



PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK **2025-2026 School Year**

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<https://aeries.gcccharters.org/parent>

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Empowering Possibilities International Charter

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The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint parents and students with the program, policies, and procedures of Empowering Possibilities International Charter School (EPIC). The contents of the handbook were developed with you and your child in mind. We sincerely hope that the information within will be valuable to you throughout the school year.

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Welcome to Empowering Possibilities **International Charter School!**

We here at EPIC welcome you and your family to a community of learners in pursuit of an excellent education and lifelong learning. We are a school based on the belief that strength in education is a partnership of parents, students, staff and the community. We deeply value the commitment you have made to send your student to EPIC.



We are the EPIC Owls:

****Please take time to review with your student the information and policies in this Handbook****

EPIC's Vision

To prepare our students for the competitive global economy, EPIC will provide a safe learning environment that fosters students' risk-taking, inquiry and independent thinking skills.

EPIC's Mission

All EPIC students will acquire knowledge, concepts, and skills to succeed in their choice of college and career in order to positively contribute to both their local and global communities.

EPIC is a Charter School

A charter school is a public school of choice that operates with freedom from many of the guidelines that apply to traditional public schools. Charter schools must still comply with state and federal mandated laws and programs. Charter schools are unique as they dictate the way they will follow many mandated laws and programs. This is done through each school's individual charter petition. This document establishes each individual school's performance contract detailing the school's mission and vision, programs offered, goals for academic success, students served, methods of assessment, and fiscal sustainability. The length of the time for which EPIC's charter is granted permission to operate in California is 5 years (we have been renewed through 2027). Charter schools are accountable to their sponsor, which in our case is the Yolo County Office of Education, to produce positive academic results and adhere to their granted charter petition. EPIC operates under the supervision of Gateway Community Charters (GCC), a Charter Management Organization.

Empowering Possibilities International Charter (EPIC) was originally founded as Community Collaborative Charter School of West Sacramento in 2011. In 2014, the school transitioned to EPIC when the Yolo County Board of Education accepted our new school charter. EPIC was created through a collaboration between the community and GCC, who came together to create an internationally-focused school based on world languages that would fill an educational void in the community. EPIC was founded to provide the highest quality education possible for all students while also being sensitive to the needs and values of our community.

GCC VISION Our 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.

GCC MISSION Gateway Community Charters, Inc. (GCC) is an independent non-profit agency that supports students, parents and the community through the conception, development, administration and governance of innovative, high quality, standards-based educational school choice options within the greater Sacramento region.

I. Overview of the Educational Programs at EPIC

Academic Program

EPIC is a free public Gateway Community Charters (GCC) charter school serving students in Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade. EPIC is a fully authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) world school for both our TK-5th grade Primary Years Program (PYP) and 6th-8th grade Middle Years Program (MYP). EPIC challenges students with a rigorous, standards-based, college preparatory curriculum. Students learn 21st Century skills that are incorporated into the IB framework. EPIC is a WASC accredited school and received a 6-year WASC accreditation in the spring of 2021.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

At EPIC, we believe that an International Baccalaureate (IB) education enriches the culturally diverse community of West Sacramento and adds to the menu of quality education programs that serve the students throughout the area. **"The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right."** (Source: www.ibo.org/mission/)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program provides education that develops the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills necessary to be college/career ready and prepares students to contribute to a globalizing world. There are four components to the IB program: Primary Years Programme (PYP) which focuses on TK through 5th grade; the Middle Years Programme (MYP) which focuses on grades 6-8; the Diploma Programme (DP) and the Career-related Programme (CP) which both focus on the high school grades. The IB Program has a presence in countries throughout the world and universities worldwide recognize the strength of students who have experienced the IB Program. EPIC chose to be an IB school because the IB Program has a reputation for high standards of teaching, pedagogical leadership and student achievement.

The IB has 10 Learner Profile Traits that are key elements of the EPIC culture which all students and staff strive to attain. EPIC believes that students who embody the IB Mission and Learner Profile will be successful in a 21st century global environment.

Knowledgeable: Students explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In doing so, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad range of disciplines.

Thinkers: Students exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators: Students understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled: Students act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the

individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open Minded: Students understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring: Students show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers: Students approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced: Students understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Inquirer: Students develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained through their lives.

Reflective: Students give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

EPIC English Learner Programs (EL Programs)

EPIC has a comprehensive program of Designated and Integrated ELD as required by California law for English Learner Students. All EPIC EL students receive differentiated Designated ELD multiple times a week. Our primary means of implementing Integrated ELD is through Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) strategies. Project GLAD is an instructional model that supports teachers by providing differentiated strategies to integrate instruction in English and grade-level content standards in a heterogeneous, mainstream classroom. GLAD is a TK through grade twelve instructional model consisting of thirty-five strategies. The strategies are designed for teachers who have a significant number of English Language learners in their classroom. EPIC uses GLAD strategies in all of our classrooms because the strategies specifically develop both conversational skills as well as academic English. Teachers use GLAD strategies to support the development of vocabulary and linguistic structures students need to participate in context-rich discourse.

Tutoring

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.

The Student Success Team (SST)

SST is a problem-solving and coordinating approach that assists students, families and teachers to seek positive solutions for maximizing student potentials academically and/or behaviorally. It provides opportunities for school staff, parents, and other important people in the life of the student to present their concerns about the student through discussion and study, to plan a positive course of action, assign responsibilities, and monitor results. The team oversees the development of plans to meet students' needs, if possible, without referral to assessment for special education needs. The team will monitor students' progress and students can exit the SST process based on improvement.

