board will need to amend its policy and update its AG, requisite notices/postings, and publications, whenever it changes the Title of the position(s) designated to serve as the District Compliance Officer(s).
3. Reminder: Whenever a new person begins to serve as the District Compliance Officer (or in a support role to the District Compliance Officer), the District needs to make sure the new person is appropriately trained, in a timely manner, to fulfill the responsibilities of the position to which the person is assigned.]

[END OF DRAFTING NOTES]

The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with the Board's responsibilities under Federal and State laws that prohibit discrimination, including harassment, based on Protected Classes and retaliation (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinator(s)" or "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer(s)") (hereinafter referred to as the "District Compliance Officer(s)" or "CO(s)");

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Asst. Supt. Personnel & Student Services
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Howell, MI 48843
kategregory@hartlandschools.us

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(810) 626-2129
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annakulasrosenthal@hartlandschools.us

[DRAFTING NOTE: The District may want to create a static (i.e., fixed) District Compliance Officer -specific email address and phone number that will not change when the person(s) and/or position(s) designated to be

the CO(s) change(s) – e.g., CO4CivilRights@(insert District's domain) – which the Technology Director/Department can program to be forwarded to the actual individual(s) serving as the District Compliance Officer(s) at any given time. Likewise, the District may want to establish a static Telephone Number for the position of District Compliance Officer that can be forwarded to, and accessed by, the actual person(s) serving in the CO position(s) at any given time. These two (2) steps will help reduce the information that needs to be updated in policy, AG, and/or the requisite notices/postings and publications when changes occur to the specific person(s)/position(s) designated to serve as the CO(s).]

☒ The Board designates the Superintendent [DRAFTING NOTE: Insert Name and/or Title of the District Compliance Officer who is ultimately responsible for the District's compliance with its responsibilities under Federal and State laws that prohibit discrimination/harassment based on Protected Classes and retaliation as the individual who is ultimately responsible for oversight over the Board's compliance with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination based on the basis of Protected Classes and retaliation. [END OF OPTION]

☒ The District Compliance Officer may delegate specific duties to one (1) or more designees. [END OF OPTION]

The contact information concerning the District Compliance Officer(s) will be published on the School District's website. () and annually [END OF OPTION]:

- A. ~~() in parent/student and staff handbooks.~~
- B. ~~() in the School District Annual Report to the public.~~
- C. ~~() on each individual school's website.~~
- D. ~~() in the School District's calendar.~~
- E. ~~() _____.~~

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may want to select the following option when the Superintendent is not the CO. While Neola recognizes that this may not always be possible, it may be preferable to have the CO be someone other than the Superintendent because then – if the CO serves as the investigator and decisionmaker – the Superintendent can serve as the appeal decisionmaker or the facilitator for the informal resolution process.]

☒ The District Compliance Officer(s) shall report directly to the Superintendent except when the Superintendent is a party to a complaint (i.e., either the complainant or the respondent). Under such circumstances, the CO(s) shall report directly to [SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING] ☒ the Board President ~~() the Board's Legal Counsel () _____~~ [OTHER] [END OF INTERNAL OPTIONS] until the matter in which the Superintendent is a party is concluded. [END OF OPTION]

Questions about this policy ~~() and AG 1422 [END OF OPTION]~~ should be directed to the District Compliance Officer(s).

The CO(s) is/are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or denial of equal opportunity/access. The CO(s) shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975 is provided to staff members and the general public. ~~() Any sections of the District's collective bargaining agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, demotion, discipline, and tenure need to contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement set forth above. [END OF OPTION] () In addition, as practical, gender-specific terms should be eliminated from such contracts. [END OF OPTION] Copies of the laws and regulations listed above are available upon request from the CO(s).~~

The CO(s) will be available during regular work hours to discuss concerns related to Prohibited Conduct, to assist employees, other members of the District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about Prohibited Conduct, including unwelcome conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

The CO(s) shall monitor the District's education programs and activities for barriers to reporting information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct pursuant to Federal and/or State laws that prohibit discrimination/harassment based on the basis of a Protected Class/Category and retaliation, and take steps reasonably calculated to address such barriers.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Superintendent shall provide a notice of nondiscrimination to students, parents, guardians, or other authorized legal representatives of elementary and secondary students; employees; applicants for admission and employment; and all unions and professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board. Specifically, the Superintendent shall post the notice of nondiscrimination on the District's website and in each handbook, catalog, announcement, bulletin, and application form that it makes available to the persons listed above, or which are otherwise used in connection with the recruitment of employees. ~~(-) See AG 1422 and Form 1422F1 - Notice and Statement of Nondiscrimination.~~ **[END-OF-OPTION]**

NOTIFICATION/REPORTS OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Any person may provide information to the CO(s) concerning conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct. Such information may be submitted in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail using the CO's(s') published contact information, or by any other means (oral or written) that results in the CO(s) receiving the information. Information may be provided at any time (including during non-work hours). ~~(-) Anonymous reports may be submitted using (-) the online reporting form posted at _____~~ **[insert the web address for the reporting form, or insert a hyperlink tied to the phrase "online reporting form"]** ~~(-) the hotline reporting number (_____~~ **[insert phone number]**. **[END-OF-OPTION]**

All Board employees are required to notify the CO(s) of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct. For the Board to fulfill its responsibilities under applicable Federal and/or State laws, if a Board employee has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, the Board employee must notify the/a CO within two (2) days of learning the information or receiving the report. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The applicable statutes and regulations do not specify within how many days the Board employee must notify the CO of receiving notification/a report of Prohibited Conduct; Neola suggests "two (2) days". Alternatively, the Board could make this language more open-ended - e.g., "** * * must immediately/promptly notify the/a CO of such information or report."]** The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to Policy 8462 - Student Abuse and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge about the alleged Prohibited Conduct is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention, and the reporting individual submitted a written notification/report or complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written notification/report or complaint to the CO.

Notification can be provided orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the notification/report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a notification/report or complaint involves allegations of Prohibited Conduct by or involving the CO, the person making the report (i.e., providing the notification or filing the complaint) should submit it to the Superintendent or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report/complaint. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the CO for purposes of addressing that report of Prohibited Conduct. **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the Superintendent is the CO, substitute "Board President" in place of "Superintendent."]**

When a Board employee notifies the CO of suspected Prohibited Conduct, the employee is required to report all known details about the alleged Prohibited Conduct including: (1) the name of the alleged respondent(s); (2) the person who experienced the alleged Prohibited Conduct (i.e., the complainant); (3) other persons involved in the alleged Prohibited Conduct (e.g., witnesses); and (4) any other relevant facts, such as date, time, and location. Failure to provide such notification may result in discipline, up to and including suspension or termination of employment.

Any allegations of misconduct not involving Prohibited Conduct as defined in this policy will be addressed through the procedures outlined in other Board policies ~~(-) and/or administrative guidelines~~ **[END-OF-OPTION]**, the applicable Student Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and/or Employee/Administrator Handbook.

When a notification/report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct is made, the CO shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) days **[DRAFTING NOTE: The applicable laws and/or regulations do not define "promptly" or otherwise specify within how many days the contact has to be made; Neola suggests "two (2) days."]** of the CO's receipt of the notification/report or complaint of Prohibited Conduct) contact the purported complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a complaint. The CO is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Overview:

The Board adopts the following grievance procedures to provide for the prompt, effective, and equitable resolution of complaints made by employees, applicants, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities (i.e., members of the School District community and Third Parties), or by the CO alleging any act of Prohibited Conduct.

These grievance procedures shall be used for all complaints of Prohibited Conduct unless it involves conduct involving a student, in which case the grievance procedures set forth in Policy 2260 or Policy 5517.01 shall apply. These grievances procedures set forth the means for investigating and resolving claims involving such Prohibited Conduct; in particular, the procedures provide a method for assessing – in a prompt, effective, and equitable manner – whether an applicable Federal or State law was violated and, if it was, how best to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of Prohibited Conduct, timelines are flexible for initiating the grievance procedures; however, individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII") prohibits discrimination in employment. Specifically, it prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and applies to employers with fifteen (15) or more employees. Title IX, on the other hand, specifically prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance, including employment within those institutions. Title IX is addressed by Board Policy 2266 and AG 2266. While both laws aim to prevent sex-based discrimination in the workplace, Title VII applies more broadly to various types of employers, whereas Title IX is limited to educational institutions receiving Federal funds. Ultimately, both laws aim to ensure equal employment opportunities and protect individuals from discrimination. When a District Compliance Officer receives a complaint or notification of alleged misconduct involving sex discrimination (in particular, sexual harassment) that involves an employee complainant and an employee respondent, the District Compliance Officer should consult with the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Board's Legal Counsel concerning which law – it may be both – the District will need to comply with when investigating the allegations.]

Under all circumstances, the CO shall offer and coordinate supportive measures, as appropriate, in accordance with this policy ~~(-)~~ and AG 1422 **[END OF OPTION]**.

Complaints:

The following people may make a complaint of Prohibited Conduct – i.e., request that the District investigate and determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred:

A. a "complainant," which includes:

1. an employee of the District who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct; or
2. a person other than an employee of the District who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct at a time when that individual was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities;

B. an authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of a complainant;

C. the District Compliance Officer.

A person is entitled to make a complaint of unlawful harassment only if they themselves are alleged to have been subjected to the unlawful harassment, or if the CO initiates a complaint.

[DRAFTING NOTE: This paragraph emphasizes that in order for a person to file a complaint of unlawful harassment, the person has to have been subjected to the alleged misconduct directly or be a person who has a legal right to act on behalf of the person who was subjected to the alleged misconduct. This is consistent with the prior paragraph, where the complainant is identified as an employee who was "subjected to conduct that could constitute Prohibited Conduct." The following paragraph, on the other hand, expands who can file a complaint – when the alleged Prohibited Conduct does not involve unlawful harassment, or the

complaint involves allegations of retaliation – to persons who are aware of the alleged Prohibited Conduct, even if that person was not directly affected by or subject to the alleged Prohibited Conduct.]

With respect to complaints of Prohibited Conduct other than unlawful harassment, or complaints involving allegations of retaliation, in addition to the people listed above, the following persons have a right to make a complaint:

- A. any employee of the District; or
- B. any person other than an employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activities at the time of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

The District may consolidate complaints of Prohibited Conduct against more than one (1) respondent, or by more than one (1) complainant against one (1) or more respondents, or by one (1) party against another party, when the allegations of Prohibited Conduct arise out of the same facts or circumstances. When more than one (1) complainant or more than one (1) respondent is involved, references below to a party, complainant, or respondent include the plural, as applicable.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a complaint. A person does not need to wait until the District's internal grievance procedures are completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to alleged violations of applicable Federal or State laws may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, at any time based on the underlying statutory basis for the complaint.

Basic Requirements:

The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably.

All persons involved with implementing the grievance procedures and any other aspects of this Policy, including the District Compliance Officer, the investigator, the decisionmaker, and the appeal decisionmaker, **(x)** and the facilitator of the informal resolution process, **[END OF OPTION]** shall be free from any conflicts of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

(x) The CO may serve simultaneously as an investigator and/or a decisionmaker. **[END OF OPTION]** **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends the Board select this OPTION; note it is "may" (i.e., optional) so the CO can decide when to serve in both roles and when to designate one or more persons to perform these responsibilities in a given case.]**

If the CO does not intend to serve as the investigator/decisionmaker in a specific case, the CO shall designate one (1) or more administrators who are appropriately trained to serve in the role.

