



Gateway Community Charter Schools

*Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy
(Elk Grove)*



GCC Family & Student Handbook 2026-2027

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SECTION 1

Welcome to Gateway Community Charters

Gateway Community Charters, Inc (GCC) is a nonprofit 501(C)3 Charter Management Organization (CMO) that provides leadership, operational support, and shared services to its family of charter schools. GCC works in partnership with each school to ensure students receive a high-quality educational experience while supporting school leaders, teachers, and staff in meeting academic, operational, and compliance goals.

About GCC

GCC oversees nine independently authorized Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). While each GCC school maintains its unique mission, educational program, and school culture, GCC provides centralized support in areas such as educational services, student support, business operations, human resources, technology, facilities, compliance, and strategic planning. This collaborative structure allows each school to focus on delivering exceptional learning opportunities while benefiting from the resources and expertise of a shared management organization.

Gateway Community Charters Board of Directors

Lillie Campbell, Board President
Mark Anderson, Vice President
Harry Block, Secretary
Bruce Mangerich, Treasurer
Jack Turner, Director

Gateway Community Charters Cabinet

Jason Sample, Superintendent/CEO
Omaira Reyna, Chief Business Official
Joi Tikoi, Assistant Superintendent
Morri Elliott, Assistant Superintendent

Community Collaborative Charter School (Rise Academy, 9-12)

5715 Skvarla Way, Sacramento
Angee Phraxayavong-Briones, Principal

Community Collaborative Charter School (Resource Center: Sac Youth Center)

1901 Del Paso Blvd, Sacramento
Angee Phraxayavong-Briones, Principal

Community Collaborative Charter School (GCC Virtual Academy)

3612 Madison Avenue (Suite 25), North Highlands
Kaela Varneulen, Principal

Community Collaborative Charter School (Connections Academy at Gateway)

3612 Madison Avenue (Suite 25), North Highlands
Kaela Varneulen, Principal

Community Outreach Academy (Academy of Arts)

5640 Dudley Blvd, McClellan Park
Larissa Gonchar, Principal

Community Outreach Academy (Academy of Sciences)

3800 Bolivar Ave, North Highlands
Dr. Daniel Diego, Principal

Empowering Possibilities International School

2945 Ramco St #200, West Sacramento
Dr. Jerry Kosch, Principal

Futures High School

900 Grace Avenue, Sacramento
Vicente Luevano, Principal

Gateway International School
900 Morse Avenue, Sacramento
Michael Maita, Principal

Higher Learning Academy
900 Grace Avenue, Sacramento
Dr. Carla Galbrath, Principal

Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy
1214 & 1224 North Market, Sacramento
Chelsy Stoufer, Principal

**Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy
(EGUSD)**
3141 Dwight Road, Elk Grove
Lezli McEndree, Principal

**Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy
(SCUSD, Power Inn Campus)**
5310 Power Inn Road, Sacramento
Summer Ash, Principal

**Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy
(SCUSD, SIM Campus)**
6207 Logan St, Sacramento
Summer Ash, Principal

Mission

The mission of GCC is to create and manage high quality charter schools which provide access to innovative, quality, standards-based educational opportunities for all students.

Vision

Our GCC vision is to provide all students, regardless of circumstance, a safe, caring school choice with high academic and behavioral expectations where they can reach their fullest academic and social potential.

Core Values (SERVICE)

- **Student Focus:** We make all of our decisions through the lens of what is best for our students, particularly in terms of safety, social/emotional needs, and preparation for College and Career success.
- **Excellence:** We relentlessly pursue excellence with a strategic focus on our vision, mission, values and beliefs, priorities, goals and outcomes.
- **Responsibility:** We know that everything we do has an impact therefore we act with intent, a sense of urgency and embody collective ownership with a focus on continuous improvement.
- **Valuing People:** In all of our actions, interactions and decision-making we seek to honor, recognize and invest in our stakeholders. We understand, acknowledge and live our Capturing Kid's Hearts culture throughout the organization.
- **Integrity:** We are committed to a high level of ethical behavior and our daily actions and interactions are honest, transparent and consistent leading to a high level of trust throughout the organization.
- **Collaboration:** We create a culture that maximizes individual contribution while leveraging the collective intelligence of everyone through regular and ongoing systems of meaningful participation.
- **Empowerment:** All stakeholders learn, develop, grow and contribute to the GCC and its schools in meaningful ways.

Portrait of a GCC Graduate

The Portrait of a GCC Graduate defines the knowledge, skills, and characteristics Gateway Community Charters strives to develop in every student before graduation or promotion. It

guides curriculum, instruction, and student experiences to prepare learners who are Academically Ready, Workforce and College Ready, Life Ready, Global Citizens, Productive Citizens, and Reflective Citizens. Developed with input from students, families, staff, business leaders, faith-based organizations, and higher education partners, the Portrait reflects GCC's commitment to preparing students for lifelong success and meaningful contributions to their communities.

Capturing Kids' Hearts

Capturing Kids' Hearts, developed by the Flippen Group, is a relationship-centered approach that helps create safe, supportive, and engaging school environments. The framework emphasizes building strong connections between staff and students through trust, respect, empathy, and accountability. By fostering positive relationships, teaching social-emotional competencies, and establishing shared expectations, Capturing Kids' Hearts helps improve student engagement, behavior, academic success, and overall school culture.

Understanding Legal Codes in this Handbook

Many of the rights and responsibilities referenced in this handbook are based on legal mandates through the state and federal governments. While we have made an effort to explain these items in common terms, many of them are based on legal language contained in a variety of policy sources. The sources are referenced in parenthesis at the end of each relevant section.

For your reference, here are the codes you will see in this handbook, along with the acronym that will be listed. Access to the source California or United States policies are available online by searching the full source name and section number. GCC board policies and administrative regulations are available on the GCC website section titled, [GCC Board Policies](#).

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- California Education Code (EC)
- California Health and Safety Code (HSC)
- California Penal Code (PC)
- California Vehicle Code (VC)
- California Code of Regulations (CCR)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Gateway Community Charters Board Policies (BP)
- United States Code (USC)

Purpose of this Handbook

This Parent/Student Handbook is designed to provide students, parents, guardians, and families with important information about Gateway Community Charters (GCC) schools. It serves as a guide to the programs, expectations, policies, procedures, and resources that support student success and help ensure a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment.

The handbook is intended to foster a strong partnership between the school and home by clearly communicating the rights, responsibilities, and expectations of students, families, and staff. Families are encouraged to review this handbook together and refer to it throughout the school year.

Because Gateway Community Charters operates multiple schools with unique educational models and programs, this handbook contains both organization-wide information that applies to all GCC schools and school-specific information that may vary by campus. When differences exist, the school-specific information provided by your child's school will govern.

This handbook is intended to summarize key information and should not be interpreted as replacing applicable federal or state law, the school's charter, or Gateway Community Charters Board Policies. GCC reserves the right to revise this handbook, policies, or procedures as necessary to comply with changes in law or operational needs. Families will be notified of significant changes as appropriate.

Annual Notifications Statement

Gateway Community Charters (GCC) provides parents, guardians, and students with an Annual Notifications document at the beginning of each school year, as required by federal and California law. The Annual Notifications include important information regarding student rights, parent rights, school policies, and other legally required notices.

The Annual Notifications are provided separately from this handbook and are incorporated by reference. Families are responsible for reviewing the Annual Notifications each year, as they contain important information that may not be repeated in this handbook.