6-6 Before and After School Program

EPIC offers a free before and after school program Monday-Friday to all enrolled students. The before school component runs from 6:00 a.m. until school starts. The after school component runs from dismissal to 6:00 p.m. This is not a drop-in program and students must register and attend consistently. After school activities include our music program, language clubs, outside active games, technology-based activities such as E-Sports and robotics, chess, cooking, gymnastics and martial arts. After school tutoring in English/Language Arts and

mathematics will also occur after school for eligible students. Programming is subject to change.

California School Dashboard

The California School Dashboard is the foundation of the CA state accountability system and reports on multiple measures of school success, including test scores, graduation rates, English learner progress, and attendance information. The dashboard is updated annually and is designed to inform teaching, support student learning and inform the public as to the progress of all California schools and students.

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/57105790132464/2024>

II. POLICIES and PROCEDURES

Arrivals- Students may not be on campus before 6:00 a.m. There is no adult supervision prior to this time. After 7:45 a.m., All students should report to either the multi-purpose room (for breakfast only) or to the playground. Students who arrive before 7:45 a.m. must report to the multi-purpose room.

Grades TK – 3 Schedule: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grades 4-8 Schedule: 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Friday ALL School Schedule- 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

It is important that parents do not park and leave their vehicles unattended in the drop off zones during school hours (8:00-3:45 p.m.). Parents arriving late with students must enter through the main EPIC entrance and sign in at the office. Parents who are staying on campus with their children after the start of the school day MUST go to the office, sign in, and wear a Visitor's Badge.

Dismissal- All students must be picked up promptly at the end of each school day by 3:15 p.m. (or 12:30 p.m. on Fridays) unless they are participating in an authorized school program or activity. It is imperative that children be picked up on time after school ends. Students who are still on campus after pickup time will be brought to the office and the parents/contacts will be called. If there is no response by phone from parents or emergency contacts, the school will call the local authorities.

Closed Campus- In an effort to keep all students safe and supervised, once a student arrives on the school grounds they must remain on campus until the end of the school day unless there is a note provided by the parent or guardian and permission has been granted by school office staff to leave. If a student leaves school grounds without permission, the student is considered truant and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance is IMPERATIVE!

Getting your child to school on time is one of the most important ways parents can advocate for their children.

Attendance/Absences: (For more information, see GCC Board policy: BP 06-08: Attendance)

Student Absences- School attendance is critical for a student's success. Parents are required to send their child to school –each day school is in session. Parents are strongly encouraged to schedule medical appointments during non-school hours. Absence from school will be excused for health reasons, family emergencies, attendance at funeral services for a family member, appearance in court, or observation of a religious holiday or ceremony.

School Attendance is Required by Law- The State of California believes that education is essential for children and for our future. State law requires parent/guardians of children ages 6 to 18 to send their children to school, unless otherwise provided by law. Parents who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution.

Tardy Arrival- If a student arrives later than 8:45 a.m., he/she must **check in at the office** for a tardy slip before going to class. Tardiness is excused only for doctor and dental appointments, injuries, and illnesses. A note from the parent/guardian or medical office must accompany the student before returning to class. Students are responsible to collect any missed work while away from the classroom.

Early Dismissal- All students are expected to have a pass when leaving the classroom during scheduled class time. Students may be asked to show passes at any time at the request of a school employee. Parent authorization is required for any student leaving school at times other than the normal dismissal time. Persons picking up a student during the school day must report to the office and sign out the student; they may not go directly to the classroom. Students are responsible to collect any missed work while away from the classroom.

If your child must leave during the school day, please do the following:

- Sign student(s) out at the office and get an early dismissal form.
- The teacher will be called to get the student(s) ready for dismissal. Student(s) will be sent to the office where parents will be waiting. *Parents may not go to the classroom to dismiss their student.*
- At no time should parents pick up students early without checking students out, even if it is a minimum day. To ensure accountability and student safety, parents are not to pick up students out on the playground/PE class, please follow the check-out procedures and wait in the office.
- Only persons over the age of 18 who are listed on the school emergency card may pick up a student, and will be asked to provide proof of identification. Anyone not familiar to staff will be asked to provide identification before taking the student. The school must have an up-to-date home address, home phone number, cell phone numbers, and emergency numbers on file. Parents must keep the office informed of all changes during the school year.
- If students are arranging rides with persons other than those authorized, a phone call to the office and a note with parent permission is required to be turned in prior to pick up.

EPIC requests that parents seek to schedule medical/dental appointments after school hours rather than remove the student from valuable class time. Also, please check the school calendar before scheduling vacations.

Reporting Absences- Whenever a student is absent from school, the school must receive an absence verification from the parent/guardian. Parents may send a note or email, or they may call the school office. The verification must include the student's name, the date(s) of the absence, the reason for the absence, and the teacher's name. Notes should be signed and dated by the parent/guardian. For doctor or dentist appointments, please provide a note signed and dated by your physician or dentist. The school attendance clerk will call home if a phone call, note, or e-mail has not been received for absent students.

To assist parents in reporting absences, there are several ways to notify the office of an absence:

- 1: School E-Mail: Larisa.Astapov@gcccharters.org
- 2: Office Phone: 916-286-1960 (7:30AM - 4:00 PM)

Unexcused Absences- All absences that do not fall under an excused absence provision above, AND which are not verified by a parent via a written note or telephone call will be reported as unexcused. Students with excessive unexcused absences will be considered truant. Absences must be verified within **two days** after returning to school or the absence may be reported as unexcused. Students ill for **three (3)** or more consecutive days are required to have a doctor's note before returning to school. If no doctor's note is provided, the absence will be unexcused. This is a summary of the attendance policy. The complete policy is available on the school's website or in the front office.

Students who are absent for any reason are obligated to make-up any missing class assignments to receive credit.