In circumstances when the CO and trained administrators do not have time/capacity to serve, or are prevented due to a conflict of interest, bias, or partiality, or other reasons impair the CO and other trained administrators from serving as an investigator/decisionmaker in a specific case, the CO shall in consultation with **(x)** and approval of **[END OF OPTION]** the Superintendent or ~~(x) Board~~ **(x)** Board President (as appropriate), **[END OF OPTION]** secure one (1) or more independent third parties to serve as the investigator and/or decisionmaker.

The District presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged Prohibited Conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of its grievance procedures.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Board expects to complete the major stages of the grievance procedures within the timeframe specified below:

- A. **Evaluation** – The District Compliance Officer will determine whether to dismiss a complaint or investigate it within ten (10) **[INSERT AMOUNT]** days of receiving the complaint. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends that the evaluation stage be completed within ten (10) days of the CO receiving notice of the complaint.]**
- B. **Investigation** – The CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, shall ordinarily complete the investigation (i.e., collect relevant evidence that is not otherwise impermissible) and issue a Determination (i.e., consider the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and decide whether Prohibited Conduct occurred) within twenty (20) **[INSERT AMOUNT]** days of the CO determining the charges require investigation. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Recognizing that it is important for investigations to be completed and Determinations issued in a prompt and equitable manner, Neola recommends that a school district typically complete an investigation and issue a Determination within twenty (20) days.]**

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the investigator/decisionmaker is someone other than the CO, upon written request from the investigator/decisionmaker, the CO should be permitted to approve a reasonable

extension of time for the investigation to be completed and the Determination issued. If the CO is the investigation/decisionmaker: upon written request from the CO, the Superintendent should be permitted to approve a reasonable extension of time for the investigation to be completed and the Determination issued. In either situation, the administrator granting the extension should communicate to the parties the new deadline along with a rationale for the extension.]

If, however, the CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, determines that the investigation is going to take longer, the CO will so notify the parties (x) and the Superintendent **[END OF OPTION]** and will thereafter keep the parties (x) and the Superintendent **[END OF OPTION]** informed of the status of the matter on a regular basis **[INSERT TIME PERIOD – E.G., BIWEEKLY OR REGULAR]** basis.

- C. **Appeal** – A party filing an appeal of the CO's decision to dismiss a complaint (x), or the Determination, **[END OF OPTION]** must do so within five (5) **[INSERT AMOUNT]** days of receiving the Dismissal (x) or Determination **[END OF OPTION]**. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola recommends the Board allow limited appeals based on the Determination. See DRAFTING NOTE below in the appeal section.]**

The CO, or the Superintendent if the CO is the individual requesting an extension, may approve reasonable extensions of the preceding timeframes on a case-by-case basis for good cause with notice to the parties.

The District will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses. (x) These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to present evidence or otherwise participate in the grievance procedures. **[END OF OPTION]** The parties shall not engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

The CO, or designated investigator/decisionmaker, shall objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible — including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations shall not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

The following types of evidence, and questions seeking such evidence, are impermissible (i.e., will not be accessed or considered, except by the District to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- A. evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality; and
- B. a party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the District obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures.

Notice of Allegations:

Upon initiation of the Board's grievance procedures, the District Compliance Officer shall notify the parties of the following:

- A. the Board's grievance procedures (x) and informal resolution process **[END OF OPTION]** associated with claims involving Prohibited Conduct; **[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola encourages the Board to include an informal resolution process.]**
- B. sufficient information available at the time to allow the parties to respond to the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute Prohibited Conduct, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s); and
- C. retaliation is prohibited.

Should the CO decide, at any point, to investigate allegations that are materially beyond the scope of the initial written notice, the CO will provide a supplemental written notice describing the additional allegations to be investigated.

Dismissal of a Complaint:

The CO may dismiss a complaint of Prohibited Conduct if:

- A. the District is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- B. the respondent is not participating in the District's education program or activity and is not employed by the Board;
- C. the complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all the allegations in the complaint, the CO declines to initiate a complaint, and the District determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that

remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct even if proven; or

- D. the District determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute Prohibited Conduct. Before dismissing the complaint, the CO will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the CO will promptly notify, in writing, the complainant of the basis for the dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the CO will also simultaneously notify, in writing, the respondent of the dismissal and the basis for the dismissal.

The CO will further notify the complainant that a dismissal may be appealed and will provide the complainant with an opportunity to appeal the dismissal of the complaint. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, then the CO will also notify the respondent that the dismissal may be appealed.

Dismissals may be appealed on the following bases:

- A. procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- B. new evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the dismissal was made; and
- C. the CO had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or the individual complainant or respondent, that would change the outcome.

If the dismissal is appealed, the CO will:

- A. notify the parties of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;
- B. implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- C. ensure that the appeal decisionmaker did not take part in the original dismissal of the complaint;
- D. ensure that the appeal decisionmaker has been trained consistent with this Policy ~~(-)~~ and AC 1422 ~~[END OF OPTION];~~
- E. provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- F. notify the parties of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

When a complaint is dismissed, the CO will, at a minimum:

- A. offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- B. if the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and
- C. take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, to ensure that Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the District's education programs or activities.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola encourages the Board to select the following option so the CO can choose, in appropriate circumstances, to offer the parties the opportunity to participate in an informal resolution process, or to honor the parties' request to use an informal resolution process, to end the Prohibited Conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.]

☒ [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS]

Informal Resolution Process:

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the Board's formal grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The District will not offer informal resolution to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with Federal, State, or local law.

[END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS]**Adding Allegations and/or Consolidating Complaints:**

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate additional allegations of Prohibited Conduct by the respondent toward the complainant that are not included in the original Notice of Allegations or to consolidate charges raised in a different complaint involving the same respondent, the CO will notify the parties of the additional allegations.

Investigation:

The District will provide for an adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints.

The burden is on the District — not on the parties — to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred.

The CO, or the designated investigator/decisionmaker, will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible.

The CO, or the designated investigator/decisionmaker, will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible, regardless of relevance.

Determination of Whether Prohibited Conduct Occurred:

Following an investigation and evaluation of all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, the CO or designated investigator/decisionmaker will:

- A. Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether Prohibited Conduct occurred. This standard of proof requires the decisionmaker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence for its persuasiveness. If the decisionmaker, applying the applicable standard, is not persuaded by the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence that Prohibited Conduct occurred, regardless of the quantity of the evidence, the decisionmaker will not determine that Prohibited Conduct occurred. **[DRAFTING NOTE: While a board of education could elect to use the "clear and convincing" evidence standard of proof, Neola does not recommend it. If a board does select the "clear and convincing" standard, it should use it in all other comparable proceedings. Neola expects it will be a rare situation when a board chooses to use a clear and convincing standard of proof.]**
- B. Notify the parties, in writing, of the determination whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, including the rationale for such determination ~~(-), and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.
- C. Not impose discipline on a respondent for Prohibited Conduct unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in Prohibited Conduct.
- D. If there is a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred, the CO will, as appropriate:
 1. coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the District identifies as having had equal access to the District's education programs or activities limited or denied by the Prohibited Conduct;
 2. coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent **(X)**, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions **[END OF OPTION]**; and
 3. take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that the Prohibited Conduct does not continue or recur within the District's education programs or activities.
- E. Comply with the grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent.
- F. Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the grievance procedures for making a false statement based solely on the determination of whether Prohibited Conduct occurred.

[DRAFTING NOTE: If the CO dismisses a complaint in the Evaluation stage (i.e., prior to commencing an investigation), the complainant may appeal as set forth above. Neola also recommends the Board include an appeal process related to the Determination.]

[x] [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE - APPEAL OF DETERMINATION]**Appeal of Determinations:**

If a party disagrees with the decisionmaker's determination as to whether Prohibited Conduct occurred, the party may file an appeal. Appeals must be submitted, in writing, within five (5) (INSERT AMOUNT) days of the appealing party's receipt of the Determination.

A party may appeal a Determination on the following bases:

- A. procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- B. new evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the investigation occurred and the Determination was made; and
- C. the CO, or the designated investigator/decisionmaker, had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome;

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board may insert additional grounds on which an appeal may be filed.]

- D. ~~(-) the recommended remedies (including disciplinary sanctions/consequences) are unreasonable in light of the findings of fact (i.e., the nature and severity of the Prohibited Conduct).~~

- E. ~~(-) [OTHER] _____.~~

[x] The complainant may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed.

[END OF OPTION]

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following options are offered in case the Board wants the Superintendent to serve as the appeal decisionmaker or the Board wants to nominally be identified as the appeal decisionmaker but will be delegating the responsibility to a person who is properly trained. Neola does not recommend that the Board itself be named as the appeal decisionmaker because of the preference for the decisionmaker to be trained to render a decision. If the Board wants to serve as the appeal decisionmaker, it should discuss this issue with its Legal Counsel. Select OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 below.]

~~(-) [OPTION 1]~~

~~The CO will designate an appeal decisionmaker, who will be a person who did not conduct the Investigation and render the Determination, and is appropriately trained (-), as set forth in AG 1422 [END OF INTERNAL OPTION].~~

~~The CO has authority (-), in consultation with (-) and approval of [END OF OPTION] the Superintendent or (-) Board (-) Board President (as appropriate), [END OF OPTIONS] to secure an independent Third Party to serve as the appeal decisionmaker.~~

~~[-] In designating an appeal decisionmaker, the CO will work with the Board to identify and appoint an independent Third Party to serve as the appeal decisionmaker—this individual shall be considered to be the Board's designee and will submit the appeal decision to the Board who will promptly adopt it as written and forward it to the CO who will send it simultaneously to the parties. [END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]~~

[END OF OPTION 1]**[x] [OPTION 2]**

The Superintendent shall serve as the appeal decisionmaker, provided the Superintendent has not been otherwise involved in the grievance procedures (i.e., did not serve as the investigator/decisionmaker or informal resolution process facilitator) and is appropriately trained. If the Superintendent is not eligible to serve as the appeal decisionmaker, the CO will designate an appeal decisionmaker, who will be a person who did not conduct the Investigation and render the Determination, and is appropriately trained ~~(-)~~, as set forth in AG 1422 **[END OF INTERNAL OPTION]**.

[END OF OPTION 2]**[END OF OPTIONS]**

If a party appeals the Determination, the CO will:

- A. notify the parties of the appeal;
- B. implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- C. provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the Determination;
- D. provide the appeal decisionmaker with the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the Determination; and
- E. notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.

Parties Provided a Reasonable and Equal Opportunity to Make a Statement in Support of, or Challenging, the Dismissal (x) or Determination [END OF OPTION]

When a party files an appeal, the party must set forth the reason(s)/basis/bases for the appeal, and the other party will have five (5) [INSERT AMOUNT] days to provide the appeal decisionmaker with a statement in support of their position. Once the decisionmaker receives the statement (or the deadline for filing such a statement expires), the appeal decisionmaker will have ten (10) [INSERT AMOUNT] days to issue a decision on the appeal.