The most current Annual Notifications are available on the Gateway Community Charters website and may also be obtained from your school office upon request.

If there is any conflict between information contained in this handbook and applicable law or the Annual Notifications, applicable law and the Annual Notifications shall govern.

SECTION 2

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Academic Standards

GCC has high academic standards and supports all students to work hard to achieve their potential. Upon graduation, our students will be prepared to pursue postsecondary education, work-force training, or employment that continues to promote lifelong learning, productive citizenship, and maximizes development in mind, body, and spirit.

GCC schools adopt curriculum based on California State Standards including Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Academic Expectations

All GCC students are expected to give their full effort every day. Parents/guardians should also expect this of their students and support them by getting their students to school on time. GCC schools assess every student regularly to determine progress and needs. If students are below their expected level, opportunities are given for support, such as reteaching, differentiated assignments, online programs, tutoring, and intervention support.

CAASPP and ELPAC

GCC students participate in all required California state testing. Students participate in tests such as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC).

The tests in the CAASPP system provide information to teachers, parents/guardians, and students about student progress and readiness for college and career. In grades three through eight and grade 11, most students take the Smarter Balanced online tests for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. However, students who have a significant cognitive disability (as designated in their individualized education program) are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessments (CAAs). In grades five, eight, and once during high school, students are also tested in science. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent's or guardian's written request to school officials to excuse their child from any or all parts of the CAASPP assessments administered pursuant to this chapter shall be granted. (*EC* § 60615)

When a student enrolls in a California public school for the first time, the Home Language Survey is used to identify whether the student may need assessment for English language proficiency. If a language other than English is indicated in Questions 1–3 of the survey, the student must take the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (Initial ELPAC) within 30 calendar days of enrollment. Based on the Initial ELPAC results, a student will be identified as either Initially Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) or English Learner (EL). Students identified as English Learners are required to take the Summative ELPAC each year until they meet the criteria for reclassification as Fluent English Proficient. The ELPAC assesses students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. To learn more about the ELPAC, please review the Parent Guide to Understanding the ELPAC, available on the California Department of Education website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/elpacpgtu.pdf>.

For additional information about the English Learner identification or reclassification process, please contact your school administration.

K-2 Reading Screener

In order to provide early support and intervention for our young learners, GCC schools will screen all students in grades K-2 for reading difficulties risk. (*EC* § 53008)

Families will receive direct notification before the screener is administered, and results will be shared with families after the screener is administered.

Student Success Team (SST)

The Student Success Team meets as needed to provide recommendations, support, and program modifications for a student experiencing academic, behavioral, or attendance issues. Parents/guardians work together with the entire SST team to do what is necessary to help the student be successful. This might include putting specific interventions in place or moving forward with special education testing, if appropriate. Meetings are held at the school's or parent/guardian's request.

Students identified as needing additional support in the core subjects (ELA and Math) will be provided with intervention services during the school day and may be offered tutoring services before/after school by a credentialed teacher or paraprofessional.

Special Education and Section 504 Services

GCC is committed to providing all students with equal access to educational opportunities. Students who qualify for special education services under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or accommodations under a Section 504 Plan will receive services and supports in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

Parents/guardians who have questions about their child's IEP or Section 504 Plan, or who believe their child may be eligible for services, should contact the school administration. The school will work collaboratively with families to ensure students receive appropriate supports and accommodations to help them succeed academically and socially.

Students with IEPs and Section 504 Plans are expected to follow the same school rules and expectations as all students. When disciplinary actions are considered, the school will follow all applicable legal requirements related to students with disabilities.

Promotion/Retention in Grade

Students who do not make adequate progress may be identified as at risk and provided with additional academic support and interventions. A SST meeting will be held to review the student's progress and develop a plan for improvement. The student's progress will be monitored throughout the school year. If retention is discussed, the school principal needs to immediately inform the Director of Student Services and Director of Academics for approval.

At-Risk Students

Students in grades 9-12 who are at risk of not graduating with their class shall be identified and

provided with a variety of interventions and counseling support, designed to assist them in successfully transitioning to postsecondary education or employment. For students in grade 12, this will also include options for continuing their education if they fail to meet graduation requirements, including, but not limited to, the option of enrolling in an adult education program, community college, or continuing enrollment in the district. (EC § 52378)

Code of Academic Conduct

The Code of Academic Conduct prohibits such violations of academic integrity as: cheating; plagiarism; falsification and fabrication; abuse of academic materials; complicity in academic dishonesty; falsification of records and official documents; personal misrepresentation and proxy; bribes, favors and threats.

Definitions:

Abuse of Academic Materials: Destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible books, supplies or other academic resource material, or attempting to do so; stealing or otherwise obtaining advance copies of tests, examinations or other course materials or attempting to do so; duplicating copyrighted software without authorization or using such software on school computers; “hacking” on school computers or installing “virus” programs.

Bribes, Favors, Threats: Bribing or attempting to bribe, promising favors to, or making threats against any person, with the intention of affecting an evaluation of a student’s academic performance; conspire with another person who then performs one of these acts on one’s behalf.

Cheating: In any work submitted for evaluation (tests or assignments), copying or attempting to copy from another’s work; looking up answers on an unauthorized website, using or attempting to use unauthorized information, notes, study aids, or other materials; any unauthorized collaboration with others, who may or may not be students, in work to be presented for a grade; altering graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work to be re-graded; tampering with the academic work of other students.

Complicity in Academic Dishonesty: Helping another to commit an act of academic dishonesty, especially providing material or information to another person with knowledge that this material or information will be used deceitfully in an academic evaluation activity; permitting one’s own work to be submitted by another person as if it were that person’s original work.

Falsification and Fabrication: Altering, counterfeiting, or inventing information or material presented in any assignment; “padding” a bibliography with made up titles or works not consulted, or providing false citations in footnotes; using inappropriate methods for collecting or generating data or including a substantially inaccurate account of the method by which the data were gathered or collected.

Falsification of Records and Official Documents: Altering transcripts, grade reports, or other documents affecting academic records; forging a signature or falsifying information on any academic document, such as permission forms, petitions, or other documents.

Personal Misrepresentation and Proxy: Taking another person's place in an exam, test, or other academic activity, either before or after enrollment; having another person participate in an academic evaluation activity or evaluation in place of oneself.

Plagiarism: Presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e. without proper acknowledgment of the source or sources), or submitting material that is not entirely one's own work without attributing the unoriginal portions to their correct sources. The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources occurs when ideas or information are common knowledge.

If a teacher deems that the breach of the Academic Honesty Policy is a major violation then school administration will become involved. Any alleged violation of this school policy will be investigated thoroughly and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Physical Education

GCC schools provide a Physical Education (PE) program for students in kindergarten through grade 12 that is aligned with the California Content Standards and Framework for Physical Education.

Physical Fitness Test

The California Physical Fitness Tests will be administered to all students in grades 5, 7, and 9 to determine the levels of fitness of students. To evaluate health-related fitness and to assist students in establishing lifetime habits of regular physical activity, state law requires school districts to administer a set of tests. The complete test battery measures student performance in the following areas:

- Aerobic Capacity
- Abdominal Strength and Endurance
- Trunk Extensor Strength and Flexibility
- Upper Body Strength and Endurance
- Flexibility

California officially transitioned the Physical Fitness Test to a participation-only model through emergency regulations prompted by Senate Bill 820. This change eliminated scoring "Healthy Fitness Zones," BMI data reporting, and gender reporting.

