



Chelmsford Public Schools Parent – Student Handbook

2019-2020



Chelmsford Public Schools – A Future Ready District

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Communication

If there is a situation at home that might affect your child, please let the teacher, school counselor or administrator know. Adjustments and extra consideration can be given to your child if we understand what he/she is experiencing. Some common situations are the death or serious illness of a family member, the death of a pet, parent business travel, etc. We want to support your child, so please keep us informed. If parents are concerned with any school-related issues, they should first discuss the matter with the teacher involved.

X2 Family Portal is the student information system used by the Chelmsford Public School System. Families will have a unique login to access their children's information (i.e. attendance, grades, schedule, contact information, etc.). It is the parent's responsibility to maintain accurate contact information at all times.

Blackboard ConnectEd is our Community Outreach and Emergency Communication system. It allows us to contact you immediately, effectively, and efficiently by phone or email should we have the need. It is critical that you provide the school office with current contact information in September and to update the information should there be any change during the course of the school year.

Calendar

The Chelmsford Public School calendar is set each year by the Chelmsford School Committee and is found on the district's website. We encourage you to go to the individual school calendars which can be found on the district website, <http://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us>. School events, early release days, field trips, and additional information will be posted on a regular basis.

Attendance

Massachusetts has a Compulsory Attendance Law. It is the responsibility of a parent or guardian to ensure his/her child attends school regularly in order to obtain the maximum benefits from the educational program.

A parent or guardian (Pre-School through Grade 8) is to telephone the school office within 30 minutes from the start of school to report a student's absence. Parents/Guardians who do not telephone the school will be contacted regarding the child's whereabouts. For parents/guardians of students in grades 9-12 who do not telephone the school will be contacted within 3 school days (Chapter 222 of Acts of 2012).

When a student is absent, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any athletic or other extra-curricular activity on that day.

Types of Absences:

1. Unexcused absences include absences such as truancy, class cuts, and/or frivolous excuses for being out of school or class. When a student returns to class, makeup work will be given but credit for the makeup work will not be awarded until the absence is marked as excused. Typically, unexcused absences might include family trips not previously approved by the Principal, trancies from school, class cuts, etc.
2. Excused absences include absences such as illness (documented by doctor's note); family emergencies, funerals, and other absences approved by the Dean/Principal. The school office must be notified within 24 hours of the absence in order for it to be considered by the administration for an excused absence.
3. Exempt absences, such as the following, are exempt from the school attendance policy and, as exempt, do not count toward the total number of absences per semester:
 - a. Religious holidays
 - b. School-sponsored field trips
 - c. College visitations for high school juniors and seniors
 - d. Out-of-school suspensions
 - e. Court ordered appearances
 - f. Death in the family

Parents are strongly discouraged to take vacations outside the district's planned vacation times. A written request for trip absences must be submitted to the Principal two weeks before the absence. That request must state the reasons and dates of the proposed absences. Time out of school can be harmful to a child's progress, growth, and success in school. When a student accompanies his/her parents on a business and/or vacation trip, the student, upon return, is responsible for contacting his/her teacher to discuss missed work and make-up procedures. **The teacher is not obligated to provide assignments while the student is not in school.** Upon return to school from an absence, a student is required to present to the attendance teacher or Dean a dated note signed by a parent or guardian indicating the **REASON** for the absence. If a note is not presented within two (2) school days, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

Families wishing to return with their children to their native country for personal or family business during the school year must adhere to the provisions of School Committee policy 6112. The policy is posted on the website.

Excessive Absenteeism/Truancy

Parents will be notified if their child has 5 or more unexcused absences in a year or if the child has missed 2 or more classes due to absence for 5 days or more. The principal will make a reasonable effort to meet with the parents of a child who has 5 or more unexcused absences for the purposes of developing action steps to improve the student's attendance. (Chapter 222 of Acts of 2012)

Excessive Absenteeism/Truancy at the Elementary and Middle School Levels

A child who is chronically and habitually absent, truant, dismissed, or tardy **with or without** valid cause (excused or unexcused) from school for 10% or more of the attendance days will be subject to the following non-exclusive list of consequences:

- a. Parent or guardian conference
- b. All future absences must be verified by a physician
- c. Restriction or prohibition on the participation of extracurricular or intramural activities, field trips, or other activities
- d. Filing of a "Failure to Send your Child to School" with the court

- e. Filing of a 'Child Requiring Assistance' (CRA) with the court
- f. Department of Children and Families (DCF) filing
- g. The student and parent may be reported to the Chelmsford Public Schools Truancy Officer who may file with Lowell District Court

Excessive Absenteeism/Truancy at the High School Level

For High School attendance procedures, please refer to the Chelmsford High School Addendum document located at <https://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/Domain/10>

Exceptions

There may need to be exceptions to this student attendance policy for disability-related absences. When appropriate, the Section 504 or IEP Team will convene to determine whether absences were related to the disability, whether any consequences or policies should be waived, and whether absences may trigger a significant change in placement that would suggest a need for reevaluation or modifications to an IEP or 504 Plan.

Disenrollment

An administrator will need to send notice within a period of 5 school days from the students 10th consecutive absence to the student and his or her parent (M.G.L. c.76, §18).

College Visits

For High School procedures, please refer to the Chelmsford High School Addendum document located at <https://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/Domain/10>

Early Dismissal

Elementary and Middle Schools

Students should be dismissed before the end of the day only in cases of emergency. It is extremely important that students attend school for the entire school day. In cases of requests for early dismissal, it is essential that students present a written note to their elementary teacher and middle school office in the morning indicating the date and time for dismissal. Students will not be allowed to go to anyone's home or with anyone else without a note from their parent or guardian. Parents who need to have students

dismissed early should come to the office. **All students will be dismissed directly from the office.** No student is allowed to leave the building without checking out from the office first.

Registration Procedures

All students new to Chelmsford Public Schools must register at the Central Administration Building located at 230 North Road, Chelmsford. Please refer to the website for more detailed information.

Children entering kindergarten must be five years of age on or before August 31st of the year in which he/she is to enter kindergarten. Children entering grade one must be six years of age on or before August 31st of the year in which he/she is to enter grade one.