Attendance Matters: What Happens When Absences Add Up

We understand that students may occasionally miss school due to illness or emergencies. However, regular attendance is important for academic success. Here's how we support students and families when absences begin to add up:

Tier 1: Early Support (Up to 14 Absences)

- Families will receive letters at 3, 5, and 10 unexcused absences.
- For excused absences, letters are sent at 5 and 10 absences if they become excessive.
- The school will contact you (by phone, in person, or through a meeting) to talk about your child's attendance and review the attendance policy.
- If absences continue, a meeting with you, your child's teacher, and school staff will be held to understand what's going on and how the school can help. An attendance plan will be created together during this meeting.

Tier 2: Additional Support (15–19 Absences)

- You will receive a letter explaining that your child's attendance will be referred to our Community Engagement Department (CED).
- A home visit may be scheduled with a CED staff member and a school representative to check in and offer help.
- We may also connect your family with outside support services, if needed.
- Another meeting will be held with you and school staff to review progress and update the attendance plan.

Tier 3: Serious Concern (20 or More Absences)

- If absences reach 20 or more, your case may be referred to our Central Office- School Attendance Review Team (SART).
- At the SART meeting, a new attendance contract will be made.
- If the attendance issues continue after this, your case may be sent to the Sacramento County Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) or referred back to your home district.

We are here to support your child's success and will work with you every step of the way. Please reach out to your school office if you have any questions about attendance.

III. School Work/Homework

School Work Policy EPIC holds high expectations for every student and all assignments are expected to be completed by the due date.

Homework Policy All EPIC students will receive homework to promote academic development. The amount and type of homework assigned varies by grade level and teacher.



It is mandatory for students to complete all assigned school work and make-up work by the specified due dates. Students are required to make up any and all work missed during their absence. Parents are responsible for contacting the teacher to gather any missed school work. Failure to complete classwork or homework by due dates will lead to a reduction of the student's grade(s).

Short-Term Independent Study Policy:

EPIC offers Short-Term Independent Study (IS) as an optional educational alternative for students who must be absent from in-person instruction for specific, school-approved reasons.

Eligibility & Duration

- Independent Study is generally offered for absences of three (3) or more consecutive school days.
- Upon request, IS may also be approved for fewer than 3 days, depending on the circumstances and instructional planning needs.
- Per GCC Board policy, the school may require the student to participate in additional instructional support while on independent study, such as online instruction and meetings.

Request & Notification

- If you expect your child to be absent for three or more days, please contact the school office to request IS and begin the process.
- Families must provide at least five days advance notice so that assignments and instructional planning can be coordinated.

Student Expectations

- Students are expected to complete and submit all assigned work by the agreed-upon due date to earn academic credit and maintain attendance records. If the school work is late or incomplete, then students will have missing assignments toward grades and absences given.

Note: Independent study is intended for students who are ill or must leave town for some type of family emergency. It is NOT intended to replace regular attendance for families who are on vacation.

IV. Emergency Procedures

The school has a well-developed and complete emergency response plan that is coordinated with local agencies. The emergency plan clearly identifies the specific actions for any emergency situation. Students and staff practice emergency procedures such as fire drills, earthquake drills, lockdown drills and classroom evacuations during the school year and are familiar with how to respond in emergency situations.



Emergency notifications to families will be sent out via Parent Square, so it is important that you make sure that your correct contact information is on file in our main office. The safety of individual students is our highest priority. In the case of an emergency during the school day that requires early pick-up, students will only be released to the appropriate contacts as per our student information system.

Safety Drills - Fire and safety drills are held monthly to teach students proper responses to emergency situations such as fire, earthquake and lockdown. 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 EPIC staff and/or emergency personnel.



Parking and Driveway Safety- We need your help to keep the school and your children safe. It is imperative that families adhere to our parking safety rules. Every child's safety is important to us! At no time, should anyone drive fast or recklessly through the parking areas or surrounding streets. At no time, should parents park their cars in a drop off area or drop off zone. Parents must always park in a designated parking spot. The handicapped zone is reserved for those with handicap permits. Please be courteous and follow all safety guidelines at all times.

V. Health

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

Illness: It is not always easy to know when to send your child to school and when to keep your child home. For the safety and protection of all, we ask that you not send your student to school with any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever** - 100.5°F or more, taken orally (or 101°F taken by ear, rectally or temporal scan). Note that ear

temperatures are often not accurate and temperature should be taken using another route, if the temperature is high.

- **Cough and difficulty breathing** - do not send to school if the child has labored breathing (heaving of chest muscles with each breath), rapid breathing at rest, blue color to skin, or wheezing (if never previously evaluated and treated), instead, see a doctor. If your child has pertussis (whooping cough) keep her/him home until 5 days of antibiotics have been received, or tuberculosis (until treated).
- **Rash** - that is undiagnosed, especially when there is a fever and behavioral change.
- **Chickenpox** - keep home until all blisters are scabbed over and there are no signs of illness. Must have a note from the doctor to return to school.
- **Diarrhea** - keep home if there is blood or mucous in the stool (unless from medication or hard stool), if the stools are all black or very pale, or if the stools are very watery and are increasing in frequency. See a doctor immediately if diarrhea is accompanied by: no urine output for 8 hours; jaundiced skin; or child looks/acts very ill.
- **Vomiting** - more than once a day or accompanied by fever, rash or general weakness.
- **Impetigo** - keep the child home for 24 hours after starting an antibiotic treatment.
- **Ringworm** - (a contagious skin fungus infection). Keep home until treatment is started. If it is in an exposed area, upon return, cover the visible area with dressing and/or clothing. Ringworm on the scalp requires an oral medication, but the child may return to school if covered with appropriate cream or covered.
- **Cold sores** – these can be passed from one person to another, but only through direct contact.

If the student is at school with any of the above, the parent will be called to pick up the student. Under certain circumstances, you may be asked to consult a physician and to provide a written note from your doctor indicating that the student may return to school.