[DRAFTING NOTE: Neola suggests any appeals should be filed within five (5) days of the parties receiving written notice of the Determination. Neola further suggests that the timeline for the other party submitting a statement be equivalent to the timeframe in which an appeal has to be filed. Finally, Neola suggests the appeal decisionmaker have ten (10) days from receipt of the statements to issue a decision.]

While a party appealing a Determination may argue the reason/basis for the appeal is that new evidence has been discovered/obtained that would change the outcome and that said new evidence was not reasonably available when the Determination was originally made, the party may not submit the new or additional evidence during the appeal process. Rather, the party appealing should identify/describe in detail the evidence, including how and when it was discovered/obtained, and explain why it was not reasonably available during the Investigation (i.e., prior to the Determination). If the appeal decisionmaker accepts the proffered explanation, the appeal decisionmaker should remand the case back to the investigator/decisionmaker (i.e., reopen the investigation) so the new evidence may be submitted and considered by the other party and the investigator/decisionmaker.

The appeal decisionmaker shall determine the outcome of the appeal based on the appeal decisionmaker's independent review of the record (i.e., the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and the written determination) and the appeal decisionmaker's application of the law and Board policy to the facts in the record. The appeal decisionmaker must give due deference and due weight to the decisionmaker's factual findings and credibility determinations and should not overturn them unless non-testimonial extrinsic evidence in the record justifies a contrary conclusion or unless the record read in its entirety compels a contrary conclusion. Generally, the appeal decisionmaker is expected to uphold the original Determination unless the appeal decisionmaker concludes the original Determination is unlawful, unreasonable, or against the manifest weight of the evidence. Every reasonable presumption must be made in favor of the original Determination.

The appeal decisionmaker shall

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board must select either OPTION 1 or OPTION 2 unless the Board appointed an independent Third Party to serve as the Board's appeal decisionmaker, in which case the Board should select OPTION 3.]

(x) [OPTION 1]

simultaneously notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the outcome.

{END OF OPTION 1}

-

{OR}

(-) [OPTION 2]

-

~~notify the CO, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the outcome. The CO will then simultaneously notify the parties, in writing, of the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.~~

-

{END OF OPTION 2}

-

{OR}**(-) {OPTION 3}**

-

~~submit the appeal decision to the Board who will promptly adopt it as written and forward it to the CO, who will send it simultaneously to the parties. The appeal decision shall set forth the result of the appeal and the appeal decisionmaker's rationale for the outcome.~~

-

{END OF OPTION 3}

The **(x)** appeal decisionmaker's ~~(-) Board's~~ **{END OF OPTION}** decision shall be final.

[END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE - APPEAL OF DETERMINATION]**Supportive Measures:**

The District will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the District's education programs or activities or provide support during the grievance procedures and/or during the informal resolution process. For allegations of Prohibited Conduct other than prohibited harassment or retaliation, the District's provision of support measures does not require the District, Board employees, or any other person authorized to provide aid, benefit, or service on the District's behalf to alter the alleged discriminatory/retaliatory conduct for the purpose of providing a supportive measure.

The CO shall determine appropriate supportive measures on a case-by-case basis. Supportive measures may vary depending on what the CO deems to be reasonably available. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: modifications of work schedules; mutual restrictions on contact between the parties; changes in work locations; leaves of absence; increased security and monitoring of certain work settings; training related to Prohibited Conduct; ~~(-) referral to Employee Assistance Program;~~ **{END OF OPTION}** and other similar measures.

Supportive measures must not unreasonably burden either party and must be designed to protect the safety of the parties and/or the District's educational environment, or to provide support during the Board's grievance procedures or the informal resolution process.

The District will not impose such measures for punitive or disciplinary reasons.

The CO may, as appropriate, modify or terminate supportive measures at the conclusion of the grievance procedures, or at the conclusion of the informal resolution process, or the District may continue them beyond that point.

A party may seek additional modification or termination of a supportive measure applicable to them if circumstances change materially.

The District will not disclose information about any supportive measures to persons other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one party of supportive measures provided to another party, unless necessary to provide the supportive measure or restore or preserve a party's access to the District's education programs or activities, or as otherwise permitted under existing law and/or policy.

The Superintendent may place an employee respondent on administrative leave from employment responsibilities during the pendency of the Board's grievance procedures.

Disciplinary Sanctions and Remedies:

Following a determination that Prohibited Conduct occurred, the District may impose disciplinary sanctions, which may include:

- A. **(x)** oral or written warning;
- B. **(x)** written reprimands;
- C. **(x)** required counseling;
- D. **(x)** required training or education;

E. ☒ demotion;

F. ☒ suspension with pay;

[END OF OPTIONS]

G. suspension without pay;

H. termination; and

I. any other sanction authorized by any applicable Board policy, Employee/Administrator Handbook, and/or collective bargaining agreement.

The District may also provide remedies, which may include disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The CO will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation and implement appropriate remedies in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board should review applicable policy(ies)/administrative guidelines/employee handbooks to determine whether changes are needed to establish timelines associated with imposition of discipline as a result of possible delays caused by the Board implementing the preceding grievance procedures; likewise, the Board may need to discuss with union representatives how implementation of the grievance procedures may impact any disciplinary provisions contained in applicable collective bargaining (e.g., timelines, permitted attendees at investigative interviews, etc.).]

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

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging Prohibited Conduct or retaliation, or participates in an investigation, is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by the U.S. Constitution, the Michigan Constitution, Federal or State law, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including initiating a disciplinary process against a person for a code of conduct violation that does not involve Prohibited Conduct but arises out of the same facts and circumstances as a complaint or information reported about possible Prohibited Conduct, for the purpose of interfering with the exercise of any right or privilege secured by Federal or State law constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a complaint or participating in an investigation is a serious violation of this policy that can result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures set forth above. The District shall initiate its grievance procedures upon receiving any complaint alleging retaliation.

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

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

Privacy/Confidentiality

The District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a complaint of Prohibited Conduct, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of Prohibited Conduct, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of relevant Federal or State law or regulations, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the complainant's and respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigation and determination of whether Prohibited Conduct occurred). All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be

maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the respondent must be provided the complainant's identity.

During an investigation, the CO or designated investigator/decisionmaker will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to other members of the School District Community or Third Parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

Sanctions and Monitoring

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

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

Application of the First Amendment

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ~~(-) and the principles of academic freedom as set forth in the applicable collective bargaining agreement~~ **[END OF OPTION]**. ~~In no case will a respondent be found to have committed Prohibited Conduct based on expressive conduct that is protected by the First Amendment (-) and/or the principles of academic freedom specified in the Board's collective bargaining agreement with its teachers~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.

Training

All employees, investigators, decisionmakers, facilitators of informal resolution process, the District Compliance Officer(s), and other persons who are responsible for implementing the Board's grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures shall receive training related to their duties under applicable Federal and State laws and this policy. ~~[] The training shall be provided promptly upon hiring or a change of position that alters their duties under this policy, and annually thereafter.~~ **[END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]** The training shall not rely on stereotypes involving Protected Classes.

[X] Training materials will be made available for inspection upon request by members of the public. **[END OF OPTION]**

Recordkeeping (including retention of investigatory records and materials)

The District Compliance Officer(s) is/are responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy must retain all information, documents, electronically stored information, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation. Records and materials associated with the implementation of this policy shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for the period set forth below, unless required to be maintained for a longer period pursuant to the District's records retention schedule.

[DRAFTING NOTE: For purposes of uniformity, Neola recommends that the Board use the same seven (7) year period for recordkeeping that is required by the 2020 Title IX regulations - see Board Policy 2266; if the Board selects a different timeframe for maintaining the below specified records, it should verify the time period selected is consistent with and/or reflected in its record retention schedule - see AG 8310.]

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

- A. for each complaint of Prohibited Conduct, records documenting the informal resolution process and/or the grievance procedures followed and the resulting outcome;
- B. for each notification that the District Compliance Officer receives of information about conduct that reasonably may constitute Prohibited Conduct, records documenting the actions the District took to implement this policy; and

C. all materials used to provide the training referenced above ~~() and in AG 1422~~ **[END OF OPTION]**.

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

Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this policy including, but not limited to, District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decisionmaker, or facilitator of the informal resolution process.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two (2) or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decisionmaker, and facilitator of the informal resolution process.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this policy including, but not limited to, the functions assigned to the District Compliance Officer, investigator, decisionmaker, appeal decisionmaker, and facilitator of the informal resolution process to any suitably qualified individual, and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following option expressly sets forth authority that the Board has, regardless of whether it is included in this policy, but is offered for those boards of education that may want to affirmatively communicate to/address these issues for readers of this policy.]

[x] Discretion in Application

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

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

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

[END OF OPTION]

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Fall 2025 (40.1)
Title	Copy of CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT- APPROVED COURSES
Code	po2210
Status	
Legal	M.C.L. 380.1282, 380.1166a Reference: Pupil Accounting Manual 2019-2020, Michigan Department of Education
Adopted	January 28, 2008
Last Revised	June 8, 2020

2210 - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT- APPROVED COURSES

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

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

- A. the courses of study, subjects, classes, and organized activities provided by the school;
- ~~(-) all the planned activities of the schools, including formal classroom instruction and out-of-class activity, both individual and group;~~
- B. learning activities approved by the Board for individuals or groups of students and expressed in terms of specific instructional objectives or class periods;
- ~~(-) the plan for learning necessary to accomplish the educational goals of the District;~~
- C. all the planned activities of the schools, including formal classroom instruction and out-of-class activity, both individual and group, necessary to accomplish the educational goals of the District.

The Board directs that the curriculum of this District:

- A. provides grade-appropriate instruction on career development in each grade level from kindergarten through 12th;
- B. provides instruction in courses required by statute and State Department of Education regulations;
- C. ensures, to the extent feasible, that special learning needs of students are provided for in the context of the regular program or classroom and provides for effective coordination with programs or agencies that are needed to meet those needs that cannot be dealt with in the regular program or classroom;
- D. ~~is~~ consistent with the District's philosophy and goals and ensures the possibility of their achievement;

- E. incorporates State-recommended performance standards for students as the basis for determining how well each student is achieving the academic outcomes for each area of the District's core curriculum;
- F. at the high school level, considers alternatives to the Carnegie Unit as a method for determining student progress toward receiving course credit;
- G. allows for the development of individual talents and interests as well as recognizes that learning styles of students may differ;
- H. ~~() provides a strategy for continuous and cumulative learning through effective articulation at all levels, particularly of those skills identified as essential and life role skills;~~
- I. utilizes a variety of learning resources to accomplish the educational goals;
- J. encourages students to utilize guidance and counseling services in their academic and career planning.
- K. ~~() provides for multi-cultural education by including, at each level, courses or units which help students understand the culture and contributions of various ethnic groups comprising American society including, but not limited to, Euro-Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Native-Americans.~~

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

The Superintendent shall make progress reports to the Board periodically.

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

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

Approved Courses

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

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

~~[] The Board encourages, where it is feasible and in the best interests of the District, participation in programs of educational research. [END OF OPTION]~~

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

M.C.L. 380.1282, 380.1166a

Reference: Pupil Accounting Manual 2024-2025~~2019-2020~~, Michigan Department of Education

Revised 6/10/19

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Fall 2025 (40.1)
Title	Vol. 40, No. 1 - September 2025 Revised HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM
Code	po2412
Status	
Legal	M.C.L. 388.1606, 388.1709 Reference: Pupil Accounting Manual 2024-2025, Michigan Department of Education
Adopted	January 28, 2008
Last Revised	August 28, 2023

Revised Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1

2412 - HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

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

The Board of Education shall arrange through the Livingston Educational Service Agency for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability.