The California Education Code requires two years of physical education in high school. If a student has satisfactorily met at least five of the six standards of the physical performance test administered in grade 9, they may request an exemption from PE by completing the GCC's physical education exemption approval process. (*EC* § 51241.b.1)

California minimum graduation requirements require students to complete Two courses in Physical Education, unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of *EC* Section 51241.

Parents should provide any important medical history to the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to report injuries to their teacher immediately.

SECTION 3

STUDENT ATTENDANCE & ENROLLMENT

Excused Absences

Regular attendance is essential for student success. Absences may be excused for reasons permitted under California Education Code, including illness (including mental or behavioral health), medical, dental, or counseling appointments, quarantine, bereavement, religious observances, court appearances, military family leave, citizenship ceremonies, approved educational activities, civic or cultural events, and other circumstances approved by the school. Parents or guardians should notify the school as soon as possible and provide appropriate verification of the reason for the absence when requested. Students with excused absences will be given a reasonable opportunity to make up missed assignments and assessments for full credit.

Unexcused Absences

Absences that do not meet the requirements for an excused absence are considered unexcused. Excessive unexcused absences or tardiness may result in a student being identified as truant in accordance with California law. GCC school will work with students and families to improve attendance through supportive interventions; however, continued truancy may result in meetings with school staff, referrals to GCC student services department, and additional consequences as permitted by law.

Attendance – Independent Study (IS) Programs

Attendance requirements for students enrolled in Independent Study (IS) programs differ from those in classroom-based programs. Attendance is based on the completion of assigned work, meaningful participation, and regular communication with assigned teachers as outlined in the Independent Study Master Agreement. Families are expected to ensure students actively participate in their educational program and comply with all attendance requirements described in the Independent Study Handbook and Board Policy.

Refer to the GCC Board Policy SP 06-08: Attendance

Verifying Student Absences

Whenever a child is absent from school, the school must receive an absence verification from the parent/guardian. The verification must include the child's name, the date(s) of the absence, and the reason for the absence. This could be a phone call, note, or an email from the parent/guardian. Please provide a note signed and dated by your physician or dentist for doctor or dentist appointments. The school attendance clerk will call home if a phone call, note, or e-mail has not been received for absent students.

The Importance of Attendance

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. Being in school each day helps students build academic skills, develop positive relationships with teachers and peers, and stay engaged in learning. While absences due to illness or other legitimate reasons are sometimes

unavoidable, frequent absences, whether excused or unexcused, can make it difficult for students to keep pace with instruction and achieve their full potential.

GCC schools are committed to partnering with families to support consistent attendance. When a student's absences or tardies begin to increase, school staff will reach out to identify any barriers to attendance and work collaboratively with the family to develop appropriate supports and interventions. Early communication helps ensure students receive the assistance they need before attendance concerns become more significant.

When a Student is Chronically Absent

If a student's attendance becomes a concern, GCC school will follow applicable state laws and Board policies regarding attendance and truancy. Families may receive attendance notifications, participate in meetings with school staff, or be referred to a Student Success Team (SST) or other support services to develop strategies for improving attendance. The goal of these interventions is to support student success through regular school attendance and a strong partnership between home and school. Below is how we support students and families when absences begin to add up.

Nonclassroom-Based Tiered Re-Engagement

Student success in an Independent Study program depends on regular participation, communication, and completion of assigned work. If a student is not making satisfactory academic progress, completing assignments, participating in required live instruction, or maintaining regular engagement, GCC will implement a tiered re-engagement process designed to identify barriers and provide support. The process begins with outreach from the student's teacher and may include conferences with the family, a Student Study Team (SST) meeting (or IEP team meeting for students with disabilities), the development of a re-engagement plan, and connections to school and community resources to help the student successfully re-engage in learning.

If a student continues to demonstrate a lack of satisfactory progress despite these interventions, additional supports may be implemented, including home outreach and review by the GCC School Attendance Review Team (SART). The purpose of this process is to partner with families, address barriers to participation, and help students remain successful in their Independent Study program. If, after all required interventions have been exhausted, the student continues to violate the Independent Study Master Agreement by failing to engage or make satisfactory progress, GCC will initiate the involuntary disenrollment process in accordance with applicable law, Board Policy, and the Admissions Policy.

Voluntary Withdrawal

If it becomes necessary for families to withdraw a student from school, a parent/guardian must notify the school office as soon as possible. Any lost books or materials fees, etc. should be paid and teachers must complete a checkout form for each student.

Involuntary Removal Process

No student shall be involuntarily removed, or disenrolled, by the school for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of the Charter School's intent

to remove the student (“Involuntary Removal Notice”). The Involuntary Removal Notice must be provided to the parent or guardian no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the proposed disenrollment date.

The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student’s parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student’s educational rights holder. The Involuntary Removal Notice shall include:

- The discipline education code violation
- An explanation of the student’s basic rights including the right to request a hearing before the effective date of the action
- The CDE Enrollment Complaint Notice and Form

If the student’s parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, “involuntarily removed” includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the Charter School’s suspension and expulsion policy.

Upon a parent’s or guardian’s request for a hearing, the Charter School will provide notice of hearing consistent with its expulsion hearing process, through which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate. The notice of hearing shall be in the native language of the student or the student’s parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student’s educational rights holder and shall include a copy of the Charter School’s expulsion hearing process.

If the parent/guardian is nonresponsive to the Involuntary Removal Notice, the student will be disenrolled as of the effective date set forth in the Involuntary Removal Notice. If parent/guardian requests a hearing and does not attend on the date scheduled for the hearing, the student will be disenrolled effective the date of the hearing.

For students with disabilities who are eligible for special education services under an Individualized Education Program (IEP), an IEP team meeting will be convened to review the student’s educational program, supports, and placement before involuntary removal is considered. The Charter School will comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding students with disabilities when considering involuntary removal.

If as a result of the hearing the student is disenrolled, notice will be sent to the student’s last known school district of residence within thirty (30) calendar days.

A hearing decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent the Charter School from making a similar recommendation in the future should student truancy continue or reoccur.

***The above is a summary of our procedures. For a copy of the full Attendance Policy, please see the school website or the main office.*

***In the event of any discrepancy between the attendance process outlined in this handbook and within the complete Attendance Policy, the complete policy shall supersede and govern.*

SECTION 4

STUDENT CONDUCT

Behavior Expectations

Students, parents/guardians, and staff at GCC Schools can expect a safe and productive learning environment where individuals (children and adults) will be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect. Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) has been implemented school-wide to develop a culture of unity and respect. CKH is at the core of a powerful process that allows every member of the school family to foster and become part of a high-performing learning community by building positive, productive, and trusting relationships among students and staff members. It consists of student-centered Social Contracts, non-verbal cues such as hand signals, and strategies for redirecting behavior. Disciplinary consequences are sometimes necessary for students to take responsibility for their choices, learn from their mistakes, and seek acceptable alternative solutions to their problems.