To register a child, parents need to present the following before attending school:

1. Completed Registration Packet
2. Proof of residence – To include:
 - A utility Bill
 - Mortgage Statement or a Signed Lease Agreement
3. Birth certificate
4. Completed immunization record
5. Proof of a current physical
6. Parent ID – MA Driver’s License or MA ID Card

Students transferring out of school should notify the office and the classroom teacher as soon as possible so that forms can be promptly processed. Once a withdrawal form has been signed, student records are forwarded by mail to the new school.

Health Services

A nurse is in attendance during academic school hours. The nurse attends to ill or injured students and notifies parents when necessary. It is the responsibility of the parents to inform the nurse of your child’s illness/injuries and surgeries. Parents provide all appropriate equipment for treatments and medications. It is also

responsibility of the parents to notify the school nurse annually of any condition that affects a child's well-being and safety (e.g. allergic reaction to insect bites, medications, or foods; asthma; diabetes; and/or seizures, etc.).

Illness

For public health and safety, we request you keep your child home if he/she has a severe cold, rash with other symptoms, and or if they have a steady cough, hacking cough or coughing fits with fever 100 or above. Your child needs to stay home with:

- **Strep Throat**- if you suspect he/she has strep throat. The child should remain home until the child either has had a negative throat culture or has been on antibiotics and fever free for a full 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- **A fever 100 or above**- may return to school when he/she is fever free for 24 hours without medication (e.g. Tylenol, Advil, Motrin Alieve Ibuprofen or acetaminophen).
- **Vomiting and/or diarrhea**- may return to school 24 hours after his/her last vomiting and/or diarrhea episode.
- **Red or pink itchy eyes with crusty and or green/yellow drainage**- may return to school the day after treated for 24 hours or has no further eye discharge.
- **Head Lice or nits (eggs)**- a student will be sent home from school if live lice are found and an information sheet will be provided. A student may return after being treated and the School Nurse confirms no live lice are present.
- **A rash medically undiagnosed**- may require MD clearance at the discretion of the school nurse.
- **If a student is out for an illness or dismissed due to illness they may not return for school sponsored activities/sports that day.**

If a child is too ill to remain in school, the nurse will call parent/guardian and or emergency contact numbers for dismissal. The student should not place the call from a school phone or cell phone.

Parents are required to notify the school if your child contracts any contagious diseases (e.g. Chicken Pox, Strep Throat, Whooping Cough, Fifth's Disease, Conjunctivitis, Scabies,

Impetigo, Ringworm or Head Lice, etc.). If a child has been absent due to a communicable disease, a physician's release may be required before returning to school.

Injuries

It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school nurse of all injuries (i.e., fractures, sprains, stitches, etc.) Guidelines regarding injuries and non-participation in physical education (P.E.) classes and recess as follows:

1. Students with casts, stitches, or splints may not participate in P.E. class, sports or outdoor recess without written consent from the attending physician. All injury notes from the doctor should include the type of injury, any activity limitations or allowance to participate in such activities and the date the child may return to full participation in PE, sports and recess. Parents' wishes may not supersede this medical prescription. At the school nurses' discretion some P.E. activities may require non-participation for the safety of the student or others.
2. Students need a subsequent doctor's note when it is safe to resume normal activity in P.E. and/or recess.
3. Students using non prescribed/ over the counter support items and ACE wraps may be restricted from certain activities at the school nurse's discretion.
4. If a student is to come to school with a cane, crutches, wheelchair or an assistive device, a doctor's note is required before returning to school. If applicable, such doctor's notes need to indicate if the student can or cannot use stairs. An example of this would be a student with the need to wear a brace that would immobilize a knee.

Medications

It is the policy of Chelmsford Public Schools to administer medications during the school day only when necessary.

Medications in School

1. Before the school nurse can administer any medication (prescription or non-prescription) complete signed doctor's orders and parental consent must be received by the health office. Medication orders must be submitted every new school year or at the start or restart of any medication treatment.) Medication consent forms are located on the school website under Health Services. Short-term antibiotics are the only prescription medications that do not require a separate signed physician medication order. The instructions on the bottle will be

sufficient if the current label is intact, and a parent or guardian signed consent is provided for the short-term antibiotics.

Note- Students who have had surgery, dental procedures, or injuries and are taking any type of narcotic pain reliever (i.e. Percocet, Vicodin, Tylenol#3,) are not allowed to return to school until their pain can be managed with a non-narcotic analgesic such as Ibuprofen or Tylenol. Narcotic pain relievers will not be administered in school.

Medication Delivery/Pick-up Requirements

All medications must be delivered to the school and picked up from the school by a responsible adult. All medications can be picked up from the nurse's office anytime during the school day. All medications will be disposed of if they are not picked up within one week following termination of the order or if they are not picked up by the last day of school.

All prescription medications must be in a pharmacy labeled container that includes the child's name, name and correct dose of the medication, physician's name, and current date. Please ask your pharmacy to provide separate bottles for school and home. Not more than a thirty-day supply of medicine should be delivered to the school. **All nonprescription medications must be in the original manufacturer's container.**

Additional Medication Information

- **Students are not permitted to have medicine in the classroom or on their person** without authorization from the parent and school nurse.
- **No medications that are scheduled to be given after the early release dismissal time will be given on school half-days** unless specifically requested in writing by a parent and or guardian.
- **In order for your child to receive any medications on a field trip or for any medications to be sent on a field trip, the medication field trip consent must be completed before your child goes on a field trip.**
- **It is important for the school nurse to be informed of any medication that your child might be taking even if your child does not need to receive these medications during the school day.** It is also important for the school nurse to be informed of any medication changes in a timely manner.

As noted on the emergency form, the school physician, Dr. Eric Kaplan, has approved after a nurse's assessment and if deemed appropriate for the safety and welfare of a student, the use of Acetaminophen/Tylenol, Caladryl, Benadryl, Oragel, Vaseline, Sting Relief Wipes,

saline eye solutions, Bacitracin, Silvadene cream, Hydrocortisone cream, Ibuprofen/Motrin, Tums and First Aid cream. Students showing signs of a life threatening allergic reaction or anaphylaxis may be given EpiPen or Narcan and Emergency Medical Services will be summoned. Guardians must note on their child's annual medical information form if they do not want any of the listed medications or ointments used.