A student returning to school following a serious or prolonged illness, injury, surgery or other hospitalization, must have written permission by a health care provider to attend school, including any recommendations regarding physical activity and exertion. A student returning to school with sutures, casts, crutches, a wheelchair or orthopedic brace(s) must have a physician's written permission to attend school and must comply with any safety procedures required by the school administration.

Antibiotics: Children, who are placed on antibiotics for impetigo, strep throat, and several other bacterial infections, should be on them for a FULL 24 hours (longer for Pertussis/Whooping Cough) before returning to school to prevent the spread of those infections. If you are uncertain, ask your school nurse.

If at any time you are unsure if your child's illness is contagious, you may want to call your child's primary care provider. If you have further questions, please contact your school site to speak to the school nurse. Thank you for your continued support of the families in our school community.

School policy mandates that students with a contagious disease should stay home. In order 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 his/her 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.

Prescription Medication: Signed parent consent and healthcare provider authorizations must be received by the EPIC School office before any assistance can be given in the administration of the medication or before a student may self-



carry any self-administer medication during the school day. 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 our website. The school does not supply any medication, including Tylenol, for students. All medication must be kept in the office in its original container. Students may not provide any medication, including Tylenol, to other students.

**The complete Administrations of Medications Policy 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 in the absence of signed parent consent and healthcare provider authorization. If a child needs an over-the-counter medication at school and there is no healthcare provider authorization on file, the parent/guardian must come to the school to administer it. Children must not bring over-the-counter medication to school or self-carry/self-administer absent parent consent and healthcare provider authorization.

Head Lice: Parents need to contact the school if they find head lice on their child's head. The school will contact a parent or guardian if students are found to have live head lice. Students will be checked for head lice by the principal or designee upon return to school. If no live lice are found the child will be sent to class. No school-wide surveillance will be conducted for nits or lice.



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

Treatment of School Related Injuries

It is the policy of the school to treat minor injuries (scrapes, cuts, bruises, etc.) with basic first aid. Parents will be notified of minor injuries at the discretion of the school administrator/school secretary. When confronted with a more serious illness or injury, school staff will contact parents, and if required, call 911.

VI. PARENT AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

Emergency Contact Information. Sick or injured students are released only to parents or people listed as emergency contacts on the Emergency Card/Parent Square. Please provide current names and phone numbers of people to contact in case of emergency and be sure to update our main office if there are any changes. **If there are changes, please contact the school to make the changes as soon as possible. Parents/guardians are responsible for keeping current emergency contact information on file with the school. It is extremely important to have updated information in case of emergency, in order to ensure there is no time delay that can cause a sick child unnecessary discomfort or anxiety. The school must know how to reach you in case of an emergency.**

Custody Disputes: Parent/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 custodial 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.

Voluntary Withdrawal from School

If it becomes necessary to withdraw your child from EPIC, please notify the school office as soon as possible. Any lost books, materials, and fees must be paid before the school will release the student's transcripts or report card.

Parent Participation- A significant correlation has been established between direct parent involvement and a school's overall high rate of success. EPIC was established with a provision that parents would play a significant role as volunteers. At EPIC we appreciate volunteers. However, volunteering is not required, nor will your student's enrollment status be affected by your family's inability to volunteer. In order to volunteer at EPIC certain requirements must be met. Level 1 Volunteers are those that are volunteering for a one-time event on-site and will be under the direct supervision of a GCC staff member. Level 2 Volunteers are for those who volunteer more than one time and/or will be working with students without the direct supervision of a GCC staff member present. Field Trips are considered Level 2 Volunteer activities. All Level 2 Volunteers must receive fingerprint and TB clearance prior to volunteering.

For more information about volunteer policies and procedures, please visit our front desk or call 916-286-1960.

Parent Communication: Due to the importance of parent involvement in the success of each child, parents are expected to communicate regularly with their child. Furthermore, parents and teachers need to communicate regularly in order to monitor their child's progress and build a strong partnership with their child's teacher.

There are many ways in which EPIC communicates information and important events with families and students. It is crucial that parents check backpacks, folders, binders, emails, etc. to ensure that they are receiving all forms of communication from teachers or administration. Some forms of communication include but are not limited to:

- **Monthly School Newsletters:**

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

- **School Website and Social Media:**

EPIC's website www.epicib.org is updated regularly with information about our school and classrooms. EPIC is also active in social media and is active on Facebook and X. EPIC staff can be contacted through the school website.

- **AERIES Parent Portal:**

AERIES Parent Portal is where parents can access students' current grades, test scores, and other information. Please make sure to check your student's grades regularly. AERIES for parents can be accessed by visiting: aeries.gcccharters.net/parent. If you need assistance with your AERIES account please contact the school office.

- **Parent Square:**

Parent Square is EPIC's communication program. Parents can access this through an internet browser or by downloading the free app. Instructions on how to access Parent Square can be found on EPIC's website. Both administration and teachers use Parent Square to send important updates, forms and other various announcements. It is critically important that all EPIC families monitor Parent Square so they are aware of what is happening at EPIC.

- **E-Mail:**

Please give your email contacts to the office staff and sign up for an AERIES account. Important updates and communications are also sent to parents by email. Parents are encouraged to use email to communicate with all EPIC staff members. EPIC staff email addresses can be found on our website. If your email contacts change please report the change(s) to our main office as soon as possible. EPIC staff is expected to return email within 24 hours during the work week.