General School Rules

- Show respect (Respect yourself, others, and their property.)
- Make good decisions
- Solve problems
- Actively listen
- Do your best

Dress Code Guidelines

- Dress code policy is put in place to ensure a safe, distraction-free learning environment. Do not send your child to school in violation of this dress code. All clothing must be neat, clean, and appropriate for school. Clothing must be safe, worn in the manner it was designed to be worn, and must not promote conflict among students. Clothing that displays emblems of any sort that the staff and other students may perceive to be obscene, vulgar, racially-biased, gang-related, or in any other way distracting is not allowed. Students will be sent home to change if the dress code is not followed, or parents must bring appropriate attire.
- Tops that expose undergarments are not permitted.
- Pants must be worn at or above the hip point and must not show undergarments.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Sandals must have an ankle strap. No flip-flops are allowed.

PE Dress Code

In order for our students to take full advantage of our activities, we require, for safety, modesty, and hygienic reasons the following guidelines for dress codes in all physical education classes: athletic clothing (not jeans or skirts/dresses) and sneakers with laces that are secured.

Mobile Communications Device Policy

The GCC Board of Directors recognizes that student use of smartphones, smartwatches, smart glasses, and other personal mobile communication or computing devices on campus may support student learning, safety, communication, and well-being, but may also be disruptive to the

educational environment and instructional program in certain circumstances. When on campus or under the supervision of district employees, students may use such devices only as permitted by GCC Mobile Communications Devices Board Policy SP5131.8.

Items that Must Stay at Home (non-exhaustive list)

Aerosol cans, gum, sunflower seeds, water balloons, nail polish, matches/lighters, perfumes/colognes, pocket knives, sodas, energy drinks, beverages in glass containers, cigarette or drug paraphernalia, weapons/replicas, unauthorized medication, electronic games, radios, toy guns, sports equipment, and fireworks should NOT be brought to school. Individuals who bring money or other valuables onto school grounds do so at their own risk. Students who bring prohibited items on campus may be subject to our discipline policy.

GCC schools are not responsible for the damage, theft, or loss of personal property on or off school grounds.

Animals/Pets

Dogs, cats, as well as other animals and pets, are not permitted on school property while students are on campus. Contact the office for assistance in the event of a stray animal on school premises or if there is a need for a service animal.

Bicycles, Scooters, Roller Skates (Blades), Skateboards

Students may ride their bicycles or scooters to school and park in the designated space. Please note that the school will not accept responsibility for loss or damage to the bicycle/scooter. Students should not use roller skates or blades, heelys, or skateboards (or RipStiks) on the school grounds at any time. This includes shoes that have wheels built into them. Students must walk their bicycles/scooters on and around the school campus. Additionally, students are required to wear helmets as stated by California law when riding a bicycle and obey all laws relating to bicycle/scooter use to ensure safety.

Anti-Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination

GCC schools adheres to the Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy, SP 1517. All GCC schools educate students about bullying at the beginning of every school year and will not tolerate bullying/cyberbullying or harassment/discrimination of any kind. Staff, students, and parents are required to report to an administrator any known incident of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or discrimination. These reports can be made in person or anonymously. To report anonymously, use the reporting link on your school's website. You must provide enough information for the GCC staff to conduct a thorough investigation or contact you if more information is needed. GCC schools investigate all reported incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation, and/or discrimination with sensitivity and respect to all parties involved. During and/or after the investigation is complete, parents are contacted and appropriate consequences are given. The goal is to deter the bullying from happening again.

***The complete Policy is available for review on the school website or by contacting the main office.*

Internet Safety and Technology Use

Students and parents/guardians must review and agree to the GCC Computer Use Guidelines at the beginning of each school year. Students are expected to comply with these guidelines at all times. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, including the suspension or revocation of technology privileges. GCC schools provide instruction on internet safety and review the requirements of this policy with students.

***The complete Student Use of Technology Policy is available for review on the school website or by contacting the main office.*

Sale of Items at School Prohibited

The sale of any item by students, including but not limited to toys, playing cards, candy, soda, etc. to other students or staff is prohibited. Students who sell things at school will receive consequences. GCC schools are not responsible for the items, including cash, involved in transactions among students that are against the rules.

SECTION 5

STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

Health

It is not always easy to know when to send your child to school and when to leave your child home. These guidelines are based on the public health department. If you have any questions about them, please contact the school nurse. GCC schools will follow all state and county health guidelines and mandates.

Do not send a child to school with any of the following symptoms

- Fever- 100.4 or above
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Certain illnesses and rashes like chickenpox, measles, or hand, foot, and mouth disease

A healthcare provider or school nurse can help you distinguish those illnesses and when your child is no longer contagious.

School policy mandates that students with a contagious disease stay home. To ensure the health and welfare of all students, school personnel can request a doctor's note to confirm that the student is no longer contagious upon return. School personnel will provide minor first aid treatment but will contact a parent or guardian if a student vomits, suffers a severe injury, or is running a temperature. Students who are sick must be picked up immediately.

Immunizations

Students must be current on required immunizations. Students who do not have all the required immunizations for their age/grade must receive the next required dose by the specified due date to remain eligible for attendance. Students shall be excluded from school and attendance for a failure to provide proof of required immunizations or a valid medical exemption.

Prescription Medicine

An authorization form must be completed by the student's parent/guardian and doctor before trained, designated school personnel can administer prescription medications. All prescription medications must be brought to school by the parent, in the original container with the prescription label attached. This form is available in the school office and on GCC website. Students CANNOT carry any prescription in their backpacks unless in rare cases where the student is provided authorization from their doctor and approved by a GCC nurse. Please see the front office to obtain a medication authorization form.

**The complete Administration of Medications Policy (SP 5141.21) and authorization form is available for review on the school website or by contacting the main office.

Over-the-Counter Medications

The school cannot administer any over-the-counter medications. If a child needs an over-the-counter medication at school, the parent/guardian must come to the school to administer

it. Students CANNOT carry any over-the-counter medicine in their backpacks unless in rare cases where the student is provided authorization from their doctor. Please see the school front office to obtain a medication authorization form.

Head Lice

Students found with active head lice can stay in school until the end of the day, but will not be allowed close contact with others. Parents are informed about treatment and encouraged to start it immediately, checking all household contacts.

Student Emergency Contact Information

Parents/guardians are responsible for keeping current emergency contact information on file. It is extremely important to have updated information in case of an emergency to ensure timely communication. The school must know how to reach you in case of an emergency. Persons other than the guardian who picks up students should be prepared to show identification.

Custody Disputes

Parents/guardians are responsible for contacting the school if there is a court order limiting the parental participation or access rights of one or both parents. A parent/guardian must notify the office and the teacher, and provide the office with a current court order. Otherwise, both biological parents (with appropriate identification) have equal rights to participate in their child's education, including the right to: come to school to see their child, obtain school records for their child, or pick the child up from school.

Counseling Services

GCC schools provide counseling services to support students' academic, social-emotional, college and career, and overall well-being needs. School counselors work collaboratively with students, families, teachers, and administrators to help students succeed and address challenges that may affect their educational experience.

Counseling services may include academic planning, social-emotional support, college and career readiness, crisis intervention, and referrals to community resources when appropriate. Parents/guardians who have questions about available counseling services are encouraged to contact their school counselor or school administration.

Safety Drills

Fire and safety drills are held monthly to teach students proper responses to emergency situations. Evacuation maps are posted in each classroom and hallways and safety drill instructions for teachers can be found in the red classroom emergency binders. Students are to quietly and quickly follow all directions given by school staff and/or emergency personnel.