Students with Life Threatening Allergies, Asthma, and Seizures

For the well-being and safety of students with asthma, seizures and allergies, guardians should submit a medical plan of care for that student even if you as guardian do not send in a related medication to the school. Plans of care are available on the school's website.

The Chelmsford Public Schools cannot guarantee to provide an allergen-free environment for all students with life-threatening allergies, or prevent any harm to students in emergencies. The goal is to minimize the risk of exposure to food allergens that pose a threat to those students, educate the community, and to maintain and regularly update a system-wide protocol for responding to their needs. A system-wide effort requires the cooperation of all groups of people within the system. For more information on protocols for students with life threatening allergies, please go to:

<http://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/wellness>

Health Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusions of Students

Students entering Chelmsford Public Schools are required at the time of student registration to provide a copy of a physical examination dated within one year of entrance to school or within 30 days after school entry and at intervals of either three or four years thereafter. A student transferring from another school district shall be examined as an entering Chelmsford Public Schools student. In compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health state laws, our district requires physicals for students in kindergarten, third grade, sixth grade, and ninth grade.

We follow Massachusetts General Law with regard to the vaccination and immunization of students. An up-to-date physician-signed vaccination and immunization record must be provided at the time of student registration. Failure to have proper documentation of mandated immunizations will result in the student's exclusion from school. Please see reference below.

Chapter 76: Section 15. Vaccination and Immunization

No child shall, except as hereinafter provided, be admitted to school except upon presentation of a physician's certificate that the child has been successfully immunized

against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and poliomyelitis and such other communicable diseases as may be specified from time to time by the Department of Public Health.

A child shall be admitted to school upon certification by a physician that they have personally examined such child and that in their opinion the physical condition of the child is such that their health would be endangered by such vaccination or by any of such immunizations. If the physician in charge of the school health program does not agree with the opinion of the child's physician, the matter shall be referred to the Department of Public Health, whose decision will be final.

In the absence of an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the Department of Public Health, no child whose parent or guardian states in writing that vaccination or immunization conflicts with their sincere religious beliefs shall be required to present said physician's certificate in order to be admitted to school. This must be submitted annually to the nurse.

Emergency Medical Information Forms

Emergency Medical Information forms must be completely filled out and returned to the Nurses' Office each year. Forms provide important phone numbers and contact persons for dismissals, emergencies, and signed permission for some over the counter medications including Tylenol. Forms will be sent home at the beginning of each school year and are available online or at your school nurse's office.

Sports Physical and Screenings

All students who are candidates for interscholastic athletic teams at Chelmsford High School, must have a physical examination on file within 12 months of and before participating in any try-outs or practice.

Hearing/Vision/Postural Screenings and Height and Weight Checks

Vision and hearing screening, postural screening and height/weight checks will be conducted on students as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Health.

Bus Transportation

An essential component of a quality education is safe transportation for all students to and from school each day. Each year we experience a variety of parent questions concerning our transportation program. The purpose of this section is to present responses to the most

commonly asked questions. This is a resource for parents. Please read the document carefully and reread the document with your child. If questions remain, please feel free to communicate directly with the principal of your child's school or our transportation supervisor in the superintendent's office. Your willingness to adhere to these guidelines will be greatly appreciated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Does the Chelmsford Public Schools provide transportation for all students?

A: It is the policy of the Chelmsford School Committee to provide bus transportation for all students living beyond a minimum walking distance to school.

Q: Will my child be assigned to a particular bus?

A: Yes. Bus assignments are published on the school website. Individual student bus assignments are available in the X2 Family Portal.

Q: Will my child be assigned to a particular seat?

A: No, however, the bus driver or school administrator has the authority to direct students to sit in specific seats, particularly when there is a disciplinary concern.

Q: Will my child be permitted to ride other buses throughout the school year?

A: Students must ride only on their assigned bus. Bus swapping or riding to a friend's house is not permitted. Students are only permitted to change from their assigned bus when there the student is employed in a particular location or to visit the Town Library. In both instances, a written request must be given to the building principal three days before the need for such transportation. A response to the request can be expected one day before the request. Requests will be granted only in those instances where there is space available on the desired bus.

Q: Can I expect transportation to my child's day care facility?

A: Students may only change from their assigned bus to attend a day care facility within the school's attendance area five days a week.

Q: Can I expect the bus to stop directly in front of my house?

A: No. We try to minimize bus stops in order to promote efficient bus routing. Door to door service should not be expected.

Q: What responsibilities do parents or guardians have in providing safe transportation for students?

A: Parents or guardians have a number of important responsibilities. They include:

- Parents or guardians of elementary and middle school students should read or review this document with their children.
- Parents or guardians should support the bus regulations and inform their children that they too have the same expectations for behavior and procedures. Parents need to work with the school in setting appropriate expectations.
- Parents or guardians should supervise children waiting for the bus at the bus stop.
- Parents or guardians should instruct their child to be at the bus stop three to five minutes before the expected arrival time of the bus.

Q: What should a student do if the bus does not arrive at the stop on time?

A: If the bus does not arrive at the stop in a timely manner, e.g. 10-15 minutes past the expected arrival time, the student should return home directly. The parent should call the school to inform the school office of the non-arrival of the bus and make other arrangements for transportation to school. If a parent or guardian is not present upon the child's return to home, it is recommended that the child go to the home of a pre-determined family. It is recommended that each family speak with their children in the event of this rare occurrence.

Q: Are parents of kindergarten students expected to meet their child at the bus stop upon returning home from school?

A: Yes. No kindergarten student will be permitted to exit the bus unless there is a responsible adult at the bus stop charged with the responsibility of escorting the child safely home. If no responsible adult is present at the bus stop, the kindergarten child will be returned to the school. The parent will be contacted, and the parent will be responsible for transporting the child home.

Q: What will happen if the bus is unable to reach a bus stop because of inclement weather or some other unusual circumstance?

A: Bus drivers have been instructed to never let a child out at a stop other than his/her designated stop. All children will return to the school building and parents will be contacted to arrange safe transportation home.