A physician, psychiatrist, hospital (e.g. psychiatric hospitals), or licensed treatment facility (e.g. substance abuse centers) must certify the student as homebound or hospitalized. Psychologists, chiropractors, or other professionals may not certify a student as eligible. The certification must state: Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician or physician's assistant (licensed to practice in this State), parent, student, or other care giver. A physician or physician's assistant must:

- A. the medical condition requires the student to be confined to home or hospitalized during regular school hours;
- B. the home or hospital confinement will last for a period longer than five (5) consecutive school days; and
- C. must bear the signature of an M.D. or a D.O. if the student was seen by a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner.
~~(-) certify the nature and existence of a medical condition;~~
- D. ~~(-) state the probable duration of the confinement;~~
- E. ~~(-) request such instruction;~~
- F. ~~(-) present evidence of the student's ability to participate in an educational program.~~

Applications must be approved by the Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer ,

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

The District shall recommend that the instruction begin within three (3) days from the date of notification for nonspecial-education students. In the case of students under an IEP, the instruction is to begin within fifteen (15) days after notification in order to arrange for a meeting of an I.E.P.C., if necessary.

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

The District reserves the right to withhold homebound instruction when:

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

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for implementing the policy.

M.C.L. 388.1606, 388.1709

Reference: Pupil Accounting Manual 2024-20252019-2020, Michigan Department of Education

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Fall 2025 (40.1)
Title	Copy of CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE (CMV) DRIVERS
Code	po4162
Status	
Legal	49 C.F.R. Part 40 49 C.F.R. 382
Adopted	January 28, 2008
Last Revised	June 8, 2020

4162 - CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE (CMV) DRIVERS

Purpose

The Board of Education believes that the safety of students while being transported to and from school or school activities is of utmost importance and is the primary responsibility of the driver of the school vehicle. To fulfill such a responsibility, each driver, as well as others who perform safety-sensitive functions with District vehicles (collectively "Covered Employees"), must be mentally and physically alert at all times while on duty.

To that end, the Board has established this policy, which includes an alcohol and controlled substances testing program. The Board also expects all Covered Employees to comply with Board Policy 4122.01 on Drug-Free Workplace which prohibits the possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol and any controlled substance on school property at all times.

Further, the Board concurs with the Federal requirement that all Covered Employees should be free of any influence of alcohol or controlled substance while on duty. Therefore, participation in the alcohol and controlled substances testing program is a condition of employment for all Covered Employees.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy and the guidelines associated with the policy, the following definitions shall apply.

- A. The term **alcohol** means the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol, ethyl alcohol, or other low molecular weight alcohols, including methyl or isopropyl alcohol.
- B. The term **illegal drug** means drugs and controlled substances, the possession or use of which is unlawful, pursuant to Federal, State, and/or local laws and regulations.
- C. The term **controlled substance** includes any illegal drug and any drug that is being used illegally, such as a prescription drug that was not legally obtained or not used for its intended purposes or in its prescribed quantity. The term does not include any legally-obtained prescription drug used for its intended purpose in its prescribed quantity unless such use would impair the individual's ability to safely perform safety-sensitive functions.

- D. The term **controlled substance abuse** includes excessive use of alcohol as well as prescribed drugs not being used for prescribed purposes, in a prescribed manner, or in the prescribed quantity.
- E. The term **safety-sensitive functions** includes all tasks associated with the operation and maintenance of District-owned and/or operated vehicles. This term further includes any period in which an individual is actually performing, ready to perform, or immediately available to perform any safety-sensitive function.
- F. The term **Covered Employee** means all commercial driver license (CDL) holders and regular and substitute bus drivers as well as other staff who operate, inspect, service, and condition a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while on duty, regardless of whether they are required to hold a CDL.

This policy also covers other staff members who drive students in or inspect, service, and condition non-CMV District vehicles.

- G. The term **while on duty** means all time from the time the Covered Employee begins to work or is required to be in readiness for work until the time s/he is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work.

Procedures

The Superintendent shall establish a drug and alcohol testing program whereby each Driver is tested for the presence of alcohol in his or her system as well as for the presence of the following controlled substances:

- A. Marijuana
- B. Cocaine
- C. Opioid
- D. Amphetamines
- E. Phencyclidine (PCP)

The alcohol and controlled substances tests are to be conducted in accordance with Federal and State regulations a.) prior to employment (**Controlled Substances Only**), b.) reasonable suspicion, c.) upon return to duty after any alcohol or drug rehabilitation, d.) post-accident 1) resulting in human death, 2) where the driver is issued a citation and the accident results in an injury that requires immediate medical attention away from the scene, or 3) where there is disability damage to any motor vehicle that requires towing, e.) on a random basis, and f.) on a follow-up basis.

Candidates shall also be tested for the presence of alcohol in their system prior to employment. The Superintendent shall require that the District query the FMCSA's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse for current and prospective CDL drivers' drug and alcohol violations before allowing a driver to operate a District-owned and/or operated vehicle, consistent with Federal regulations, including consent requirements.

Any staff member who tests positive as defined in the guidelines shall be immediately prohibited from driving any District-owned and/or operated vehicle or conducting a safety-sensitive function and subject to discipline, up to and including discharge, in accordance with District guidelines and the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

No staff member who has tested positive for alcohol or a controlled substance may be returned to a safety-sensitive position without having been evaluated by a qualified substance abuse professional (SAP), completing any required treatment program, and passing a retest. Return to a safety-sensitive position is solely at the District's discretion and the employee may be required to participate in ongoing services if recommended by the SAP. Any staff member who has tested positive for alcohol or a controlled substance will be provided with a list of SAPs available and acceptable to the District.

Furthermore, if during any test the lab determines that an adulterant has been added to the specimen, then:

- A. the test will be considered positive and the employee shall be prohibited from performing any safety-sensitive functions and be referred to the District's Employee Assistance Program.
- B. the employee will be re-tested with an observed collection to prevent the addition of an adulterant to the specimen.

Any staff member who refuses to submit to a test shall immediately be prohibited from performing or continuing to perform his/her safety-sensitive functions (e.g., driving any Board-owned vehicle).

Prior to the beginning of the testing program, the District shall provide a drug-free awareness program which will inform Covered Employees and their supervisors, about:

- A. the dangers of illegal drug use and controlled substance and alcohol abuse;
- B. indicators of probable alcohol misuse and controlled substance abuse;
- C. Board Policy 4122.01 - Drug-Free Workplace, Policy 4161 - Unrequested Leaves of Absence/Fitness for Duty, and Policy 4170 - Substance Abuse;
- D. the sanctions that may be imposed for violations of Policy 4122.01.

All time spent undergoing an alcohol or controlled substance test, including travel time, will be paid at the staff member's regular rate of pay, or at his/her overtime rate, if applicable. Any staff member who is not allowed to return to work while awaiting test results will be compensated during the waiting period for all work time lost, including overtime, if applicable. The Board shall pay all costs associated with the administration of alcohol and controlled substance tests. This includes testing of the "split specimen" at a Federally certified laboratory if so requested by a staff member. Requests for a "split specimen" must be made within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the notification of a positive drug test. The Board will not pay for the employee's time while not on duty, if the split specimen test results are positive.

Alcohol and drug test results shall be protected as confidential medical records as appropriate under Federal law (i.e. test results shall be provided on a right to know basis - the employee, the employer, and the substance abuse professional - and the results shall not be presented until analyzed by a Medical Review Officer).

A tested individual, upon written request, will be promptly provided copies of any records relating to his/her use of drugs and alcohol, including any records pertaining to his/her drug and alcohol tests. A tested individual must provide specific written consent before his/her test result can be provided to any other person except as required by law.

All tests shall be conducted in accordance with Federal testing guidelines and be performed by a laboratory that is Federally certified.

The alcohol and drug testing program shall be under the direction of the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall arrange for periodic retraining of supervisors and staff members as necessary. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of this policy and testing guidelines to all Drivers and will include available resources to assist employees with problems related to the use of alcohol and controlled substances.

The Superintendent shall submit, for Board approval, a contract with a certified laboratory to provide the following services:

- A. testing of all first and second test urine samples
- B. clear and consistent communication with the District's Medical Review Officer (MRO)
- C. methodology and procedures for conducting random tests for controlled substances and alcohol
- D. preparation and submission of all required reports to the District, the MRO, and to Federal and State governments

The Superintendent shall also select the agency or persons who will conduct the alcohol breathalyzer tests, the District's MRO, and the drug collection site(s) in accordance with the requirements of the law.

Notification

A tested candidate shall be notified of the results of a pre-employment controlled substances test conducted under this part, if the driver requests such results within sixty (60) calendar days of being notified of the disposition of the employment application.

A tested individual shall be notified of the results of random, reasonable suspicion and post-accident tests for controlled substances conducted under this policy if the test results are verified positive. The tested individual shall also be informed which controlled substance or substances were verified as positive.

The Superintendent shall make reasonable efforts to contact and request each driver who submitted a specimen under the employer's program, regardless of the driver's employment status, to contact and discuss the results of the controlled substances test with a medical review officer who has been unable to contact the driver.

The Superintendent shall immediately notify the medical review officer that the driver has been notified to contact the medical review officer within seventy-two (72) hours.

Individuals holding a CDL license must notify all current employers of any DOT violations (such as testing positive for the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of this policy). The notification must be made 1) by the end of the business day following the day the individual first receives notice of the violation or 2) prior to performing any safety-sensitive function, whichever comes first. Individuals are not required to notify the employer that administered the test or that documented the circumstances giving rise to the violation.

In the event that an individual is selected for testing, the Superintendent will inform the individual that the test is required by applicable law.

Reporting Test Results

The Superintendent shall report all information required by Federal regulations to the Clearinghouse in a timely manner. The Superintendent shall prepare and maintain a summary of the results of its alcohol and controlled substances testing programs performed under this policy during the previous calendar year, when requested by the Secretary of Transportation, any DOT agency, or any State or local officials with regulatory authority over the employer or any of its drivers. Such summaries shall be submitted in a manner and timeline as required by law.