SECTION 6

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

Parents are an integral part of our school program and community, and as such, are strongly encouraged to become involved. Parents can become involved by volunteering in the classroom helping with field trips or special events, and attending School Site Council meetings. Parents interested in volunteering their time, skills, or talents, should talk to the classroom teacher or reach out to the school's front office for details and then fill out the volunteer paperwork with the front office. Increased parental involvement at school and at home, increases student success. GCC adheres to GCC Board Policy SP 6020 regarding parent involvement.

Volunteer Information

Gateway Community Charters (GCC) encourages and appreciates parents, guardians, and community members who are willing to share their time by volunteering in our schools. Volunteers can play an important part in enriching the lives of our students. GCC cares about our students and their safety and, therefore, has created volunteer procedures and requirements to keep the children safe. All volunteers must follow the volunteer procedures and requirements of GCC. All volunteer applications can be completed online in Informed K-12. Applicants should choose the appropriate form for the correct level of volunteering, either Level 1 or Level 2.

Level 1

Level 1 volunteers are those who are volunteering for a one-time event on-site and will be under the direct supervision* of a GCC staff member who is physically present at all times with the volunteer. They are required to complete a Volunteer Application and sign the Volunteer Oath. The Volunteer Application must be signed and approved by the Principal and both documents must be maintained by the school site. Level 1 volunteers are not required to complete the fingerprint clearance or provide tuberculosis (TB) screening results; however, if the volunteer wishes to volunteer more than once, he/she will then have to complete Level 2 volunteer requirements.

*Direct supervision means that the volunteer will not be alone with students at any time during the volunteer period. The students are still under the constant and direct care and supervision of the GCC staff member.

Level 2

Level 2 volunteers are those who volunteer more than one time and/or will be working with students without the direct supervision of a GCC staff member present at all times with the volunteer. Level 2 volunteers will be required to complete a fingerprint clearance and provide proof of a clear tuberculosis (TB) screening, in addition to the application and oath. All TB Risk Assessments are valid for four years. If a TB clearance expires during your time as a volunteer, an updated TB clearance must be provided to continue as a volunteer for GCC. Level 2 volunteer applications are processed by the GCC Human Resources department. When a volunteer has cleared, the site will be notified by HR that the applicant is clear to start volunteering. The site will contact the applicant to inform them of their clearance and permission to start. HR and the

school site must maintain a list of cleared Level 2 volunteers and maintain the list year to year. Field trips chaperones are considered Level 2 volunteers and must meet all Level 2 requirements.

***Volunteers under 18 years of age must complete the volunteer application and oath and must always be under the direct supervision of a GCC staff member.*

***Please Note: Volunteers who drive students on a field trip must also complete the Volunteer Personal Automobile Use form and supply the required documentation, including a valid driver's license and proof of liability insurance prior to the field trip.*

School Site Council (SSC)

The School Site Council is a very important part of the governance structure at GCC schools. The SSC is charged with participating in the development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (including the site budget), approving the plan, and recommending it for approval by the GCC Board of Directors. SSC is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plan, including the expenditure of funds and the monitoring of achievement. SSC parents are elected by all parents. If you are interested in being placed on the ballot, please contact the school principal in August.

District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC)

This committee is made up of parents whose students are English language learners and speak another language at home. They are elected by parents and give input regarding the program and services offered to EL students.

Fundraising

Throughout the year, GCC schools hold fundraisers. Proceeds benefit students and the school as a whole. As school budgets have been deeply cut, support and involvement with fundraising efforts are appreciated (though not required for your student's continued enrollment at GCC).

Communication with Parents

Aeries Parent Portal

Families should create an Aeries account and link all students to one account. You can monitor absences and grades in real-time. Please visit [Aeries Parent Login](#)

Parent Square

Families should also have a Parent Square account. This account links to Aeries and is used to provide secure communication and documents to families. Please visit [ParentSquare Login](#)

School Newsletters

A school newsletter will be emailed regularly, informing parents of important information, upcoming events, and ways to help out at the school.

School Website and Social Media

The school website, X, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook page have a wealth of information. It is important to consistently check the website(s) for new information.

Student or Parent Complaints

If students or parents have a school-related complaint, this should first be addressed at the site level. Students or parents should contact the teacher in a timely manner and directly either by email or in person if they have a question about grading or assignments. These concerns must be dealt with after instructional hours. Parents cannot interrupt a class session to ask teachers about grades or express concern. The conversation must also be private, not in front of other students, parents, or staff. Students and parents can also bring their concerns directly to the school administration. Parents may not confront other students on campus. If you have concerns about other students, you must bring that to the attention of a staff member and let the staff address it.

Uniform Complaint Procedures:

GCC schools are responsible for ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs and have established procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination and/or failure to apply such laws. The GCC Board encourages early, informal resolution of complaints at the site level whenever possible. If parties feel further investigation and resolution are needed, concerns should be submitted in writing to:

Gateway Community Charters
5112 Arnold Avenue, Suite A, McClellan, CA 95652
Phone: (916) 286-5129
Fax: (916) 993-4110

A complete copy of the Uniform Complaint Procedures is posted in the school office and available upon request.

Title IX Complaint and Investigation Procedures:

GCC schools are responsible for ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing sex- based discrimination and harassment.

A copy of the Title IX Policy is provided to families annually and posted to the school website.

Three-Way School Compact

School Name: _____

It is important that families and schools work together to help students achieve high academic standards. Through a balanced educational approach, we can ensure success. The following are agreed-upon roles and responsibilities for teachers, students, and parents. Your signature signifies support for these actions.

Student Pledge

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Come to school on time ready to learn and work hard.
- Bring necessary materials and completed assignments..
- Know and follow my social contracts and school rules.
- Ask for help when I need it.
- Communicate regularly with my parents and teachers about school experiences so that they can help me to be successful in school.
- Limit my TV watching and video games and instead study or read every day after school.
- Respect the school, classmates, staff, and families.

Family/Parent Pledge

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Provide a quiet time and place to study and monitor screen time.
- Read to my child or encourage my child to read every day.
- Communicate with the teacher or the school when I have a concern.
- Ensure that my child attends school dressed appropriately every day, gets adequate sleep, regular medical attention, and proper nutrition.
- Regularly monitor my child's progress in school.
- Participate at school in activities such as school decision-making, volunteering, and/or attending parent-teacher conferences.
- Communicate the importance of education and learning to my child.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.
- Monitor my child's online activities.

Teacher Pledge

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- Endeavor to motivate my students to learn.
- Have high expectations and help every child to develop a love of learning.
- Enforce and follow social contracts.
- Communicate regularly with families about student progress.
- Provide a warm, safe, and caring learning environment.
- Provide meaningful, daily assignments to reinforce and extend learning.
- Participate in professional development opportunities that improve teaching and learning and support the formation of partnerships with families and the community.
- Actively participate in collaborative decision-making and consistently work with families and my school colleagues to make schools accessible and welcoming places for families which help each student achieve the school's high academic standards.
- Respect the school, students, staff, and families.

*****I have read and received the parent and student handbook.***

Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature	Teacher Signature
Date	Date	Date

SECTION 7

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Principal Welcome

Dear SAVA Families,

Welcome to a new school year! On behalf of our entire staff, I am excited to welcome both our returning families and those joining our school community for the first time. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure every student has a successful, meaningful, and rewarding school year.

At SAVA, we believe every student can achieve success when provided with the right support, meaningful relationships, and high expectations. Our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to creating a safe, welcoming environment where students are challenged academically, encouraged to grow personally, and prepared for college, career, and life beyond high school.