Q: Will my child receive special training on bus safety?

A: Yes. The school system is required to have training sessions at each school location. There will be a training session in the beginning of the year to review the expectations detailed in this document; introduce all students to bus drivers, thereby reinforcing the importance of following his/her directions at all times; and answers any student's questions or respond to student concerns. Training sessions will focus on procedures for exiting a bus during an emergency situation. Training sessions will reinforce the importance of rules and procedures.

Q: As a parent, what should I do if I have a question or concern about the transportation of my child?

A: Simple problems or student conflicts on the bus can be resolved by contacting the building principal. For other transportation issues, you may want to file a "Bus Issue Identification Form" online. Problems that may require the use of the Bus Issue Identification Form include: a request to change a bus route, a request to change the location of a bus stop, or a concern with a bus driver's adherence to bus regulations. The Bus Issue Identification Form can be found on the school website under Transportation.

Q: Is it ever appropriate for parents to communicate directly with the management of the transportation company regarding a bus problem?

A: No. The Chelmsford Public Schools transports in excess of 5000 students each day. We have a commitment to safe and efficient transportation. School officials, the Transportation Company and parents need to work together to provide a quality transportation program. Parent support of all messages embedded in this document will be appreciated.

Bus Fees

Chelmsford Public Schools assess a fee for student bus transportation. Transportation fees are assessed as follows:

Kindergarten through grade 6 students will ride free if the distance from the end of their driveway to their school's driveway is beyond 2 miles. All other students in grades K-6 and all students in grades 7-12 will pay the fee to ride the bus. Students qualifying for free or reduced lunch receive free transportation and those receiving special education services with an IEP requiring special transportation .

Bus Rules

Parents should be aware that students' opportunity to ride the school bus is conditional on their behavior and observance of school rules pertaining to proper conduct. Drivers have the daily responsibility of enforcing student rules and regulations for all students and ensuring their safety. Buses are equipped with video monitoring devices. In the event of a problem impacting the safety of students or the failure of students to comply with rules and regulations, the driver will contact the principal for further administrative action.

Please review the following rules so that you can help your child have a positive bus riding experience:

- a. Students are to observe all rules and regulations established by the bus driver.
- b. Each student is to take a seat and remain in that seat until his or her bus stops. It is expected that students will share seats with their peers. Kindergarten students have assigned seats in the front of the bus. Students in grades 1 through 12 may be assigned seats at the discretion of the bus driver or school administrator.
- c. Students are not permitted to throw anything on the bus or out of the window.
- d. All talking and noise must be kept at a minimum.
- e. No smoking (i.e. including e-cigarettes) is permitted on the bus; this is in accordance with State law.
- f. Students and parents are responsible for any physical damage to the bus.
- g. Inappropriate behavior, including physical contact, is not allowed on or around any bus, or while waiting for the bus.

- h. Riders must keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
- i. No pets or animals are allowed on the bus.
- j. Students must ride only their assigned bus. At the middle and high school levels, bus swapping for employment purposes, or to go to the library is allowed, providing there is space on the bus. The school bus will not change its routing to accommodate students swapping buses.
- k. Only small musical instruments are permitted on the buses, instruments that can be kept in a child's lap or within the area of a child's seat. Large musical instruments will not be permitted on the bus due to safety concerns. Specific information relative to approved instruments allowed on buses will be given to students and parents when they enroll in the instrumental program.
- l. Students are not allowed to take any photo or video on buses.
- m. All the rules that apply at school apply on the bus.

Students who fail to follow bus rules face the possibility of losing the opportunity of riding any bus to and from school. If a student is referred to the office by a bus driver for breaking a bus rule, this is what may happen depending on the severity of the offense.

FIRST OFFENSE – At the minimum a parent or guardian will be contacted.

SECOND OFFENCE AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES – A student may be suspended from riding the bus.

- **Please note a serious infraction of the rules may result in an immediate bus suspension at the discretion of the building administrator.**

Additional infractions of the rules may result in permanent suspension from riding the bus. Restitution will not be made for bus fees due to student suspension and/or expulsion.

Special note to parents: For the sake of the safety of your children, it is a criminal offense to pass a bus whose lights are flashing whether on the road or at the school. There is a substantial fine per bus passed.

Code of Conduct/Consequences

Student Expectations

The Chelmsford Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment which embraces a respect for self and others. Students are responsible to school administrators and teachers for their behavior to and from school, on school grounds, on buses, and during any school-sponsored activity or field trip.

1. Students are expected to report to each class with all their necessary materials, books, writing implements, the day's assignment, and the Reminder Binder (if applicable).
2. Each student should treat the teacher and all members of the class with respect and allow others to participate equally in the lesson.
3. Students will use moderate voices at all times.
4. Students are expected to keep to the right and to avoid blocking other students' movement in the hallways.
5. Running, wrestling, and roughhousing are not allowed at anytime.
6. During an emergency drill, students must follow directions, stay with their class, use the proper exits, exit quickly, and refrain from talking.
7. Objects must never be thrown in school.
8. Gum chewing is not allowed in school (elementary & middle school).

Teachers and all school personnel are expected to enforce these behavior expectations at all times. Repeated infractions will be handled using the individual school's discipline procedures.

Dress Code

The dress code is based upon the premise that all students attending school may wish to dress and groom themselves appropriately with due consideration to popular convention. Any clothing, jewelry, etc. that denotes drugs, weapons, sex, gambling, alcohol, or gangs is not allowed in school.

Good grooming and appropriate dress should be based on health, safety, cleanliness, and the avoidance of suggestive clothing and clothing injurious to school property. Students

should not wear chains in school. Jackets, coats, hats, caps, kerchiefs, bandannas, visors, and sunglasses are not allowed to be worn in elementary and middle schools. Kerchiefs, bandannas, visors, hoods which are in the “up” position, and sunglasses are not allowed to be worn in the high school. For more detail regarding your child’s grade level, please see your child’s grade addendum.

If jewelry, hair color, clothes or manner of dress are determined by the school administration to be so extreme that they are disruptive or deemed to pose a health or safety hazard, then they are unacceptable.