Visits to the Classroom - EPIC welcomes parent visitors; however, it is important that parents make arrangements with the classroom teacher one day in advance out of consideration to classroom instructional time. All parent visitors are required to check in at the office to get a visitor's badge and wear it at all times while on campus. ***If you wish to discuss your child's progress with the teacher, please arrange for a private conference with the teacher outside of instructional class time or transition times. Parent conferences should be scheduled with the teacher at least 24 hours in advance and cannot occur during instructional time.***

Classroom Interruptions - If you need to leave a message for the teacher or your child during the school day, please contact the office. Office personnel will do their best to contact the teacher or student during recess or lunch. In the event of an emergency, the message will be relayed immediately. For non-emergency situations, the use of email to communicate with staff is encouraged.

Parent Support Programs - The success of a school relies on effective parent/school communication and is a team effort. The school does not assume total responsibility for the education of the student; it is vital that a consistent approach be developed and agreed upon by parents, students and staff. To ensure success, we require a commitment signed by parents, students, and teachers pledging involvement and support of EPIC. This is called the **Three-Way Pledge** which can be found as an appendix to this handbook. EPIC also holds regular parent information sessions to educate and inform parents about school programs and academic support strategies.

School Site Council/ELAC/DELAC- School Site Council/ELAC/DELAC meets quarterly and is a very important part of the governance structure at Empowering Possibilities International Charter School. The SSC/ELAC/DELAC is charged with participating and providing input in the development of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). This body is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plans, including the expenditure of funds and the monitoring of achievement. SSC/ELAC/DELAC also monitors and advises administration on English Learner (EL) and Title I programs. SSC/ELAC/DELAC parents are elected by all parents every two years. When vacancies arise, the principal notifies parents through the EPIC school newsletter with election procedures.

EPIC Parent/Guardian Concerns/Complaints: In the case that a parent/guardian has a concern regarding a student's experience at EPIC, parents/guardians are asked to follow the steps below:

1. Discuss the issue with your child.
2. Meet with the classroom teacher(s) with your child present.
3. Meet with the classroom teacher, your child, and the Vice Principal.
4. Meet with the Principal.

If the concern is not resolved after the steps above have been followed then parents have the option to proceed with the steps below:

1. Meet with the Principal and a GCC administrator.
2. File a complaint through the GCC complaint policy. (This can be found at www.epicib.org)

Uniform Complaint Procedures BP 01-18(A):

EPIC is responsible for ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs and has established procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination and/or failure to apply with 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:

Morri Elliott – Assistant Superintendent
Gateway Community Charters
5112 Arnold Ave, Suite A McClellan, CA 95652 916-286-5199
Morri.Elliott@gcccharters.org

A complete copy of the Uniform Complaint Procedures is posted in the school office and online at www.epicib.org.

Title IX Complaint and Investigation Procedures:

EPIC is 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.

School Accountability Report Card (SARC) – CDE requires our school to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC) annually that describes our school’s demographics, academic achievement data, and other important characteristics of our school. A copy of the SARC can be found on our school web page or at www.sarconline.org

VII. GRADING, REPORT CARDS, STANDARDIZED TESTING

Grades are based on multiple assessments and measures, and are completed at the end of each trimester, about every twelve weeks. Report cards will be issued at the end of each trimester. Progress reports are sent out at the mid-point of each trimester.

Parents have access to all students’ grades through AERIES and can monitor academic progress. Parents should contact their student’s teacher if they have questions or concerns regarding their child’s progress report or report card.



Report Cards- The school year is divided into three grading periods (trimesters). The trimesters are long enough (approximately 12 weeks) to allow students multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of specific skills. At the end of each trimester, students will receive **OVERALL** grades in each subject. The subjects that will be graded are English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Social Studies, Art/Design, Russian/Spanish and PE. The grading scale is as follows:

A	Students earning an A and show deep mastery of the knowledge and skills contained in grade level standards.			
	A+ 98%-100%	A 94%-97%	A- 90%-93%	
B	Students earning a B score 80 – 89% and demonstrate a solid mastery of the knowledge and skills contained in grade level standards.			
	B+ 88%-89%	B 84%-87%	B- 80%-83%	
C	Students earning a C score 70 – 79% and are approaching mastery of the knowledge and skills contained in grade level standards.			
	C+ 78%-79%	C 74%-77%	C- 70%-73%	
D & F	Students earning a D and/or F score below 70% and are not demonstrating the knowledge and skills contained in the grade level standards.			
	D+ 68%-69%	D 64%-67%	D- 60%-63%	F 0%-59%

Teachers will clearly state the grading standards and policies for their class and/or subject area at the beginning of the year.

PE Participation

If, at any time, your child is ill or has a condition that requires being excused from physical education activities for more than 5 days, an explanatory note is required from your child’s health advisor. Athletic shoes must be worn during PE class. Failure to do so will result in the student not being allowed to participate and receiving a reduced grade.

EPIC's AWARD PROGRAMS- The award programs at EPIC are intended to acknowledge student academic excellence. Specifically, it acknowledges individual high achievement in grade level standards and curricula, which in turn, encourages each child to maximize their potential.

Frequency: Principal's List and Honor Roll students will be identified each school trimester.



Principal's List Requirements- This is for EPIC students who receive all A's on their report card and have no "N" or "U" citizenship marks.

Honor Roll Requirements- This is for EPIC students who receive all A's and B's on their report card and have no "N" or "U" citizenship marks.

GRADE PROMOTION- Students who do not demonstrate mastery of the grade level standards may be at risk for retention. This will be determined through the Student Study Team (SST) process which is a collaborative effort between administration, the teacher(s), and the parent/guardian. Students who are struggling academically will be offered appropriate academic interventions.

Parent Conferences- EPIC prides itself on excellent home school communication. Parent-teacher conferences are held on an ongoing basis before and after school. Teachers are expected to schedule conferences with parents as needed. Translators can be made available for conferences by request. To schedule a conference, please email your student's teacher(s).