This year, we will continue to strengthen our focus on student engagement, attendance, and college and career readiness. Students will participate in live instruction, individualized learning, and Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities that help them develop valuable skills and prepare for future success. We encourage families to stay actively involved by maintaining regular communication with teachers, monitoring student progress, and partnering with us throughout the school year.

Our staff is excited to build strong relationships with each student and family. Together, we can create an environment where students feel connected, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Thank you for choosing SAVA. We are honored to be part of your student's educational journey and look forward to an outstanding school year filled with growth, achievement, and new opportunities.

Lezli McEndree

Principal
SAVA Elk Grove

School Mission/Vision

The mission of the Sacramento Academic & Vocational Academy is to ensure dynamic support systems are in place and provide multiple pathways for students to achieve their goals beyond high school. SAVA creates innovative educational programs that give every student the opportunity to succeed. While all students in grades 6 through 12 may find value in the SAVA program, SAVA's primary dedication lies in serving underserved, low socioeconomic, and marginalized communities, where access to quality education and support services may be scarce. SAVA believes all students learn, achieve and thrive when we love, teach and guide.

SAVA's vision is that every graduate will leave SAVA classified as "prepared" for College and Career as indicated on the California Dashboard. SAVA students will graduate with the skills and knowledge they need to join the workforce, start an internship, go into a trade school or be accepted at a two or four year college.

School Contact Information

SAVA Elk Grove Location
3141 Dwight Road, Elk Grove, California
School Phone: 916-428-3200
Principal Cell: 916-223-4990

Office Hours

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Office hours may vary during school breaks, holidays, and summer sessions. Please contact the school office to confirm hours before visiting.

Parking

Parking is available in front of each school building.

Visitor Procedures

To help maintain a safe and secure learning environment, all visitors must check in at the school office immediately upon arrival. Visitors may be asked to present a valid photo ID, state the purpose of their visit, and wear a visitor badge while on campus.

Parents and guardians wishing to observe a classroom or meet with a staff member should schedule an appointment in advance through the school office. Classroom visits are subject to administrative approval and may be limited to minimize disruptions to instruction and protect student privacy.

Visitors are expected to follow all school rules and directions from staff while on campus. The school reserves the right to deny or revoke campus access to any individual whose presence is determined to be disruptive or poses a safety concern. Unauthorized individuals on campus may be asked to leave immediately.

Arrival/Dismissal

Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for the start of their scheduled classes. Prompt arrival helps maximize instructional time and supports a positive learning environment. Students are expected to remain on campus for the duration of their scheduled session and may not leave before dismissal at 12:00 p.m. (morning session) or 3:30 p.m. (afternoon session) unless checked out by a parent, guardian, or authorized emergency contact.

If a student needs to leave early, a parent or guardian must contact the school office or come into the office to sign the student out. Students will only be released through the office. Early dismissals should be limited to appointments or other necessary circumstances whenever possible.

Bell Schedule

SAVA students must complete their assigned work every school day, Monday-Friday. In-person instruction and enrichment follows a block schedule designed to provide students with extended in-person instructional time and academic support. High School students attend these live classes assigned to their individual schedule. Additional intervention, support, or enrichment opportunities may be scheduled as needed. The live class schedule is as follows:

High School (Grades 9–12)

- **Tuesday–Friday**
 - Morning Block: **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
 - Afternoon Block: **12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Middle School (Grades 7–8)

Middle school students attend in-person four days per week, Tuesday through Friday, either an **AM session (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)** or a **PM session (12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)**.

Calendar

The 2026–2027 School Calendar is included on page 42 of this handbook. Please note that December 14–18, 2026, and May 24–28, 2027, are scheduled minimum days. Students and families should plan accordingly.

SECTION 8

SCHOOL PROGRAMS & PROCEDURES

Grading

SAVA students earn high school credits through a combination of online curriculum and live (teacher-led) courses. Credit is awarded based on completed work, mastery of standards, and adherence to grading policies set by the school and individual teachers. The credit model is aligned with California Education Code requirements and supports student progress toward graduation.

Online Curriculum Courses (e.g., Edgenuity)

SAVA's adopted online curriculum is structured by semester and divided into five (5) units. Each completed and mastered unit is worth one (1) credit, totaling up to five (5) credits per semester course. Credit is issued when:

- The student fully completes the unit, including all required activities and the unit exam; and
- The student demonstrates mastery by passing the unit exam.
- SAVA does not inflate or alter grades based on partial progress; for example, an A earned for three completed units will remain three credits with an A, rather than being converted into five credits with a lower grade.

Students earn partial credits in these courses, depending on how many units they complete and pass during the semester. For example, if a student completes and passes three units, they will receive three (3) credits.

Live Courses (e.g., CTE, English Language Development, Math Labs)

Live courses at SAVA are structured as full-semester classes. Students enrolled in these courses are expected to:

- Attend regularly
- Engage in all instructional activities
- Complete assignments and assessments as outlined in the course syllabus

Students in live courses earn partial, five (5) credits or zero (0) credits, depending on overall performance and completion. Grades and credit are determined based on the teacher's grading policy, which may include weighted categories such as assignments, projects, participation, and final exams. The grading policy is shared with students and families at the beginning of the course.

Failure to meet course expectations, including excessive absences or lack of assignment completion, may result in no credit awarded for the course.

Academic Reporting:

Report Cards, Progress Reports and Graduation Status Notifications

SAVA is committed to keeping students and families informed about academic progress throughout the school year.

- Report cards are issued at the end of each semester and will be mailed home to the address on file.
- Progress reports are distributed at the midpoint of each semester and provide a snapshot of student performance in their current courses.

In addition, any student who is identified as being at risk of not graduating with their four-year cohort will receive a formal graduation status notification letter. This letter will be mailed and/or emailed by Week 6 of each semester, outlining the student's current credit status, graduation requirements, and next steps.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their student's progress regularly and may request updated progress reports, graduation plans, or assistance accessing the Aeries Parent Portal, which provides real-time access to grades and attendance.

Transferability

Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy has been granted accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

SAVA offers courses for students interested in pursuing four-year colleges and universities as well as community colleges and career technical education trade schools. SAVA courses approved for A-G college admissions requirements have been submitted and approved through the University of California Office of the President (UCOP). A-G approved courses are accepted at all University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) institutions.

Transferability of credits between California high schools and out-of-state high schools is always determined by the admitting school on a case-by-case situation.

Student Conferences

Student conferences are an important part of SAVA's commitment to supporting student success. Conferences may be scheduled throughout the school year to review academic progress, attendance, graduation status, behavior, or other student needs.

Conferences may include the student, parent or guardian, teacher(s), counselor, administrator, or other support staff, as appropriate. The purpose of these meetings is to celebrate successes, identify areas for growth, develop intervention plans when needed, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in student conferences and communicate regularly with school staff. Additional conferences may be requested by a parent, student, or school staff member at any time to address concerns or discuss student progress.

Homework

Because SAVA is an independent study and blended learning program, much of a student's assigned learning takes place outside of scheduled live instruction. Students are expected to engage in assigned school work each school day (Monday through Friday) by participating in live instruction as scheduled, completing independent assignments, studying, preparing for assessments, or finishing coursework.

The amount of independent work varies based on grade level, course enrollment, individual learning pace, and student needs. Students are responsible for completing assigned work by teacher-established deadlines and maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Developing effective time management and organizational skills is essential to remaining on pace for course completion and graduation.