Educational Materials Related to Certain Federal Regulations, Board Policies, and Procedures

CDL License Holders and other employees who perform safety-sensitive functions will be provided educational materials at the time of hire or at any time when required to operate a school vehicle. The educational materials shall explain the requirements of applicable Federal regulations and the Board's policies and District's procedures with respect to meeting these Federal regulations. The Board designates the Director of Operations as the individual responsible for providing educational materials to CDL License Holders and other employees who perform safety-sensitive functions. The educational materials will include, at a minimum, the following:

- A. the contact information for the Director of Operations, who is the individual designated by the Board to answer questions about the educational materials
- B. a statement that all CDL License Holders and other employees who perform safety-sensitive functions are subject to Federal law addressing the misuse of alcohol and other controlled substances
- C. information sufficient to make clear to employees the period of the workday during which they are required to comply with the regulations
- D. information concerning prohibited conduct
- E. the circumstances under which employees are subject to testing for alcohol and/or controlled substances
- F. the procedures for testing for the presence of alcohol and controlled substances in order to protect the employee and the integrity of the testing process, to safeguard the validity of the test results, and to confirm the results are attributed to the correct employee, including post-accident information, procedures, and instructions required under Federal regulations
- G. the requirement that staff members must submit to alcohol and controlled substance testing as required by the regulations
- H. an explanation of what constitutes a refusal to be tested for alcohol or controlled substances and the attendant consequences
- I. the consequences of testing positive, including the requirements of immediate removal from safety-sensitive functions, and the procedures regarding referral, evaluation, and treatment
- J. the consequences for employees found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04,
- K. information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol problem (the employee's or a coworker's); and available methods of intervening when a controlled substances and/or alcohol problem is suspected (including confrontation and how to refer someone to an Employee Assistance Program or to management), and

- L. Information regarding the requirement that certain personal information collected and maintained under Federal law be reported to the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse
- M. information indicating that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance, including alcohol, is prohibited on all school board property and at school-sponsored activities. Individuals are strictly prohibited from reporting to work or being on duty while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance

These materials are to be distributed to each staff member upon being hired or transferred into a covered position thereafter. Each staff member must sign a statement certifying receipt of these materials. A staff member who refuses to sign the requisite statement shall be prohibited from performing any safety-sensitive functions. Each employee (and labor organization representing Board employees) shall receive written notice of the availability of this information, and the identity of the Board's designated representative in charge of answering employee questions about the materials.

Return-to-Duty (Safety-Sensitive Positions)

Employees who are removed from performing safety-sensitive functions as a result of this policy must complete the Return-to-Duty ("RTD") process as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation ("DOT") regulations and their Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act ("FMCSA") Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse status must be changed from "prohibited" to "not prohibited" before resuming safety-sensitive duties. The RTD process requires an evaluation by a qualified Substance Abuse Professional ("SAP"), successful compliance with the SAP's prescribed education and/or treatment program, and a follow-up evaluation by the SAP determining that the employee has complied with the program. The employee must then complete a DOT return-to-duty test and obtain a verified negative drug test result and/or an alcohol test result of less than 0.02 before being permitted to return to the performance of safety-sensitive functions.

In addition, employees must comply with the SAP's written follow-up testing plan, which will be administered by the District in accordance with DOT regulations. An employee who fails to comply with the follow-up testing plan will not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive duties.

Subject to any collective bargaining agreement or other legal requirements, employees who are otherwise eligible to resume safety-sensitive functions may not do so without the Superintendent's approval.

~~Employees who are removed from performing safety-sensitive functions as a result of this policy must take and pass return-to-duty test before returning to performing safety-sensitive functions. The return-to-duty test will not occur until after a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) has determined that the employee has successfully complied with prescribed education and/or treatment. The employee must have a negative drug test result and/or an alcohol test with an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 before resuming performance of safety-sensitive duties. The employee will not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions until the start of the employee's next regularly scheduled duty period, but not less than twenty-four (24) hours following administration of the return-to-duty test.~~

~~Employees must also comply with the SAP's written follow-up testing plan, which will be administered by the District, or they will not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive duties.~~

~~Subject to any collective bargaining agreement or other legal requirements, employees who are eligible to return to performing safety-sensitive functions may not do so without the approval of the Superintendent.~~

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Fall 2025 (40.1)
Title	Copy of ASSIGNMENT WITHIN DISTRICT
Code	po5120
Status	
Adopted	January 28, 2008

5120 - **ASSIGNMENT WITHIN DISTRICT**

The Board of Education directs that the assignment of students to schools within this District be consistent with the best interests of students and the best use of the resources of this District.

The Board shall determine periodically the school attendance areas of the District and shall expect the students within each area to attend the school so designated.

The Superintendent shall periodically review existing attendance areas and recommend to the Board such changes as may be justified by:

- A. considerations of safe student transportation and travel;
- B. convenience of access to schools;
- C. financial and administrative efficiency;
- D. ~~the need to maintain racial or ethnic balance;~~
- E. the effectiveness of the instructional program;
- F. a wholesome and educationally sound balance of student populations.

No assignment to schools or attendance schedules shall discriminate against students on the basis of gender, race, religion, disability, or national origin.

The Superintendent may assign a student to a school other than that designated by the attendance area when such exception is justified by circumstances and is in the best interest of the student.

Every effort shall be made to continue a student in the elementary school to which ~~the student~~ he is initially assigned. Wherever possible and advisable in the interests of the students, siblings shall be assigned to the same building.

The Superintendent shall assign incoming transfer students to such schools, grades, and classes as may afford each student the greatest likelihood of realizing ~~the student's~~ his/her fullest educational potential.

The principal shall assign students in ~~his/her~~ school to appropriate grades, classes, or groups. This action shall be based on consideration of the needs of the student as well as the administration of the school.



Book	Policy Manual
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5460 - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

The Superintendent is authorized to provide each student in grade twelve (12) and the parent of each student in grade twelve (12) a notice regarding the existence of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") and a description of the process, benefits, and requirements of completing the FAFSA, unless the student qualifies for an eligible exemption. This notice also shall include state scholarships, grants, or other assistance available to students in Michigan. Completing the FAFSA is a graduation requirement. Information can be found in the High School Curriculum Guide and on the High School Counseling website.

Beginning with the Class of 2025, each student in grade twelve (12) shall be required to complete one (1) of the following:

- A. a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA");
- B. a District waiver form indicating that the student and family understand what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to complete an application;

If the student is not at least eighteen (18) years of age or legally emancipated, the student's parent/guardian must complete one (1) of these documents on the student's behalf.

- C. school or District exemption that certifies to the Board that good-faith efforts were made to assist the student or the student's parent/guardian in either completing the FAFSA or obtaining a District waiver.

The District shall exempt a student from the requirement to complete the FAFSA if any of the following are met:

- A. The student's parent or legal guardian, or the student if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, is an emancipated minor, or is an unaccompanied youth, has submitted a parental waiver (obtained by a standard form provided by MILEAP) to the District exempting the student from completing the FAFSA.
- B. The student is unable to complete the FAFSA because of privacy concerns.
- C. All of the following are met:
 1. After a good-faith effort, the student's parent or legal guardian refuses to sign the parental waiver, is unresponsive, or cannot sign the parental waiver.
 2. The student is unable to complete the FAFSA as an independent student.
 3. The student agrees to opt out of completing the FAFSA.
 4. Other than the requirements in subsection (2) of Sec. 67f of Public Act 120 of 2024, the student is on track to graduate.

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

Credit may be earned by:

- A. traditional course work;
- B. demonstrating mastery of subject area content expectations or guidelines for the credit;
- C. related course work in which content standards are embedded;
- D. non-traditional course work;
- E. independent teacher-guided study;
- F. testing out;
- G. dual enrollment;
- H. advanced placement courses;
- I. international baccalaureate or other "early college" programs;
- J. Michigan Department of Education ("MDE") approved formal career and technical ("CTE") program or curriculum; or
- K. online class.

Students shall successfully complete an online course or learning experience OR shall have the online learning experience incorporated into each of the required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

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

For State-mandated curriculum requirements, a student shall be granted credit toward graduation if the student successfully completes the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit. A student may also receive credit if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the State on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the State or the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the District on one (1) or more assessments developed or selected by the School District that measure a student's

understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit. For subject areas and courses in which a final examination is used as the assessment for successful attainment of the subject area content, a grade of C+ or better is required.

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

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

A high school student shall be granted credit in any foreign language not offered by the District, provided the student meets the competency criteria established by the Superintendent.

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

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

- A. A copy of the student's time card from the internship or work experience.
- B. A resume that includes the internship or work experience.
- C. A completed employment task reflection document.

The career and technical education credits may include work-based learning by a student working at a business or other work setting with appropriate oversight by the District over the student's experience and learning in the work setting in which the work-based learning occurs.

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

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Revised 6/29/15
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7540.02 - **DIGITAL CONTENT AND ACCESSIBILITY**~~WEB ACCESSIBILITY, CONTENT, APPS AND SERVICES~~

A. **Creating Digital Content**~~Creation of Content for Web Pages/Websites, Apps, and Services~~

The Board of Education authorizes staff members and students to create content for the District's website and District-approved/affiliated apps and services, ~~apps, and services~~ (see Bylaw 0100 Definitions) ("digital content") that will be hosted by the Board on its servers or District-affiliated servers (i.e., servers the Board pays to use or otherwise sanctions the use of) and/or published on the Internet.

~~District-generated and school-related digital content~~ The content, apps, and services must comply with applicable State and Federal laws (e.g., copyright laws, Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA), and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)), and reflect the professional image/brand of the District, its employees, and students. ~~District-generated digital content~~ Content, apps, and services must be consistent with the Board's Mission Statement and ~~is staff-created web content, services, and apps are subject to~~ prior review and approval of the Superintendent before being published on the ~~District's website or District-~~ approved/affiliated apps/services. ~~Internet and/or used with students.~~

~~(-) School-related student-created content for the Board's website or District-approved/affiliated apps/services are subject to Policy 5722 - School-Sponsored Publications and Productions.~~

~~Creation of school-related content by students for District-approved/affiliated apps/services~~ The creation of content, apps, and services by students must be done under the supervision of a ~~District professional~~ staff member.

B. **Purpose of Digital Content**~~of District Web Pages/Sites, Apps and Services~~

The purpose of ~~digital content, apps, and services~~ covered by this policy is to educate, inform, and communicate. The following criteria shall ~~be used to~~ guide the development of ~~District-generated digital content: such content, apps and services:~~

The information published on the District's website and District-approved/affiliated apps/services ~~contained on the Board's website(s)~~ should reflect and support the Board's Mission Statement, Educational Philosophy, and the School Improvement Process.

When the ~~digital~~ content includes a photograph or personally identifiable information relating to a student, the Board will abide by the provisions of Policy 8330 - Student Records.

Under no circumstances are District-created/generated digital content, apps, and services, to be used for commercial purposes, advertising, political lobbying or to provide financial gains for any individual. Included in this prohibition is the fact no digital/web content published/contained on the District's website may:

Under no circumstances shall a staff member post on their personal web pages/websites or private digital accounts (i.e., non-District-approved/affiliated apps/services) ~~is staff member-created content, apps, and services, including personal web pages/websites, to be used to post~~ student progress reports, grades, class assignments, or any other similar class-related material. Employees are required to use the District's website or District-approved/affiliated apps/services ~~Board-specified website, app or service (e.g., Progressbook)~~ for the purpose of conveying information to students and/or parents.

Staff members are prohibited from requiring students to go to the staff member's personal web pages/websites and/or private digital accounts (i.e., non-District-approved/affiliated apps/services) (including, but not limited to, the staff member's personal accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, ~~(including, but not limited to, their Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest pages,~~ YouTube Channel(s), or TikTok sites) to check grades, obtain class assignments and/or class-related materials, and/or to turn in assignments.