Students who violate these dress standards must:

1. find alternate clothing in your locker or from a friend;
2. receive alternate clothing from the nurse/office;
3. ask a parent bring in alternate clothing or go home to change clothes.

Items Not Allowed During School

The following items are not allowed during school hours at school without permission:

Electronic games or devices, laser pens or pointers, personal music systems, cameras, video cameras. (**Taking pictures or videos of students and staff is not permitted in school or on buses.**)

1. Squirt guns, water guns, etc.
2. Skateboards/sneakers with built-in wheels. (You may only use the skateboard park after you have gone home or been picked up by your parent/guardian).
3. Lighters, matches or other lighting devices, alcohol, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco (chewing or smoking, such as cigarettes), any weapons, knives (including pocket or utility knives), fireworks, stink bombs. Bringing any of these items to school will result in suspension or expulsion, and in some cases reported to the police and/or fire department.
4. Other devices that may create a disruption or potentially be a safety risk (i.e. shock delivering devices).

Items located in your locker are considered to be in your possession and may be confiscated by school administration. Lockers are school property. There is no expectation of privacy for items contained in school lockers.

Phone Usage

If students need to contact home they should see their teacher/administrator to receive permission to use the phone in the classroom or office. Conversely, if a parent needs to speak with a student, the parent should call the school office. All cell phones should be off while in school, unless in use for instructional purposes. Any student using a cell phone for non-instructional purposes while school is in session will have that cell phone confiscated by administration. A first offense will lead to a warning and the administrator will return the phone to the student at the end of the day. Second and subsequent offenses will result in the phone being returned only to the parent and/or further disciplinary actions.

Personal Computing Devices

Students using their own personal computing devices as a part of their instructional program, please refer to the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Guidelines and FAQs on the Technology Department Web Page.

Unauthorized Recordings, Photos and Video

The unauthorized distribution of voice recordings, photographs, or videos of staff or students, at school, on buses, or at a school function, will result in a suspension of up to five (5) days and possible notification to the proper authorities.

Behaviors Not Allowed

Participation in any of the following will result in student discipline. This list is not an exhaustive list, but is meant to be illustrative.

1. Throwing objects.
2. Stealing.
3. Threats, acts of intimidation, aggressive behavior (including pushing and shoving), fighting.
4. Borrowing or exchanging money (Items for sale will be confiscated and parents will be notified. Students should not bring large sums of money to school.)
5. Damage to, defacing, or tampering with school property or the property of others. (Students may be expected to pay for all damages before final grades are issued. Additional consequences may also be enforced, including the option of suspension from school).

6. Cheating in any form. Cheating is a serious breach of trust and is never acceptable. (See Academic Honor Code)
7. Unauthorized leaving of school grounds. In the event a student leaves the school grounds during the school day, the parent will be notified and will be expected to return the student to school immediately. If a parent cannot be reached, the School Attendance Officer and Police Department will be notified in an effort to locate and return the student to school.
8. The use of or possession of tobacco products, drugs/counterfeit drugs within the school building, on school grounds, or on school buses.
9. Harassment, hazing, or bullying.
10. Sexual harassment.
11. Distribution of sexual paraphernalia.
12. Inappropriate use of technology and social media (see Technology, Internet and Email).

Forms of Consequences:

1. Withholding privileges - A student may not be allowed to attend a special program within the school. For example, if a student acted poorly in the cafeteria, the privilege of eating in that setting might be withheld. A student may be required to eat lunch in the school office or in a supervised alternative location.
2. Detention - A student might be required to serve detention at recess time or after school. The parent will be notified in advance if a detention is to take place after school hours so that parents can provide transportation from school.
3. Exclusion - A student might be suspended or excluded from school.

Due Process

MGL Chapter 71 Section 37 H - Policies relative to conduct of teachers or students; student handbooks

Section 37H

The superintendent of every school district shall publish the district's policies pertaining to the conduct of teachers and students. Said policies shall prohibit the use of any tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities or on the school grounds or on school buses by any individual, including school personnel. Copies of these policies shall be provided to any person upon request and without cost by the principal of every school within the district.

Each school district's policies pertaining to the conduct of students shall include the following: disciplinary proceedings, including procedures assuring due process; standards and procedures for suspension and expulsion of students; procedures pertaining to discipline of students with special needs; standards and procedures to assure school building security and safety of students and school personnel; and the disciplinary measures to be taken in cases involving the possession or use of illegal substances or weapons, the use of force, vandalism, or violation of other student's civil rights. Codes of discipline, as well as procedures used to develop such codes shall be filed with the department of education for informational purposes only.

In each school building containing the grades nine to twelve, inclusive, the principal, in consultation with the school council, shall prepare and distribute to each student a student handbook setting forth the rules pertaining to the conduct of students. The school council shall review the student handbook each spring to consider changes in disciplinary policy to take effect in September of the following school year, but may consider policy changes at any time. The annual review shall cover all areas of student conduct, including but not limited to those outlined in this section.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all student handbooks shall contain the following provisions:

(a) Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in chapter ninety-four C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.

(b) Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events,

including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.

(c) Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the principal.

After said hearing, a principal may, in his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).

(d) Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the superintendent of his appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.

(e) Any school district that suspends or expels a student under this section shall continue to provide educational services to the student during the period of suspension or expulsion, under section 21 of chapter 76. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student in an education service plan, under section 21 of chapter 76.

(f) Districts shall report to the department of elementary and secondary education the specific reasons for all suspensions and expulsions, regardless of duration or type, in a manner and form established by the commissioner. The department of elementary and secondary education shall use its existing data collection tools to obtain this information from districts and shall modify those tools, as necessary, to obtain the information. On an annual basis, the department of elementary and secondary education shall make district level de-identified data and analysis, including the total number of days each student is excluded during the school year, available to the public online in a machine readable format. This report shall include district level data disaggregated by student status and categories established by the commissioner.

(g) Under the regulations promulgated by the department, for each school that suspends or expels a significant number of students for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year,

the commissioner shall investigate and, as appropriate, shall recommend models that incorporate intermediary steps prior to the use of suspension or expulsion. The results of the analysis shall be publicly reported at the school district level.

Section 37H1/2.

(1) Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said principal or headmaster if said principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the suspension.