STANDARDIZED TESTING (CAASPP, CAST, ELPAC, and PFT)

Each spring, students in grades 3-8 take the computer-based California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition to CAASPP, students in grades 5 and 8 take the California Science Test (CAST). Students in grades 5 and 7 take the California Physical Fitness Test (PFT).

ELPAC – English Language Proficiency Assessments- Students in Kindergarten through grade twelve, who are classified as English learners, will take the ELPAC Summative Assessment every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English. Students are tested on their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. To learn more about the ELPAC, please read the *Parent Guide to Understanding the ELPAC*, which can be found online at <https://www.caaspp-elpac.org/about>

If you have any questions about your student taking the ELPAC, please contact our school's office.

VIII. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

EPIC seeks to inspire, challenge and empower all students in an environment that is safe, supportive, and conducive to learning. We have high expectations for student behavior and require all students to demonstrate responsibility and appropriate behavior at school and at school sponsored events and activities. To create clarity, we have adopted and implement the following student behavioral programs and policies:

EPIC is a Flippen Group Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) National Showcase School.



The primary focus of Capturing Kids' Hearts is to develop healthy relationships between members of a school's educational community and to teach effective skills that help participants:

- Develop self-managing classrooms and decrease discipline issues through innovative techniques such as a social contract
- Decrease delinquent behaviors such as disruptive outbursts, violent acts, and drug use
- Utilize the EXCEL Teaching Model™ (Engage, X-plore, Communicate, Empower, Launch) and reinforce the role of emotional intelligence in teaching
- Build classroom rapport and teamwork to create a safe, trusting learning environment
- Develop students' empathy for diverse cultures/backgrounds
- Increase classroom attendance by building students' motivation and helping them take responsibility for their actions and performance

We believe at EPIC that Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) implementation is the foundation of our school's culture and promotes an educational environment that promotes academic growth and social development.

EPIC is a Safe and Caring School We believe that all students have a right to a safe, healthy and nurturing learning environment. At EPIC we are committed to providing all students with a safe and caring school environment where everyone is treated with respect. EPIC will not tolerate behaviors that infringe on the safety and emotional well-being of any student.

Safety of Self and Others

In order to ensure that EPIC is a place where learning is a priority; the school must be safe at all times. Any student action or intention that can be deemed as violating the safety of one's self or others can result in serious consequences. Examples of violations include but not limited to –bullying, verbal abuse of others, intentionally hurting another student, defiance of playground safety rules, fighting, leaving school grounds, etc. (see attached violation form)

Internet Safety and Student Technology Use- GCC/EPIC school sends home a technology acceptable use agreement each year, which specifies appropriate use of technology for students. If you have questions or concerns regarding this agreement please contact the school office. EPIC students receive digital citizenship instruction appropriate to their grade level in EPIC classrooms.

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

School Counseling Services – EPIC employs a full-time school counselor who works with our students to help meet their social-emotional needs. EPIC staff identifies students who may be in need of counseling support and reaches out to families for consent. If you believe that your student would benefit by having a relationship with our school counselor, please contact an EPIC Vice Principal or the Principal.

Bullying- In order to minimize bullying and encourage teamwork, our goal is to help students gain skills and knowledge in a safe and positive learning community. The faculty, staff, and students achieve this by modeling positive behavior, using common language, improving communication, and encouraging community involvement.

Bullying is . . .

- Intentional harm-doing
- Happens repeatedly over time
- Verbal: name calling, threatening and/or rumors; profanity
- Emotional: making faces, isolating others, gestures
- Unequal power (size, ability, popularity, money, clothing)
- Physical: hitting, kicking, pushing, and hitting someone else to hurt someone
- On the internet/ through cyber bullying



School Rules Against Bullying- Students should be aware of their surroundings and should follow these steps.

1. We will not bully other students.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will make a point to include students who are easily left out.
4. When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Bullying Incident Reporting System- This is an online system in place that allows students and/or a member of the community to report an incident of bullying or harassment. To report incidents go to the following website:

<http://report.doc-tracking.com/222724/222716>. Students may also report bullying using an EPIC Student Incident Report form which are available at our front desk and Vice Principal offices.

****The complete GCC Anti-Bullying Policy is available for review on the school website or by contacting our main office.**

Respect to Property

Students are expected to respect the property of the school and others at all times. Any student action or intention that can be deemed as causing damage to the property of the school or others can result in serious consequences. Examples of property violations include but are not limited to – stealing, defacing school property or the property of others, destroying school property or the property of others, etc. Parents/guardians will be asked to replace any property intentionally defaced/destroyed by a student.

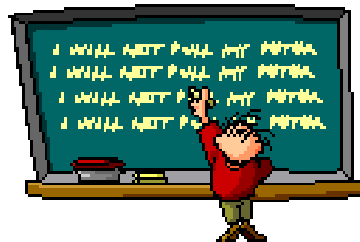
EPIC Chromebooks/Library Books/School Textbooks – EPIC students/families are responsible for damage to EPIC Chromebooks, library books and textbooks. Families may be held responsible financially for any damage of EPIC school property such as Chromebooks, library books, and textbooks. Students may be held out of extra-curricular activities until any library fines or property damage is paid for.

Progressive Discipline/Classroom Behavioral Interventions

School culture in the public schools of our nation continues to be a matter of great priority to educators and parents alike. Since a positive school culture is essential to creating a positive environment for student academic progress, the teachers and staff at EPIC work together to encourage positive and productive behavior in a firm, fair, and consistent manner. All EPIC teachers manage their classroom through Social Contracts that allow students to have significant input, and therefore buy-in into expected classroom behaviors. Our school's discipline plan is based on the premise that teachers are here to teach and students are here to learn. Therefore, no student will be allowed to stop the teacher from teaching or interfere with the learning of other students.