School Work

Students are expected to actively participate in all assigned coursework, whether completed during live instruction, independently, or through a combination of both. School work may include online lessons, assignments, projects, assessments, reading, writing, and other learning activities aligned to course standards and individualized learning plans.

Students are responsible for completing assigned work by the deadlines established by their teacher and demonstrating mastery of course standards. Timely completion of school work is essential for academic progress, teacher feedback, and successful course completion. Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor student progress through Aeries and Canvas and communicate with teachers if concerns arise.

Positive Reinforcement

SAVA is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where all students can thrive. Through the implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), staff intentionally build positive relationships, establish clear expectations, and recognize students for demonstrating positive behavior, responsibility, and academic effort.

Students may be recognized in a variety of ways, including verbal praise, positive communication with families, classroom acknowledgments, school-wide recognition, incentives, leadership opportunities, and participation in special activities or events. Recognition is intended to encourage positive behavior, strengthen school connectedness, and promote a culture of respect, responsibility, and excellence.

Consequences

SAVA believes that student discipline should be fair, consistent, and focused on teaching positive behavior while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment. When student behavior does not meet school expectations, staff will use developmentally appropriate interventions that emphasize reflection, accountability, problem-solving, and restoration whenever possible.

Consequences may include verbal reminders, restorative conversations, reteaching of expectations, parent or guardian contact, behavior contracts, loss of privileges, counseling or support interventions, detention, campus service, suspension, or other disciplinary actions as authorized by California Education Code and school policy. The nature of the consequence will depend on the severity, frequency, and circumstances of the behavior.

For behaviors that constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion, SAVA will follow all applicable provisions of California Education Code and provide students with the due process protections required by law.

Graduation and Promotion Requirements

1. A student must earn a minimum of 200 credits in courses approved by Gateway Community Charters (GCC) for high school credit in order to graduate. The grade point average (GPA) on all credits counted toward graduation must be no less than 1.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Courses offered by GCC for high school credit generally award five (5) credits per semester for full completion. However, partial credits may be awarded based on the amount of work completed and the student's demonstrated mastery of course standards, as documented in the curriculum platform or by the course instructor. All credit awarding follows GCC board policy and California Education Code guidelines.

2. The minimum of 200 credits for graduation from high school shall include:

COURSES	SEMESTERS	CREDITS
English Language Arts (4 years)	8	40
Mathematics (3 years including Algebra or Integrated Math 1)	6	30
Physical Science	2	10
Life Science	2	10
World History	2	10
US History	2	10
Government	1	5
Economics	1	5
Ethnic Studies	1	5
Fine Art or Foreign Language	2	10
Physical Education (2 years)	4	20

Career and Technical Education (CTE)	4	20
Electives	5	25
Total Credits Required		200

*Students must pass Algebra 1 or Integrated Math I in order to graduate.

Special Conditions Regarding Graduation Requirements

1. No more than 40 credits may be earned in any semester from any combination of courses or Work Experience without prior written permission by the principal or designee.
 - a. A student may petition Superintendent/designee for a maximum of 50 credits to complete graduation requirements in the student's graduating semester.
2. The Superintendent or designee regularly will make available a list of specific courses approved by the GCC, which meet graduation requirements and a list of specific courses that may be taken for elective credit. This can be found on the school website.
3. A foster youth, homeless/transitional student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant students who transfer between schools any time after completing their second year of high school; or a Newcomer pupil in their third or fourth year of high school shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional District-adopted graduation requirements, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school (GCC Board Policy BP 14-17).

Participation in Graduation Activities

Participation in promotion (8th grade) and graduation (12th grade) ceremonies is a privilege and not a guaranteed right. Eligibility is based on a combination of academic progress, behavior, and school engagement and is subject to administrative review.

Students may be excluded from participating in promotion or graduation ceremonies if they:

- Have unresolved disciplinary or behavioral issues; and/or
- Have not met the minimum credit requirements for graduation as determined by SAVA and GCC guidelines.

High school students who do not complete the required 200 credits by the end of the spring semester will not be eligible to participate in the June graduation ceremony. These students may be given the opportunity to recover credits through summer school or during the following fall semester. Upon completion of all graduation requirements, they may be eligible to participate in the winter graduation ceremony.

All final decisions regarding participation will be made by the site administration in consultation with counselors and staff, and will consider what is in the best interest of the student and the school community.

Progress Toward Graduation

SAVA defines progress toward graduation as a combination of consistent academic engagement, adequate credit completion, and growth toward mastery of standards outlined in the student's individualized graduation plan.

While every student's path may be different, students in a traditional four-year graduation cohort are generally expected to complete a minimum of 25 credits per semester, or 50 credits per year, to remain on track. A typical pace toward graduation includes:

Grade Level Placement Based on Credits			
Year in High School	Grade Level	Regular Graduation Path	Credit Reduction Path
1st Year	9th	0-49 credits earned (200-150 credits needed)	0-49 credits earned (130-81 credits needed)
2nd Year	10th	50-99 credits earned (149-100 credits needed)	50-79 credits earned (80-41 credits needed)
3rd Year	11th	100-149 credits earned (99-50 credits needed)	80-109 credits earned (40-21 credits needed)
4th year	12th	150-200 credits earned (49-0 credits needed)	110-130 credits earned (20-0 credits needed)

SAVA recognizes that many students come with different credit histories, especially transfer students or those returning from credit-deficient situations. In such cases, counselors will assess transcripts upon enrollment and place students on a personalized graduation plan based on their entry grade level, credit status, and postsecondary goals. These plans may place students on an adjusted timeline to graduation.

When students fall off pace with their graduation plan, their Teacher of Record (TOR) will hold a documented meeting (in person or via phone call) with the student and parent/guardian to review progress, update the graduation plan, and discuss next steps. If students continue to demonstrate limited progress or miss agreed-upon benchmarks, they will be referred to a formal intervention team, which may include site administration, TOR, content teachers, and student support staff. A student's plan of support may include revised scheduling, additional academic requirements, attendance support, or increased on-campus days.

Parents and guardians will be kept informed of their student's academic progress through:

- Semester report cards
- Updated graduation plans (available by request or during intervention meetings)
- Progress reports, upon request
- Access to the Aeries Parent Portal, which includes real-time grade tracking for all courses

In addition, parents or guardians may request a meeting with school staff at any time to review

graduation status and discuss support options. Students who are not on pace to graduate with their original cohort will be required to sign an updated graduation plan acknowledging their adjusted timeline.

Progression Towards Retention and Promotion 6th-8th grade

SAVA recognizes that students in middle school develop academically, socially, and emotionally at different rates. Decisions regarding promotion from grade 7 to grade 8, and from grade 8 to grade 9, are based on a holistic review of the student's academic progress, attendance, engagement, and overall readiness.

SAVA does not rely solely on a student's failure in one or more courses to determine retention. Instead, school staff work closely with families to identify needed supports and interventions to help students meet academic expectations and prepare for success in high school. When necessary, individual learning plans or additional services may be provided to support a smooth transition to the next grade level.

All promotion and retention decisions are made in accordance with California Education Code and Gateway Community Charters board policy, with consideration of what is in the best educational interest of the student.

Dual Enrollment

GCC students may have the opportunity to take approved community college courses while they are still in high school, either as part of a school's pathway or on their own. These courses can help students explore college and career interests, build confidence with college-level work, and, in most cases, earn both high school and college credit. Students should work closely with their school counselor before enrolling in any college course. Counselors help students and families choose courses that fit the student's graduation plan, academic readiness, and college or career goals. Parent/guardian input, course availability, and school approval may also be part of the process.