(2) Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent, in writing, of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the expulsion.

Any school district that suspends or expels a student under this section shall continue to provide educational services to the student during the period of suspension or expulsion, under section 21 of chapter 76. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student under an education service plan, under section 21 of chapter 76.

Section 37H 3/4

Suspensions

A violation of the school rules may result in the suspension of you/your child from school. A suspension may be served in three ways: an in-school suspension, a short-term suspension, or a long-term suspension. Depending on circumstances, your child may also be removed for not more than two (2) school days on emergency grounds.

Below are definitions for the terms to be used during school suspension procedures. The procedures are pursuant M.G.L. c. 71 §37H ³/₄ and 603 CMR 53.00, and effective July 1, 2014.

You/your

These words means the student if more than 18 years of age and where contextually inappropriate the student's parents, guardian or person authorized to make educational decisions if the student is less than 18 years old.

In-School Suspension

An in-school suspension is defined as removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for no more than (10) consecutive school days,

or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days. In-school suspension for ten (10) days or fewer, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year, shall not be considered a short-term suspension. If a student is placed in in-school suspension for more than ten (10) days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year, such suspension shall be deemed a long-term suspension for due process and appeal purposes.

Short-Term Suspension

A short-term suspension is defined as the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) or fewer consecutive school days. A principal may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a short-term suspension in school. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days.

Long-Term Suspension

A long-term suspension is defined as the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year. A principal may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a long-term suspension in school. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days.

Except for students who are charged with offenses under M.G.L. c. 71 §37H or §37H^{1/2} *i.e.*, with possession of drugs or weapons on school grounds, assault on a staff member, or are charged with or convicted of a felony or felony delinquency, no student may be placed on long-term suspension for one or more disciplinary offenses for more than ninety (90) school days in a school year beginning with the first day that the student is removed from school. Offenses under §§37H or 37H^{1/2} are not subject to §37H^{3/4} as to the duration of your child's removal from school, and may result in an expulsion for longer than 90 days. No long-term suspension shall extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed.

Expulsion

Expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than ninety (90) school days, indefinitely, or permanently, as permitted under G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H^{1/2} for: a) possession of a dangerous weapon; b) possession of a controlled substance; c) assault on a member of the

educational staff; or d) felony conviction, or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony, if it is determine that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school, as provided in G.L. c. 71, §§37H or 37H 1/2.

School Wide Education Plan

If you or your child is to be suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive days, you/your child may be eligible to continue to receive educational services under a school-wide education plan, a document developed by the building principal, in accordance with G.L. c. 76, §21. The plan includes a list of education and services available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for any reason, or under any law including M.G.L. c. 71§§ 37H & 37H1/2, for more than 10 consecutive days. These plans are intended to allow eligible students to continue to access academic opportunities while suspended or excluded for any reason.

NOTICE OF HEARING RIGHTS & PROCEDURES

PROCEDURES FOR SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION

(exclusion of a student from school premises and regular classroom activities for a specified period of not more than ten school days.)

The principal, or his/her designee, may suspend students on a short-term basis. Unless a student poses a danger to persons or property, substantially and materially disrupts the order of school, possesses a firearm, controlled substance, or assaults a school staff member, the student will receive the following prior to a short-term suspension:

1. Oral and written notice of the charges in English and the primary language of the home if other than English. This notice shall include:
 - i. The disciplinary offense;
 - ii. The basis for the charge;
 - iii. The potential consequences, including the potential length of the suspension;
 - iv. The opportunity to have a hearing with the principal and the parent concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident;
 - v. The date, time, and location of the hearing;
 - vi. The right of the parent and student to interpreter services at the hearing; and
 - vii. If the student may be placed on a long-term suspension following the hearing with the principal:
 1. The rights set forth under the "Procedures for Long-Term Suspension"; and
 2. The right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent.

2. At the hearing, if the student and/or parent elects to attend, the student shall have the opportunity to present his/her version of the relevant facts and any mitigating circumstances. The principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of
3. the opportunity to attend the hearing. To conduct the hearing without the parent, the principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent. The
4. principal is presumed to have made reasonable efforts if the principal sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.
5. Based on the available information, the principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offences and what remedy shall be imposed. The principal shall notice the student and parent in writing of his/her decision, the reasons for it, and, if applicable, the type and duration of the suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and other academic work.
6. If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the suspension takes effect.

PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY REMOVAL

If the student's continued presence poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school and, in the principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption, the principal shall temporarily remove the student from the school. This temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) days following the day of the emergency removal and the superintendent shall be immediately notified of the removal. Additionally, the principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the emergency removal, and the other information required in a short-term suspension notification. The short-term suspension notice shall be provided in writing to the student and parent. The opportunity for a hearing with the principal shall occur within two (2) school days, unless otherwise extended by the school and parent. A decision regarding the student's continued suspension or other removal shall be rendered the same day as the hearing and written notice shall be provided the following school day. This written notice shall include all the information required based on the type of discipline imposed (short-term suspension, in-school suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion).

The principal may also remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on a student's misconduct. This type of removal is not subject to the procedures for suspension and expulsion outlined in this policy.

PROCEDURES FOR AN IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

An in-school suspension may be used as an alternative to short-term suspension for disciplinary events. An in-school suspension means the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions in one school year.

If the principal chooses this alternative, the principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for that charge and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charge and explain the circumstances surrounding the charge. If an in-school suspension is issued, the principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the offense, and the length of the in-school suspension.

The principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. This meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension, if possible, or as soon as possible thereafter. The principal shall also send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to the above described meeting, if such meeting has not already occurred.

PROCEDURES FOR LONG-TERM SUSPENSION

(exclusion of a student from school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten school days.)

The principal, or his/her designee, may issue long-term suspensions at the building level. The principal may also issue expulsions for the offenses set forth in M.G.L. c. 71, §37H and §37H½. Expulsions for other offenses are handled by the School Committee pursuant to M.G.L. c. 76, §16 and §17.