~~{ } If a staff member creates digital content, apps, and services, related to their class, it must be hosted on the Board's website or a District-approved app/services server or a District-affiliated server.~~

The District's website, including school-specific websites, shall be generally open/available to the public unless specific digital content is unique to a specific child and/or includes student personally identifiable information, in which case the information must be password-protected or access to it must be otherwise restricted. When digital content involving student personally identifiable information or information concerning coursework, particularly a specific student's classes/assignments, is password-protected/access is otherwise restricted, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will continue to have access to that digital content. ~~Unless the content, apps, and services contain student personally identifiable information, Board websites, apps, and web services that are created by students and/or staff members that are posted on the Internet should not be password-protected or otherwise contain restricted access features, whereby only employees, student(s), or other limited groups of people can access the site. Community members, parents, employees, staff, students, and other website users will generally be given full access to the Board's website(s), apps, and services.~~

Digital content published on the District's website ~~Web content, apps, and web services~~ should reflect an understanding that both internal and external audiences will be viewing the information. The District's website(s) and web pages, apps, and services must be hosted on Board-owned or District-affiliated servers.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines defining the rules and standards applicable to staff (X) and students who publish digital content on the District's website and District-approved/affiliated apps/services ~~the use of the Board's website and the creation of web content, apps, and web services by staff and students.~~

The Board retains all proprietary rights related to the design of and content for its website(s) and any apps/services ~~it operates and/or is affiliated with, apps, and web services,~~ absent written agreement to the contrary.

In order for a student's school work (i.e., work that is created in ~~or for a class, at school,~~ or as part of a school-sponsored extracurricular activity) to be displayed on the District's ~~Board's~~ website, the student (who is eighteen (18) years of age or older) or the student's parent (if the student is seventeen (17) years of age or younger) must provide written permission and expressly license its display without cost to the Board.

1. Educate

Digital Content should be suitable for and usable by students and teachers to support the curriculum and the Board's Objectives as listed in the Board's Strategic Plan.

2. Inform

Digital Content may inform the community about the school, teachers, students, or departments, including Information about curriculum, events, class projects, student activities, and departmental policies.

3. Communicate

Digital content may communicate information about the plans, policies, and operations of the District to members of the public and other persons who may be interested in and/or affected by District matters.

4. include statements or other items that support or oppose a candidate for public office, the investigation, prosecution, or recall of a public official, or passage of a tax levy or bond issue;
5. link to a website of another organization if the other website includes such a message; or
6. communicate information that supports or opposes any labor organization or any action by, on behalf of, or against any labor organization.

C. Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Website Accessibility

The District is committed to providing persons with disabilities an opportunity equal to that of persons without disabilities to participate in the District's programs, benefits, and services, including those delivered through electronic and information technology, except where doing so would impose an undue burden or create a fundamental alteration. The District is further committed to ensuring persons with disabilities are able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same benefits and services within the same timeframe as persons without a disability, with substantially equivalent ease of use; that they are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any District programs, services, and activities delivered online through the web or a mobile app, as required by Section 504 and Title II of the ADA and their implementing regulations; and that they receive effective communication of the District's programs, services, and activities delivered in-person or online.

This policy reflects the Board's commitment and its intention to comply with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, 34 C.F.R. Part 104, Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Section 12131 and 28 C.F.R. Part 35 in all respects. For purposes of this policy, "web content" means "information and sensory experience to be communicated to the user by means of a user agent, including code or markup that defines the content's structure, presentation, and interactions." Examples of web content include text, images, sounds, videos, controls, animations, and conventional electronic documents (e.g., content in the following electronic file formats: portable document formats ("PDF"), word processor file formats, presentation file formats, and spreadsheet file formats). Additionally, "mobile applications" ("mobile apps") means "software applications that are downloaded and designed to run on mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets."

1. Technical Standards

Web content and mobile apps that the District provides and/or makes available, directly or through contractual, licensing or other arrangements, shall comply with the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ("WCAG") 2.1, Level AA standards, unless the Board can demonstrate that such compliance would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of its programs, services, or activities, or an undue financial and administrative burden. The District will adhere to the technical standards of compliance identified at www.hartlandschools.us. The District measures the accessibility of online content and functionality according to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, and the Web Accessibility Initiative—Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA 1.1) for web content.

Notwithstanding the preceding, Federal regulations provide for the following content types to have limited exemption from the WCAG 2.1, Level AA requirements:

- a. Archived web content (provided all four (4) Federal criteria are met).
- b. Preexisting conventional electronic documents (with specific restrictions).
- c. Third party content that is not created pursuant to a contract between the Board and a third party.
- d. Password-protected documents pertaining to a specific student or account.
- e. Preexisting social media posts.

Even when the preceding exceptions apply, the District, however, will still provide effective communication and reasonable modifications in accordance with the ADA.

In addition, documents currently used for accessing District programs, services, programs, or activities do not qualify for the above exceptions, regardless of creation date.

When a person with a disability cannot access District-generated or affiliated web content or mobile apps that meet WCAG 2.1, Level AA standards, the District will: (1) provide alternate means of access to the same information and functionality; (2) make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, or procedures; (3) ensure effective communication through appropriate auxiliary aids and services; and (4) respond to accommodation requests within 10 business days. Such accommodations may include: (a) alternative document formats (large print, Braille, audio); (b) telephone or in-person assistance for online services; and/or (c) email or mail delivery of information typically accessed online.

2. DigitalWeb Accessibility Coordinator

The Board designates its Technology Director as the District's Web Accessibility Coordinator. That individual(s) is responsible for coordinating and implementing this policy.

The District's DigitalWeb Accessibility Coordinator(s) can be reached at:

Scott Usher, Technology Director
10635 Dunham Road
Hartland, MI 48353
accessibility@hartlandschools.us

3. Third-Party Content

Links included on the District's website(s) and District-approved/affiliated mobile apps that pertain to its programs, activities or web services and apps that pertain to its programs, benefits, and/or services must also meet the above criteria and comply with State and Federal law (e.g. copyright laws, CIPA, Section 504, ADA, SOPPA, and COPPA). The District's Digital Accessibility Coordinator(s) or designee(s) will vet online content available on the Board's website and through District-approved/affiliated mobile apps that are related to the District's programs, activities, and/or services for compliance with this criteria for all new content published on the District's website and mobile apps after adoption of this policy. While the District strives to provide access through its website to online content provided or developed by third parties (including vendors, video sharing websites, and other sources of online/digital content) that is in an accessible format, that is not always feasible. The District's administrators and staff, however, are aware of this requirement with respect to the selection of online content provided to students. The District's Web Accessibility Coordinator or designee will vet online content available on its website, apps, and services that are related to the District's programs, benefits, and/or services for compliance with this criteria for all new content published on the District's website(s), apps, and services after adoption of this policy.

Content posted by third parties (e.g., members of the public) on District platforms is exempt from the WCAG 2.1, Level AA requirements. Those platforms, however, along with content posted by the District staff or contractors, must be fully compliant.

Additionally, nothing herein ~~Nothing in the preceding paragraph, however,~~ shall prevent the District from including links on the Board's website(s), apps, and services ~~to its website(s) and apps/services to:~~

- a. recognized news/media outlets (e.g., local newspapers' websites, local television stations' websites); or
- b. websites, services and/or apps that are developed and hosted by outside vendors or organizations that are not part of the District's program, benefits, or services.

The Board recognizes that such third party websites may contain advertisements that are not age-appropriate or consistent with the requirements of Policy 9700.01, AG 9700B, and State and Federal law.

4. Regular Audits

The District, under the direction of the DigitalWeb Accessibility Coordinator(s) or designees, will, at regular intervals, audit the District's digital content to ensure it meets the required technical standards ~~online content and measure this content against the technical standards adopted above.~~

[] This audit will occur () quarterly () semi-annually (X) at least annually (), with quarterly monitoring of high-priority content and newly published materials (X) annually (X), with quarterly monitoring of high-priority content and newly published materials

If problems are identified through the audit, such problems will be documented, evaluated, and, if necessary, remediated within a reasonable period of time.

☐ [OPTION 1]

The audit must be documented () and include compliance assessment reports, identified accessibility barriers, remediation plans with specific timelines, vendor compliance status, and user complaint tracking and resolution. [END OF INTERNAL OPTION]

[END OF OPTION 1]

X [OPTION 2]

If problems are identified through the audit, such problems will be documented, evaluated, and if necessary, remediated within a reasonable period.

[END OF OPTION 2]

5. Reporting Concerns or Possible Violations

If a person accessing the District's web content and/or District-approved/affiliated mobile apps website(s), apps, or services (e.g., a student, prospective student, employee, guest, or visitor) ("user") believes that specific web content and/or a mobile app has violated the WCAG 2.1, Level AA standards, the user may contact the Digitalthe District has violated the technical standards identified above in its online content, the user may contact a the Web Accessibility Coordinator with any accessibility concerns. The user may also file a formal complaint utilizing the procedures set out in Board Policy 2260.01 relating to Section 504 and Title II.

D. Instructional Use of Apps/Services and Web Services

The Board authorizes the use of apps and web services to supplement and enhance learning opportunities for students either in the classroom or for extended learning outside the classroom.

A teacher who elects to supplement and enhance student learning through the use of apps and/or web services is responsible for verifying/certifying to the Director of Technology that the app and/or web service has a FERPA-compliant privacy policy, and it complies with all requirements of the COPPA, CIPA, and Section 504/ADA, including the WCAG 2.1, Level AA accessibility standardsChildren's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

The Board further requires the use of a Board-issued e-mail address in the login process for District-approved/affiliated apps/services.

E. Training

The District will provide periodic training for its employees who 1) create web content, documents, or multimedia materials, 2) manage the District's website and digital services, 3) select and contract with technology vendors, and 4) work on online communicationsare responsible for creating web content or distributing information online so that these employees are aware of this policy and understand their roles and responsibilities with respect to web design and creation and/or uploading documents and multimedia content.

The training should cover:

[SELECT OPTION 1 OR OPTION 2]

☐ [OPTION 1]

1. WCAG 2.1, Level AA guidelines and success criteria;
2. accessible document creation (PDFs, Word, PowerPoint);
3. alternative text requirements for images and media;
4. video captioning and audio description requirements;
5. accessible form and navigation design;
6. color contrast and visual design standards;
7. vendor accessibility evaluation criteria; and
8. the District's responsibilities under Title II of the ADA, including its grievance procedures.

X [OPTION 2]

this Policy and responsibilities associated with the specified staff members' roles related to the implementation of this policy and ensuring the District's digital content is appropriate and accessible.

[END OF OPTION 2]

~~[] Such training shall be facilitated by qualified individuals with demonstrated knowledge, skill, and experience concerning the accessibility standards and ADA compliance. [END OF OPTION]~~

~~[] New employees in covered positions must complete accessibility training within _____ [insert timeframe] of hire. [END OF OPTION]~~

F. Communication Using the District Website(s), and/or District-Approved/Affiliated Apps/Services Social Media Pages, Apps, and Services

The Board approves the use of its ~~website and District-approved/affiliated apps/services~~ website(s)/web pages, social media pages, apps, and services to promote school activities and inform stakeholders and the general public about District news and operations.

Such communications constitute public records that will be archived.

The Board hereby recognizes the district's social media pages as public forums for the expression of ideas, opinions, and feedback, and affirms that these forums are protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the First Amendment of the Michigan Constitution. Consistent with these constitutional protections, the district will allow public comments on all district-owned social media pages, subject to reasonable restrictions which may be adopted from time to time by the Board of Education in compliance with State and Federal Law. All actions related to moderating or removing comments will be made in accordance with applicable laws including the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, Michigan's Open Meetings Act, and any other relevant legal standard.

All content created by those other than district personnel is not to be considered as a reflection of the district or Board of Education.