Approved dual enrollment courses may be accepted for high school credit when students earn a passing grade. College courses are recorded on the student's high school transcript using the grade issued by the college and may also be eligible for weighted GPA credit. Because college courses become part of a student's official college record, students and families should take dual enrollment seriously. Poor performance or repeated course withdrawals may affect future college or financial aid opportunities. GCC encourages students to use available supports, including counselor check-ins and dual enrollment support classes when assigned or recommended.

Students with IEPs or 504 Plans should speak with their counselor and IEP/504 team before beginning a college course. College accommodations are handled through the college's disability services office, not through GCC, but GCC staff can help guide students and families through the process.

GCC will cover required textbooks, materials, tuition, and fees for approved courses that students take for dual credit. Nonconsumable textbooks and materials purchased by GCC remain

school property and must be returned when the course ends or if the student leaves the course or school.

Work Permits

Work experience can be a valuable complement to a student's educational experience. Minors, ages 12 through 17, are required by law to possess a work permit to be employed. Students must present the following items to obtain a work permit:

- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Proof of age (birth certificate, driver's license, state I.D. card, or immigration card)
- Proof of school enrollment (last quarter report card, letter of verification, or computer printout)
- Student must sign their work permit in the presence of issuing authority

Each school site will issue work permits only as allowed by law and only to the extent that outside employment does not significantly interfere with schoolwork. Contact your school when requesting a work permit during the school year. You may contact Student Services at 916-286-5129 when requesting a work permit during the summer. (*EC* § 49110)

Biliteracy

GCC awards the Biliteracy Attainment Recognition Award to eligible students in grades 5 and 8 who apply for and successfully meet the established criteria for their grade level. These criteria are based on state recommendations and are designed to assess bilingualism in a developmentally appropriate manner. This recognition celebrates students' achievement, commitment, and growth in multilingualism. Its purpose is to encourage students to continue their world language studies and ultimately work toward earning the State Seal of Biliteracy in high school. For more information about the Biliteracy Attainment Recognition Award and its requirements, please contact your student's school.

State Seal of Biliteracy

GCC awards the State Seal of Biliteracy to eligible graduating students in accordance with criteria established by the California Department of Education. The State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in English and one or more world languages. The State Seal of Biliteracy is affixed to the diploma of each qualifying student and is noted on the student's official high school transcript. In recognition of this achievement, GCC also presents qualifying students with a medallion and/or honor cord to wear during commencement ceremonies.

Textbooks

Each student is provided with instructional materials in accordance with applicable law. Students are expected to exercise reasonable care in the use of school-issued materials and to return all borrowed materials upon request and in good condition, excluding normal wear and tear. Pursuant to California Education Code section 48904 and applicable school policies, a student and/or parent/guardian may be held responsible for the replacement cost of school property that

is not returned or that is lost, damaged, or defaced, as permitted by law. The school will provide notice and an opportunity to resolve any claims for lost or damaged property.

Graduation Ceremonies

Seniors who have met the graduation requirements by the last calendar day of any given school year are invited to participate in the graduation ceremony at the school of their attendance. Students who have not met all the graduation requirements may not participate in the graduation ceremony. The principal may deny the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or promotion activities based on the student's conduct and behavior per GCC Board Policy CI 5127.

APPENDICES

GCC and Community Resources

GCC Community Engagement Department

Phone: (916) 286-5128

Email: gcc-ced@gcccharters.org

The GCC Community Engagement Department is dedicated to building strong relationships among schools, families, and the community to create opportunities that help students and families thrive. Grounded in the GCC Portrait of a Graduate and the Community School Strategy, our team works to remove barriers to success, promote equity, and support the academic, social, and emotional well-being of all students and families.

How We Support Students and Families

Our services include:

- **Family Support:** Connecting families with community resources, services, and guidance to address needs such as food assistance, housing, healthcare, transportation, mental health services, and other basic needs.
- **Student Support:** Creating meaningful opportunities, programs, and events that help students grow, lead, and stay engaged in their school community.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborating with local agencies, organizations, and businesses to expand access to valuable services and supports for GCC students and families.

Family Resources

The GCC Community Engagement Department provides access to the [GCC Family & Community Resource Guide](#), which includes information about local food assistance programs, housing resources, healthcare services, mental health supports, utility assistance, childcare, and other community resources available throughout Sacramento County and surrounding areas.

Families can also access support through:

- [Sacramento 2-1-1](#), a comprehensive directory of local health and human services.
- [FindHelp.org](#), a free online resource that connects families with food, housing, healthcare, financial assistance, childcare, education, and other support services.
- [Sacramento Food Bank Food Locator](#), a directory of food distribution sites by ZIP code, including food pantries, meal programs, and other food assistance resources.

Immigration Resources

Gateway Community Charters is committed to ensuring that all students and families feel safe, welcomed, and supported, regardless of immigration status. GCC provides access to information and referrals related to educational rights, legal protections, immigration legal services, family preparedness planning, mental health support, and community advocacy resources.

Available supports include:

- Know Your Rights information and educational materials for immigrant families.

- Information regarding California laws that protect immigrant students and families, including protections related to school access and student privacy.
- Family preparedness resources, emergency planning guides, and legal rights ("Red") cards.
- Referrals to immigration legal service providers and community-based organizations.
- Rapid Response Network information and community support resources.
- Mental health and emotional wellness resources for students and families impacted by immigration-related concerns.

Additional immigration resources are available through the [Immigrant Family Resources](#) page on the GCC website.

Requesting Assistance

Students, families, and staff may request support by completing the:
[GCC Student & Family Support Request Form](#)

A member of the Community Engagement Department will follow up to connect families with appropriate resources and services based on their individual needs.

For additional information, questions, or concerns, please contact the GCC Community Engagement Department at gcc-ced@gcccharters.org or (916) 286-5128.

Gateway Community Charters 26/27 School Calendar

Gateway Community Charters 2026 -2027 School Calendar



JUL '26 0

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

AUG '26 19

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEP '26 20

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCT '26 21

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOV '26 15

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DEC '26 14

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Key Calendar Dates
First Day of School, 8/5/2026
Last Day of School, 5/28/2027

Non Student Days
Teacher in Service, 8/3 - 8/4/2026
Teacher in Service, 10/5/2026
Teacher in Service, 1/4/2027
Teacher in Service, 4/5/2027

Holidays 2026-27
Jul 3 Independence Day (Observed)
Sep. 4 School Recess
Sep. 7 Labor Day
Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Nov.23-27 Thanksgiving
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1 Winter Break
Jan.18 MLK Jr. Holiday
Feb.15-19 President's Week
Mar 26 - April 2 Spring Break
May 31 Memorial Day
Jun 18 Juneteenth (Observed)

End of Grading Periods
Trimester 1 - (60 Days) 10/30/2026
Trimester 2 - (60 Days) 2/24/2027
Trimester 3 - (60 Days) 5/28/2027
Semester 1- (88 Days) 12/18/2026
Semester 2- (92 Days) 5/28/2027

JAN '27 18

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEB '27 15

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MAR '27 19

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APR '27 19

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY '27 20

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

JUN '27 0

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

89

91

Total Service Days: 180
BOARD ADOPTED: 1/13/2026