1. In the event of a long term suspension or expulsion, the student will be provided oral and written notice of the charges in English and the primary language of the home if other than English. This notice shall include:
 - i. The disciplinary offense;
 - ii. The basis for the charge;
 - iii. The potential consequences, including the potential length of the suspension;
 - iv. The opportunity to have a hearing with the principal and the parent concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident;
 - v. The date, time, and location of the hearing; and
 - vi. The right of the parent and student to interpreter services at the hearing.
7. The principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. To conduct the hearing without the parent, the principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent. The principal is presumed to have made reasonable efforts if the principal sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.
2. In advance of the hearing, the student shall have the right to review the student's record and the documents upon which the principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student.
3. The student shall also have the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person at the choice and expense of the student/parent.
4. At the hearing, if the student and/or parent elects to attend, the student shall have the opportunity to present his/her version of the relevant facts and any mitigating circumstances. The student shall also have the right to produce witnesses and the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school. The student may request that the hearing be audio recorded by the principal and may request a copy of the recording. All parties must be made aware that the hearing is recorded in advance of the hearing.
5. The parent, if present, shall have the opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and other information, including mitigating circumstances that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.
6. The principal shall make a determination as to whether the student committed the disciplinary offences and what consequences shall be imposed. The principal shall notice the student and parent in writing of his/her decision, including the following information:

- i. The disciplinary offence, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants in the hearing;
- ii. The key facts and conclusions reached by the principal;
- iii. The length and effective date of the suspension and the date of return to school;
- iv. The notice the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the suspension;
- v. The student's right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent or his/her designee if a long-term suspension has been imposed. This notice of appeal shall include the process for appealing the decision, which requires the parent or student to file a written notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension.
 - a. The superintendent shall hold the hearing within three (3) school days of the student's request, unless an extension is mutually agreed to.
 - b. The superintendent shall make a good-faith effort to include the parent in the hearing.
 - c. The hearing shall be conducted to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense and, if so, what the consequence shall be. The hearing shall be audio recorded and a copy of the recording shall be provided to the student or parent upon request.
 - d. All the same rights as are afforded in the above long-term suspension principal's hearing shall apply to the student in a superintendent's hearing.
 - e. The superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. If the superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the superintendent may impose the same or lesser consequence than the principal.
 - f. The decision of the superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district.
- vi. If the student is in grades K-3, the principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the superintendent and explain the reasons for the suspension before the suspension takes effect.

DISCIPLINING A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY - 34 CFR 300.530

Any student may be suspended or removed from school for disciplinary reasons for a short time, which is no more than 10 days. Once a special education student has been removed from the school placement for more than 10 cumulative days during the school year the student must receive a free and appropriate public education. For students on 504 Plans or on an IEP, the Team must meet within 10 days of the school's decision to impose the discipline. At this meeting, called a "manifestation determination," the IEP Team will determine if the misbehavior was caused by or had a direct relationship to the student's disability, or was the direct result of the school's failure to provide the services required by the student's IEP or 504 Plan.

If the Team determines that the student's behavior was caused by or substantially related to the student's disability or the failure to properly implement the IEP or 504 Plan, then the student must be returned to the last approved placement unless the Team decides on a different placement. It must conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop a behavior plan (or review and modify an existing plan, if necessary).

If the team determines that the student's behavior was not caused by or substantially related to the student's disability or the failure to properly implement the IEP or 504 Plan, then a student with a disability can be disciplined in the same manner and for the same length of time as other students are disciplined for the same offense.

Note that if your student possessed or used a weapon or drugs, or caused serious bodily injury to another person on school property or at a school event your student may be placed by the principal in an IAES for up to 45 school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability. The IEP Team will determine the IAES and the appropriate educational services that will be provided to the student while he or she is in the IAES.

If a parent disagrees with any decision regarding placement of his or her student under the disciplinary provisions or disagrees with the manifestation determination, or if the school district believes that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in an injury to the student or to others, either the parent or the school district may appeal the decision by requesting a hearing with the BSEA.

Sexual Harassment Code of Conduct for Students

I. Code

The purpose of a sexual harassment code for students is to define sexual harassment, establish appropriate standards of conduct, and set guidelines for recognizing and dealing with sexual harassment.

The Chelmsford Schools are committed to maintaining an educational atmosphere in which each student can pursue scholastic achievement and personal fulfillment. Sexual harassment is a destructive behavior, which interferes with the educational process and will not be tolerated.

The Chelmsford Schools maintain a neutral position regarding students' interpersonal relationships. However, actions such as, embraces and touching, and other intimate physical actions showing a personal relationship are inappropriate in an educational setting. Students who engage in such actions on school grounds or during school activities violate school policy.

II. Definition

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct unreasonably interferes with school performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Assault, inappropriate touching, intentionally impeding movement, continuing verbal comments, gestures, written or electronically posted communications of a suggestive or derogatory nature;
- Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome (reciprocal attraction between peers is not considered sexual harassment);
- Leering or voyeurism;

- Displaying or posting lewd or sexually explicit photographs or materials.

Sexual harassment is described by the victim. The individual's feelings and reactions determine whether behavior such as that described above is inappropriate and sexual harassment has taken place.

III. Standards of Conduct

Sexual harassment is a violation of an individual's right to privacy and personal dignity. Anyone who engages in sexual harassment violates school policy. Students displaying intimate physical actions, which reflect a personal relationship within school facilities, school grounds, on school buses, or during school-related activities violate school policy.

The Chelmsford Schools believe that knowing and willful false allegations regarding sexual or other forms of harassment or intimidation are also demeaning and destructive to the victim and will treat issues of knowing and willful false allegations seriously.

Student conduct on school grounds and during school activities will be monitored and violations of school policy will result in disciplinary proceedings.

IV. General Guidelines

- A. Problems and complaints regarding sexual discrimination and harassment should be resolved in a prompt and equitable manner. When possible, such problems and complaints should be resolved in an informal manner. Students who need help or wish to talk about harassment should see their, Teacher, Guidance Counselor, the School Nurse, the School Psychologist, or the Principal/Assistant Principal/Dean.
- B. Staff members who observe conduct, which violates this policy, are to report the conduct to the Principal or Assistant Principal/Dean.
- C. This complaint procedure may be invoked even if other appeal and adjudication procedures have been provided by state law or other specific Chelmsford Public School policies and directives.
- D. Retaliation in any form for the filing of a complaint or reporting of sexual harassment is prohibited and will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

- E. Reports of sexual harassment should be kept as confidential as possible. It is the intent of the Chelmsford Schools to protect both parties and stop the behavior rather than to punish anyone unless the behavior is found to be so blatant and severe that the victim has suffered severe emotional and/or physical harm.