28 C.F.R. Part 35, Subpart H (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities – Effective 6/24/2024)

Revised 12/15/14

Revised 6/12/17

Revised 6/25/18

Revised 5/8/23

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Board Review Fall 2025 (40.1)
Title	Vol. 40, No. 1 - September 2025 Revised CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN
Code	po8300
Status	
Legal	FEMA's Continuity Guidance Circular (2024 Update) Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans: A Companion to the School Guide Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS): Technical Assistance Center National Incident Management System (NIMS)
Adopted	June 12, 2017
Last Revised	May 8, 2023

Revised Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1

8300 - CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN

The Board of Education shall develop and implement a Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan ("COOP") to enable it to **conduct**, if necessary, essential functions and critical services and operations (e.g., teaching and learning, transportation, business services, communication, computer/network systems support, facilities, maintenance, and safety and security) under all hazards/conditions. The District's COOP shall be **(x)** consistent with **(-)** a component of **[END OF OPTIONS]** the District's School Safety Emergency Management Plan (see Policy 8400 - School Safety Information and Policy 8402 - Emergency Operations Plan). Having a plan to recover from any type of crisis/emergency/disaster, regardless of its severity or the consequences of the incident/event, strengthens the District's resilience so it can operate with minimal impact on its primary mission/responsibility to educate the students enrolled in the District, involves teaching and learning, personnel, facilities, technology, transportation, food service, and other functional resources. ~~The Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan (COOP) provides the District with the capability of conducting its essential operations under all threats and conditions, with or without warning. Having a plan to recover from any type of disaster regardless of the severity and consequences of the emergency is critical to the recovery of operations and minimizing the impact on the District's teaching and learning, personnel, facilities, technology, transportation, food service, and other functional resources.~~

Scope of the Continuity Plan

The primary objective of the COOP is to restore the District's critical operational/business functions and the learning environment as quickly as possible after a crisis/emergency/disaster or threat event occurs. **[]** The COOP shall include strategies aimed at resuming instruction and crucial business functions within _____ **(-)** **[ENTER AMOUNT]** **(-)** days **(-)** hours **[END OF INTERNAL OPTIONS]** **[DRAFTING NOTE: Select a time period in which to restart district essential operations—e.g., two (2) school days, five (5) business days, forty-eight (48) hours.]** of the

disruption, along with procedures to implement secure remote work and instruction in a crisis/emergency/disaster, identify alternative sites and technology redundancy, and provide incident response integration with the District's cybersecurity incident management protocols. **[END OF OPTIONAL SENTENCE]**

The District will use the following process to achieve essential function resilience (i.e., business and learning continuity):

- A. identify essential functions;
- B. determine planning factors needed to accomplish the essential functions (e.g., staff and organization, equipment and systems, information and data, sites);
- C. conduct risk assessments for each planning factor; and
- D. identify and implement continuity options.

Because the COOP contains sensitive information, by law, it functions and the learning environment as quickly as possible after a crisis or threat event occurs. A COOP contains critical and sensitive information that is confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

Planning for the continuity of operations of a school system in the aftermath of a disaster is a complex task. The current threat environment and recent emergencies, including acts of nature, accidents, technological emergencies, cybersecurity incidents (including data breaches, ransomware, and denial of service attacks), and terrorist threats and attacks, cyberattacks, and terrorist attacks and threats, have increased the need for viable continuity capabilities and plans that enable the District to resume and continue the essential functions in an all-hazards environment across a full spectrum of crises/emergencies/disasters, emergencies. Such conditions have increased the importance of having continuity plans in place that provide stability of essential functions across the various levels of public government and private enterprises.

The planning and development of continuity of an organizational operations plan, as well as the ongoing review, testing, and revision of such a plan, is important for the overall District. ~~() as well as and also for each school () and department in the District~~ **[END OF OPTIONS]. [DRAFTING NOTE: While the preceding optional language is true, they do not need to be included if a district wants to simply state that its COOP is important to the district as a whole. The following sentence, however, is not optional and emphasizes the necessity for individual schools and departments to have individualized continuity of operation plans in place to address their unique needs and circumstances.]** Each school and operational department (e.g., transportation, information technology ("IT"), food service, and student services) shall maintain a site/department-specific COOP aligned with the District-wide COOP. The site/department-specific COOPs are subject to annual submission to, and review by, the Superintendent.

The District-wide plan describes how the District will respond as a total organization to a given emergency and describes the centralized resources and how they will be organized to implement the command and control necessary to function during the life cycle of the event. Individual school and department plans shall contain the details related to the continuity plan for those specific sites and functional areas to prepare for an incident/event, communicate throughout the duration of the incident/event, assess the impact of the incident/event on essential functions in the school/department, respond to the incident/event, and detail what will be done to recover from the incident/event. ~~contain the details related to the continuity plan for those specific sites and functional areas to prepare for an event, communicate throughout the duration of an event, assess the impact of an event on essential functions in the unit, respond to the event, and detail what will be done to recover from the event.~~

The COOP shall account for the needs of all students and staff, including individuals with disabilities, English learners, and students requiring health and/or behavioral supports in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA").

Preparation for, response to, and recovery from a disaster affecting administrative, educational, and support functions of the District's operations requires the cooperative efforts of external organizations, in partnership with the functional areas supporting the business of the District. This includes local government agencies, law enforcement, emergency management, medical services, and vendors necessary to District operations. The COOP outlines and coordinates all efforts by the District, in cooperation with other local and State agencies and businesses, to restore the essential functions of the District post-incident/event, post-disaster.

The Superintendent shall provide that all relevant staff receive ~~() annual (x) periodic~~ **[END OF OPTIONS]** training on their roles in the COOP.

Key components of the COOP shall be communicated to employees, students, and families as appropriate.

The Superintendent shall develop and recommend the COOP for Board review and approval; however, the COOP shall be considered a confidential document not subject to release under State public records laws, and accordingly, no copies shall be provided for public review.

The Superintendent shall conduct an annual review of and update to, as necessary, the COOP. Additionally, the Superintendent shall conduct annual table-top exercises to assess the expected effectiveness of the COOP and after-action reviews post-incident/event. See Policy 8400 - School Safety Information and Policy 8402 - Emergency Operations Plan (which discusses the conduct of annual emergency management tests). ~~The Superintendent shall conduct () an annual () a periodic [END OF OPTION] review of the COOP.~~

FEMA's Continuity Guidance Circular (2024 Update)

Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans

The Role of Districts in Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans: A Companion to the School Guide
Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS): Technical Assistance Center

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

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Book	Policy Manual
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Status	
Cross References	po0100 - DEFINITIONS
Adopted	June 12, 2017
Last Revised	January 15, 2024

Revised Policy - Vol. 40, No. 1

8305 - INFORMATION SECURITY

The District collects, classifies, and retains data/information from and about students, staff, vendors/contractors, and other individuals, about programs and initiatives undertaken by the school system, and about and related to the business of the District. This data/information may be in hard copy or digital format and may be stored in the District or off-site with a third party provider.

Data/Information collected by the District shall be classified as Confidential, Controlled, or Published. The Superintendent shall define "Confidential," "Controlled," and "Published" in administrative guidelines and provide examples of data/information in each classification. Data/Information will be considered Controlled until identified otherwise.

Protecting District Information Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) is of paramount importance. Information security requires everyone's active participation to keep the District's data/information secure. This includes Board of Education members, staff members/employees, students, parents, contractors/vendors, and visitors who use District Information & Technology Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100). If an employee suspects, discovers, and/or determines that a security breach has occurred, the employee shall promptly notify the employee's immediate supervisor and the Superintendent. The employee should follow up their oral notification in writing. The Superintendent will determine and implement the steps necessary to correct the unauthorized access and, as applicable, provide notification to those individuals whose personal information may have been compromised.

Staff members, and individuals associated with the District through their affiliation with a District contractor/vendor, individuals who are granted access to data/information collected and retained by the District must follow established procedures so that the data/information is protected and preserved. Board members, administrators, and all District staff members, as well as contractors, vendors, and their employees, granted access to data/information retained by the District are required to certify annually that they shall comply with the established information security protocols pertaining to District data/information. Further, all persons granted access by the District to individuals granted access to Confidential Data/Information retained by the District must certify annually that they will comply with the information security protocols pertaining to Confidential Data/Information. For staff members, completing the appropriate section of the Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety form (Form 7540.04 F1) shall provide this certification.

All Board members, staff members/employees, students, contractors/vendors, and visitors who have access to Board-owned or managed data/information must maintain the security of that data/information and the District Technology Resources on which it is stored. The Superintendent shall conduct an annual risk assessment related to the access and

security of the District's Data/Information. Further, the District will maintain audit logs for access to Confidential Data/Information and regularly review such logs to detect unauthorized activity.

District information security procedures shall comply with applicable Federal and State law including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment ("PPRA"), and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA") regarding data breaches.

If an individual has any questions concerning whether this Policy and/or its related administrative guidelines apply to them or how they apply to them, the individual should contact the District's Technology Director or Information Technology Department/Office.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines that set forth the internal controls necessary to provide for the collection, classification, retention, access, and security of District Data/Information.

Further, the Superintendent is charged with developing a program and/or procedures that can be implemented in the event of a cybersecurity incident, whether it involves an inadvertent or intentional unauthorized release or breach of data/information. The program/procedures shall comply with the District's legal requirements as delineated below. In particular, in the event of a breach involving personally identifiable information, the District shall notify affected individuals and/or government officials in accordance with State and Federal law. Further, the Superintendent is charged with developing procedures that can be implemented in the event of an unauthorized release or breach of data/information. These procedures shall comply with the District's legal requirements if such a breach of personally-identifiable information occurs.

Cybersecurity incident" means any of the following:

- A. A substantial loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of a covered entity's information system or network;
- B. A serious impact on the safety and resiliency of a covered entity's operational systems and processes;
- C. A disruption of a covered entity's ability to engage in business or industrial operations, or deliver goods or services; or
- D. Unauthorized access to an entity's information system or network, or nonpublic information contained therein, that is facilitated through or is caused by:
 - 1. a compromise of a cloud service provider, managed service provider, or other third party data hosting provider; or
 - 2. a supply chain compromise.

"Cybersecurity incident" does not include mere threats of disruption as extortion; events perpetrated in good faith in response to a request by the system owner or operator; or lawfully authorized activity of a United States, State, local, tribal, or territorial government entity.

"Ransomware incident" means a malicious cybersecurity incident in which a person or entity introduces software that gains unauthorized access to or encrypts, modifies, or otherwise renders unavailable a political subdivision's information technology systems or data and thereafter, the person or entity demands a ransom to prevent the publication of the data, restore access to the data, or otherwise remediate the impact of the software.

Cybersecurity Program

The District's cybersecurity program shall be designed to safeguard the District's data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. The program shall be consistent with generally accepted best practices for cybersecurity, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology's cybersecurity framework and the Center for Internet Security's cybersecurity best practices, and may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Identify and address the critical functions and cybersecurity risks facing the District.
- B. Identify the potential impacts of a cybersecurity breach.
- C. Specify mechanisms to detect potential threats and cybersecurity events.

- D. Specify procedures for the District to establish communication channels, analyze incidents, and take actions to contain cybersecurity incidents.
- E. Establish procedures for the repair of infrastructure impacted by a cybersecurity incident and the maintenance of security after the incident.
- F. Establish cybersecurity training requirements for all Board employees; the frequency, duration, and detail of which shall correspond to the duties of each employee. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Annual cybersecurity training provided by the State, and training provided by _____ will satisfy this requirement.]**

[x] It is the policy of the Board – if the District is experiencing a ransomware incident – not to pay or otherwise comply with a ransom demand unless the Board formally adopts a resolution to approve such a payment or compliance with the ransom demand. If that occurs, the resolution will specifically state why the payment or compliance with the ransom demand is in the District's best interest. **[END OF OPTION]**

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board need not include this option in its policy, but action consistent with this statement is required by law.]