When a student makes a deliberate choice to disobey an established rule or their classroom Social Contract, some or all of the following interventions may be used at the teacher's discretion:

- Refocus/Reflection Form
- Conference with student
- Time-out



- Call parent/guardian
- SST Level 1 - Parent/Student/Teacher Conference
- Written behavioral contract with positive incentives
- Classroom visitation by the parent

A time-out may be assigned in the classroom or in an alternate supervised classroom as part of the classroom management program.

Students who are frequently disruptive to learning or who commit a major disciplinary offense will be referred to Administration for further action. Consequences issued by the main office for classroom/school disruptions or major disciplinary offenses may include:

- Time-Out/Reflection on Behavior
- Parent Contact/Meeting
- Campus Beautification
- After-School Detention
- In-School Suspension
- Home Suspension
- Expulsion



School rules apply at all school events and functions, such as field trips, after school programs, during special class activities, and traveling to/from school.

Academic Integrity- EPIC's IB Academic Integrity Policy is taught to all students at an age-appropriate level and can be found on the EPIC website. Cheating is defined as any use or attempt to use the work effort of another student, with or without the consent of that student, or any previously published material to benefit their coursework. Both (or all) students involved in any incident will be held accountable for the consequences (detention, in school suspension, and/or a zero on the assignment). Students involved in cheating on examinations or finals will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.

Policy for Extracurricular Activity Participation - Students are expected to be in good academic standing and have good citizenship in order to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics and activities supplemental to the CORE academic program. Students with F academic, U citizenship grades, or suspensions may be held out of extra-curricular activities. EPIC does not discriminate regarding participation in extracurricular activities as per the Anti-Discrimination statement found earlier in this handbook and strives to create equal opportunities for all EPIC students.

IX. DRESS CODE POLICY

EPIC believes that the development of dress and grooming attitudes and behavior patterns is part of the educational experience. Therefore, dress, hairstyle, makeup or jewelry, which are distracting or interfere with the study habits of students in the class or school, or pose a health or safety risk to the students, shall not be acceptable. Personal appearance standards for students are defined in the dress code.

Students' attire must adhere to the following:

- Clothes are to be neat, clean, in good repair, not outgrown, are not revealing and in good taste. Tights must be worn with a skirt. Shorts, dresses, and skirts must be fingertip length.
- Recreational attire shall not be worn in classrooms or at most school events. Examples of unacceptable recreational attire are; short shorts or cut-offs, tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, mesh or see-through sheer tops, bare midriff or bareback tops, crop tops and half-shirts.

- Inappropriate buttons, hats, and pins or jewelry will be confiscated and returned to the student's parents or guardians. Items are considered inappropriate if they contain or promote profanity, sexual conduct, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs or violence.
- Clothing items will be considered inappropriate if they present a clear and present danger to the student or other students. Clothing that bears profanity or advertises sex, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs or violence is inappropriate school attire.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip flops and other strapless shoes as well as high and platform heels are considered unsafe and are not to be worn for regular school activities.
- Students are not allowed to wear hats and hoods (not including religious headwear) in class or inside the building.
- Students are prohibited from wearing any gang affiliated clothing or items. Examples of such prohibited items include, but are not limited to, certain handkerchiefs, hanging suspenders, belts, shoestrings, earrings, jackets or devices associated with group intimidation or gangs. Pants will be worn at or above the student's waist. No undergarments are to be visible. Gang attire is any clothing, accessory or manner of grooming which may be an indicator of gang involvement.
- **Any item of clothing, accessory, or personal belonging deemed to be a distraction to the learning environment will not be allowed.**

Students wearing inappropriate attire or footwear will be sent to the office and will be asked to call their parent or guardian. Students will be given the opportunity to change into appropriate clothing if available at the site or request the parent to bring a change of clothing or footwear. Students without appropriate footwear will not be allowed to participate in PE or outdoor activities until safe footwear is obtained. Students with inappropriate clothing will return to class upon meeting dress code standards. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the school office.

X. EPIC's Prohibited Items: In trying to create a safe and orderly learning environment at EPIC School, we have prohibited the following items from the school campus. We **DO NOT** allow these items at EPIC during class or after school: [not an exhaustive list]

Gum/Sunflower Seeds	Personal Toys	Pets/Animals
Hats/hood (inside building)	Stink Bombs	Fireworks
Makeup / Nail Polish	Toy Guns	Squirt Guns
Matches/Lighter	Bandannas	Perfumes/Colognes
Trading Cards	White-Out (which is not water-based)	Golf or baseballs
Pocket Knives	Balloons	Silly String
Drugs/Paraphernalia	Poppers	Aerosol Cans
Electronic Game	Weapons/Replicas	
Roller Skates/Heely's		

*****ANY personal belonging deemed to be a distraction to the learning environment will not be allowed*****

- These items will be confiscated and returned only to parents.
- The school is not responsible for theft of the confiscated items.
- Repeat confiscations will result in consequences.

Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices- Cell phones must be used responsibly in a way that does not disrupt learning or school activities. **Students are not to use cell phones at any time while inside the EPIC building without permission from EPIC administration.** Students MAY use cell phones while outside of the EPIC building before school, during recess/lunch or immediately after school.

EPIC is NOT RESPONSIBLE for lost or stolen personal electronic devices! You bring them at your own risk!

Students who violate this policy will receive the following consequences:

- 1st Offense- Verbal warning from teacher/administrator and documented.
- 2nd Offense- Phone confiscated, student must pick it up from the office, parent contacted, documented.
- 3rd Offense- Phone confiscated, parent must pick it up from the office, student detention, documented.
- 4th Offense- Phone confiscated, parent must pick it up from the office, full day in school detention, documented.

**The complete Cell Phones and Electronic Devices Policy is available for review on the school website or by contacting the main office.

Bicycles, Scooters, Roller Skates (Blades), Skateboards: Students may ride their bicycle or scooter to school and park it in a designated space on the school campus. Please note that the school will not accept responsibility for loss or damage to the bicycle/scooter. Students are prohibited from using roller skates or blades, skateboards or scooters on the school grounds at any time. This includes shoes that have wheels built into them. Students must walk their bicycle/scooter 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.

Tobacco-Free Zone EPIC believes that the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs adversely affects a student's ability to achieve academic success, is physically and emotionally harmful and has serious social and legal consequences. Therefore, all school facilities are tobacco, alcohol and drug free sites. The use of any tobacco, alcohol or drug paraphernalia is prohibited within any school property, facility, or vehicle. This includes "vaping" and e-cigarettes. This prohibition also applies to individuals attending events on school campuses or representing the GCC at school activities that are held at locations other than GCC property.



XI. Other:

Food and Beverages at School

Everyone must work together to keep our school looking clean and attractive. Gum and shelled sunflower seeds are not permitted at school due to the mess that they create. Parents are requested to provide students with healthy snacks and refrain from allowing students to bring soda and candy to school on a regular basis. No food or drink other than water is allowed in the classroom unless it is permitted by the teacher. **There is absolutely no sharing of food with other students as this poses a possible health or safety risk to students.**



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. EPIC is not responsible for any items, including cash, involved in transactions amongst students.

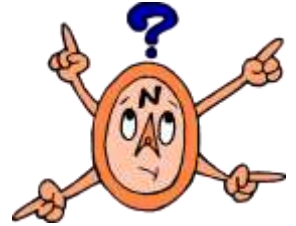
Celebrations, Class Parties, and Food Guidelines- Birthdays and other holiday celebrations are an important part of our culture. However, we'd like to encourage families to do most of the celebrating at home. If you choose to have a party where students from school will be invited, invitations need to be passed out before or after school in a discreet manner. Invitations are not allowed to be passed out during class or recess times, this helps ensure that students are being included and not excluded in front of peers. At school, treats may be brought to celebrate a student's birthday, but only after lunch and at the teacher's discretion. All snacks or treats must be store bought. Please make arrangements prior to the celebration with the teacher. If possible, classroom celebrations will be held outside or in the MPR to ensure a clean learning environment. Water and juice are the only drinks permitted inside classrooms, other drinks will need to be consumed at lunch or during recess times.

Lost and Found - Mark all your personal belongings with your full name. Should you lose anything, first check with your teachers and your friends. Then check the lost and found racks on the playground and in the hallway after school. Please look for your belongings on your own time -- not during class time. All items not claimed in a timely fashion from

lost and found will be donated to a local charity. An announcement will be made through Parent Square prior to the items being donated. Donations will be made on a trimester basis.

*****The School is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Please keep all valuables at home!**

Finders are not keepers. If you find something that is not yours, it is your responsibility to turn it in to your teacher or to the lost and found.



Empowering Possibilities International Charter School

Three – Way School Pledge

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 of 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, completed assignments and homework.
- Know and follow school and class 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, video games and screen time and instead study or read every day after school.
- Respect the school, classmates, staff and families.
- Follow the Social Contracts

Family/Parent Pledge ~ I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Provide a quiet time and place for homework and monitor TV viewing, video game playing, and 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.

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.
- Communicate regularly with families about student progress.
- Provide a warm, safe, and caring learning environment.
- Provide meaningful, daily homework 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.
- Follow the Social Contracts

PORTRAIT OF A GCC GRADUATE

ACADEMICALLY READY

- Life-long Learner
- Content Knowledge
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinker

GLOBAL CITIZENS

- Culturally & Socially Respectful
- Service-Oriented
- Responsible

WORKFORCE & COLLEGE READY

- Skills and Competencies
- Professional Communicators
- Innovative and Creative

PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS

- Problem Solver
- Cooperative & Collaborative
- Leader and Advocate

LIFE READY

- Adaptable
- Self-Aware
- Financially Aware
- Empathetic

REFLECTIVE CITIZENS

- Curious
- Growth-Mindset
- Plan for Future

Quality school choice, a gateway to the future
 GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHARTERS
 GCC

Logos at the bottom:

- CCCS Community Collaborative Charter School
- COMMUNITY Academy OUTREACH
- epic
- FUTURES HIGH SCHOOL "Transform Leaders, Foster Builders, Prepare Scholars."
- gis GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- HIGHER LEARNING ACADEMY
- SAVA BUILD YOUR FUTURE

Gateway Community Charters/EPIC 2025-2026 School Calendar

JUL '25 0

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

AUG '25 18

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

SEP '25 21

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

OCT '25 21

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

NOV '25 14

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

DEC '25 15

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



Key Calendar Dates
Aug. 6 First Day of School
May 29 Last Day of School

Non Student Days
Aug. 4-5 Teacher in Service
Oct. 6 Teacher in Service
Jan. 5 Teacher in Service
Apr. 6 Teacher in Service

Holidays/Recess
Jul 4 Independence Day
Sep. 1 Labor Day
Oct 3-6 School Recess
Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Nov. 24-28 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22-Jan. 5 Winter Break
Jan.19 MLK Jr. Holiday
Feb. 16-20 President's Week
March 30-April 6 Spring Break
May 25 Memorial Day
Jun 19 Juneteenth

End of Grading Periods
Trimester 1 - Oct 31 (60 Days)
Trimester 2 - Feb 25 (60 Days)
Trimester 3 - May 29 (60 Days)
Semester 1- Jan 6 (90 Days)
Semester 2- May 29 (90 Days)

Minimum Days
All Fridays
May 26-29

JAN '26 18

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

FEB '26 15

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

MAR '26 20

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

APR '26 18

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

MAY '26 20

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

JUN '26 0

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

89

91

Total Service Days: 180
BOARD ADOPTED: 6/11/2024