Following a cybersecurity incident or ransomware incident, the Superintendent shall notify:

- A. The Executive Director of the Division of Homeland Security within the Department of Public Safety, as soon as possible, but not later than seven (7) days after the District discovers the incident.
- B. The Auditor of State, as soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days after the District discovers the incident.

Any records, documents, or reports related to the District's cybersecurity program and framework, along with the reports of a cybersecurity incident or ransomware incident addressed in the preceding paragraph, are not public records. Similarly, a record identifying cybersecurity-related software, hardware, goods, and services that are being considered for procurement, have been procured, or are being used by the District, including the vendor name, product name, project name, or project description, is a security record.

All staff members (x) and contractors **[END OF OPTION]** with access to Controlled and/or Confidential Data/Information must complete ~~(-) annual~~ **[END OF OPTION]** training on data privacy, information security practices (e.g., internal controls applicable to the data/information that they collect and have access to and for which they are responsible for the security protocols), and breach response protocols. ~~The Superintendent shall require staff members to participate in training related to the internal controls applicable to the data/information that they collect and have access to and for which they are responsible for the security protocols.~~

Third party contractors/vendors who require access to Confidential Data/Information collected and retained by the District will be informed of relevant Board policies that govern access to and use of Information Resources, including the duty to safeguard the confidentiality of such data/information. Additionally, all contracts with third party contractors/vendors (e.g., technology providers) who access District Data/Information shall include provisions addressing data security, breach notification, data ownership, confidentiality, and destruction upon termination. Further, a contract between a technology provider and the District shall ensure appropriate security safeguards for education records and includes the following:

- A. a restriction on unauthorized access by the technology provider's employees or contractors;
- B. a requirement that the technology provider's employees or contractors may be authorized to access education records only as necessary to fulfill the official duties of the employee or contractor; and
- C. a stipulation that the District owns the data/information.

Failure to adhere to this Policy and its related administrative guidelines may put data/information collected and retained by the District at risk. Employees who violate this policy and/or its related administrative guidelines may be disciplined, up to and including termination of employment and/or referral to law enforcement. Students who violate this Policy and/or its related administrative guidelines will be disciplined, up to and including expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement. Contractors/Vendors who violate this Policy and/or its related administrative guidelines may face termination of their business relationships with and/or legal action by the District. Parents and visitors who violate this Policy and/or its related administrative guidelines may be denied access to the District's Information & Technology Resources.

At least annually, the Superintendent shall conduct ~~an (-) an annual (-) a periodic~~ **[END OF OPTION]** assessment of risk related to the access to and security of the data/information collected and retained by the District.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	September 2025 district updates
Title	SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION
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Adopted	January 28, 2008
Last Revised	June 12, 2023

8400 - SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe school environment. The Board believes that school crime and violence are multifaceted problems which need to be addressed in a manner that utilizes the best resources and coordinated efforts of School District personnel, law enforcement agencies, and families. The Board further believes that school administrators and local law enforcement officials must work together to provide for the safety and welfare of students while they are at school or a school-sponsored activity or while enroute to or from school, or a school-sponsored activity. The Board also believes that the first step in addressing school crime and violence is to assess the extent and nature of the problem(s) or threat and then plan and implement strategies that promote school safety and minimize the likelihood of school crime and violence.

In furtherance of its commitment to a safe school environment, the Board has prohibited weapons on school property and at school-sponsored events, except in very limited circumstances. See Board Policy 3217, Policy 4217, and Policy 5772. This prohibition is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns, including the ability to provide a safe and secure learning and social environment for its students and controlling and minimizing disruptions to the educational process. The presence of dangerous weapons on school property or at school-sponsored events, except under very controlled circumstances, creates a potentially dangerous situation for students, staff, and visitors and may trigger precautionary safety responses which disrupt the educational process and learning environment for students.

Federal law establishes a "Student Safety Zone" that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property in relation to weapons and drugs. Individuals are prohibited from possessing or using weapons or drugs at any time on District property, within the Student Safety Zone, or at any District-related event.

The District may work with local officials in arranging signage defining the 1,000-foot boundary.

The Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Student Services or designee shall ensure continued implementation and compliance with the District's obligations under the Statewide School Safety Information Policy and related law. The Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Student Services or designee may convene meetings to make modifications as deemed necessary and proper to address issues that are unique to the District; discuss additional training that might be needed; and discuss any other such related matters as may be deemed to be necessary by the participants. Participants in this meeting shall include the Superintendent, members of the Board, the County Prosecutor or their designee, and representatives from the local law enforcement agency.

The Superintendent shall make a report to the Board about all such reviews and recommend the approval and adoption of any proposed revisions or additions to local policy.

District Contact Person/Liaison

Furthermore, in accordance with state law, the Board hereby designates the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Student Services as the District contact person who shall receive information from law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and court officials, including receipt of the information provided from the Michigan State Police relating to the student safety act hotline ("OK2Say"). The current contact information for the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Student Services shall be provided to the Michigan State Police in the manner and frequency required by law.

The District contact person shall notify the principal of the school of attendance of a student about whom information is received from law enforcement officials, prosecutors, or court officials within twenty-four (24) hours of the receipt of that information. The principal shall, in turn, notify the building staff members who the principal determines to have a need to know the information that has been received within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of that information.

The District contact person shall notify the appropriate law enforcement officials when an adult or student commits any offense listed as a reportable incident in the *School Safety Information Policy* and related law and shall report all information that is required to be reported to State or local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. Reporting such information is subject to 20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly referred to as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

If a student is involved in an incident that is reported to law enforcement officials pursuant to the District's local school safety information policy, then, upon request by school officials, the student's parent or legal guardian shall execute any waivers or consents necessary to allow school officials access to school, court, or other pertinent records of the student concerning the incident and action taken as a result of the incident.

The District designates the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Student Services as a liaison to work with the school safety commission created under the comprehensive school safety and the office of school safety, including work on identifying model practices for determining school safety issues.

Required Reporting

The Superintendent shall submit a report at least annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, stating the number of students expelled from the District during the preceding school year and the reason for the expulsion.

The Superintendent shall post a report on the District website at least annually, in the form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, stating the incidents of crime occurring at school. At least annually, a copy of the most recent report of incidents of crime disaggregated by school building shall be made available to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the District. This report will include at least crimes involving:

- A. physical violence;
- B. gang-related acts;
- C. illegal possession of a controlled substance, controlled substance analog, or other intoxicant;
- D. trespassing;
- E. property crimes including, but not limited to, theft and vandalism, including an estimate of the cost to the District resulting from the property crime.

Each school building shall collect and keep current on a weekly basis the information required from the report of incidents of crime and must provide that information within seven (7) days upon request.

~~Additionally, the District shall report all incidents of and attempted commissions of the crimes listed above to the Michigan State Police, in the form and manner prescribed by the Michigan State Police, within twenty-four (24) hours after the incident occurs.~~

Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent, principal, or designee to request vehicle registration information for suspicious vehicles within 1,000 feet of school property through the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN).

Threat Assessment

The primary purpose of a threat assessment is to minimize the risk of targeted violence at school. This policy is designed to be consistent with the process for identifying, assessing, and managing students who may pose a threat as set forth in the joint U.S. Secret Service and Department of Homeland Security publication, *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*. The goal of the threat assessment process is to take appropriate preventive or corrective measures to maintain a safe school environment, protect and support potential victims, and provide assistance, as appropriate, to the student being assessed.

The threat assessment process is centered upon an analysis of the facts and evidence of behavior in a given situation. The appraisal of risk in a threat assessment focuses on actions, communications, and specific circumstances that might suggest that an individual intends to cause physical harm and is engaged in planning or preparing for that event.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to create building-level, trained threat assessment teams. Each Team shall be headed by the Principal and include a school counselor, school psychologist, instructional personnel, and, where appropriate, the School Resource Officer. At the discretion of the Superintendent, a threat assessment team may serve more than one (1) school when logistics and staff assignments make it feasible.

The Team will meet as needed and when the Principal learns a student has made a threat of violence or engages in concerning communications or behaviors that suggest the likelihood of a threatening situation.

The Team is empowered to gather information, evaluate facts, and make a determination as to whether a given student poses a threat of violence to a target. If an inquiry indicates that there is a risk of violence in a specific situation, the Team may collaborate with others to develop and implement a written plan to manage or reduce the threat posed by the student in that situation.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to create guidelines for the purpose of:

- A. identifying team participants by position and role;
- B. requiring team participants to undergo appropriate training;
- C. defining the nature and extent of behavior or communication that would trigger a threat assessment and/or action pursuant to a threat assessment;
- D. defining what types of information that may be gathered during the assessment;
- E. stating when and how parents/guardians of the student making the threat shall be notified and involved;
- F. designating the individuals (by position) who would be responsible for gathering and investigating information;
- G. identifying the steps and procedures to be followed from initiation to conclusion of the threat assessment inquiry or investigation.

Board employees, volunteers, and other school community members, including students and parents, shall immediately report to the Superintendent or Principal any expression of intent to harm another person or other statements or behaviors that suggest a student may intend to commit an act of violence.

Nothing in this policy overrides or replaces an individual's responsibility to contact 911 in an emergency.

Regardless of threat assessment activities or protocols, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement shall occur as required by State law and Board policy.

Threat assessment team members shall maintain student confidentiality at all times as required by Board Policy 8330 – Student Records, and State and Federal law.

Persistently Dangerous Schools

The Board recognizes that State and Federal law requires that the District report annually incidents which meet the statutory definition of violent criminal offenses that occur in a school, on school grounds, on a school conveyance, or at a school-sponsored activity. It is further understood that the State Department of Education will then use this data to determine whether or not a school is considered "persistently dangerous" as defined by State policy.

Pursuant to the Board's stated intent to provide a safe school environment, the school administrators are expected to respond appropriately to any and all violations of the Student Code of Conduct, especially those of a serious, violent nature. In any year where the number of reportable incidents of violent criminal offenses in any school exceeds the threshold

number established in State policy, the Superintendent shall convene a meeting of the building administrator, representative(s) of the local law enforcement agency, and any other individuals deemed appropriate for the purpose of developing a plan of corrective action that can be implemented in an effort to reduce the number of these incidents in the subsequent year.

The Superintendent shall make a report to the Board about this plan of corrective action and shall recommend approval and adoption of it.

In the unexpected event that the number of reportable incidents in three (3) consecutive school years exceeds the statutory threshold and the school is identified as persistently dangerous, students attending the school shall have the choice option as provided in Policy 5113.02 and AG 5113.02.

Victims of Violent Crime

The Board further recognizes that, despite the diligent efforts of school administrators and staff to provide a safe school environment, an individual student may be a victim of a violent crime in a school, on school grounds, on a school conveyance, or at a school-sponsored activity. In accordance with Federal and State law, the parents of the eligible student shall have the choice options provided by Policy 5113.02 and AG 5113.02.

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Revised 6/12/17

Revised 6/10/19

Revised 12/9/19

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