V. Procedure for Dealing with Sexual Harassment

The Principal shall be responsible for the execution of this policy. Faculty and staff who need assistance in the interpretation or execution of the policy should contact either the Principal or Assistant Principal/Dean. Procedure for Dealing with Sexual Harassment

Any faculty or staff member who receives a complaint verbally or in writing concerning sexual harassment or who observes conduct, which he/she believes, may constitute sexual harassment is required to document the complaint and report it in writing to the Principal and to the Coordinator of Title IX within two school days.

A. Personal Confrontation

Any individual subjected to sexual harassment may, if he or she chooses, confront the harasser informally in order to resolve the complaint on a personal level.

B. Informal Resolution

If the complainant does not want to deal directly with the harasser, or if the matter is not resolved informally, the complainant should immediately report the conduct to their Guidance Counselor, the School Nurse, the School Psychologist, or their Principal/Assistant Principal. Every report of sexual harassment must be taken seriously. It must be responded to immediately. In appropriate circumstances, the person receiving the report may offer to the complainant the option to sit down with the alleged harasser and the complainant together or the alleged harasser alone to work out an informal resolution.

C. Formal Resolution

If the complainant does not choose to meet with the harasser, the complainant can choose one of the following options:

1. Write a Letter

The complainant may choose to write a letter to the harasser listing the following:

- a) An exact description of the behavior, including when and where it happened
- b) Description of how the behavior made the complainant feel (embarrassed, humiliated, angry, etc.)
- c) The letter should contain a request that the behavior stop because it is sexual harassment and is against the law
- d) A promise that if the behavior stops, nothing further will be said and no further action will be taken
- e) The person receiving the complaint (guidance or adjustment counselor, school nurse, school psychologist, or principal/ assistant principal) should assist the complainant in drafting the letter.
- f) The letter should be signed and dated by the complainant. The complainant or the person assisting the complainant should deliver the letter to the harasser. A copy of the letter must be submitted to the principal.
- g) If the behavior does not stop, the complainant may request a formal investigation.

2. Complete an Incident Form to Initiate Formal Investigation

The complainant may choose to complete and sign an incident form with assistance from the principal/assistant principal which begins the formal investigation process conducted by the principal of the school.

3. Formal Investigation

In the case of serious or repeated incident- of sexual harassment or other cases requiring a formal investigation, the principal shall implement the following:

- a. Have a supportive faculty member or other person present with the complainant at all discussions regarding the case;
- b. Keep the investigation group as small as possible to protect the rights of both parties and to prevent the investigation from becoming overly publicized and protect the complainant from retaliation;
- c. Complete the investigation promptly or as soon as possible from the date the incident is reported. The investigation will include interviewing the complainant, the person alleged to have made the harassing conduct or communication, and such other person(s) named by complainant or person accused who may have witnessed or have information pertaining to the incident. An opportunity for all parties to be heard will be provided consistent with school committee policies and procedures.
- d. Within 5 school days after the completion of the investigation, conclude whether a violation of the policy has occurred or not; complete the written investigation report form, send copies of the report to:
 - e. Coordinator of Title IX/622
 - f. Superintendent of Schools.
 - g. The complainant and the person(s) against whom the complaint was made.

VII. Resolution

- A. If the complaint is not supported, carefully explain the decision to the complainant and alleged harasser. Unresolved investigations will be reported as such.
- B. If the complaint is supported, such action as is necessary shall be taken to admonish the harasser, alleviate the complainant's concerns, and prevent further harassment.

VIII. Appeal Procedure

Level I: The complainant or person accused has the right to appeal the decision of the principal to the Coordinator of Title IX/622 in writing within two school days

after the decision is formally made. The Coordinator of Title IX/622 will respond in writing to the grievant within ten school days.

Level II: The grievant may appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within two school days of the receipt of the decision of the Coordinator of Title IX/622. The Superintendent of Schools will respond in writing within 10 school days to the grievant.

Level III: The grievant may appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within two school days of the receipt of the decision of the Coordinator of Title IX/622. The Superintendent of Schools will respond in writing within 10 school days to the grievant.

IX. Other

- A. In serious cases, or in cases where harassment does not stop after warning, appropriate disciplinary sanctions shall be imposed as set out in the Student Handbook. These disciplinary sanctions range from verbal warning to removal from the school setting.
- B. If the conduct involves a violation of law, the matter will immediately be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- C. Under certain circumstances, sexual harassment may constitute child abuse under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, section 51 A. The staff of the Chelmsford Schools, who are mandated reporters, will report the suspected child abuse to the Department of Social Services according to school policy and procedure.
- D. Retaliation in any form - written and/or electronic- for the filing of a complaint, the reporting of sexual discrimination including harassment, or participating in an investigation is prohibited. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment. If it occurs, it can be considered grounds for removal from the educational setting for a student. Any allegations of reprisal will be subject to the same kind of investigation and disciplinary actions as are described in Section 5A through section VIII.

PRIDE and Bullying Prevention and Intervention

We believe that there are certain personal characteristics that need to be cultivated within children in order for them to reach their potential throughout their formal education and position themselves for a lifetime of success. Chelmsford Public Schools will provide support for students to grow in these areas as they move through our system Pre-K through Grade 12 in a consistent and purposeful manner by unifying our successful academic and nonacademic programming that identifies and promotes pro-social and healthy behaviors. Therefore, we have developed our district-wide program, PRIDE.

This program is modeled after the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Model Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and includes the years of professional development and bullying rubrics and procedures created by the staff of the Chelmsford Public Schools. It is designed to satisfy the requirements of by M.G.L. c. 71, § 370, added to chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010, entitled An Act Relative to Bullying in Schools as signed by the Governor in May 2010. It has been revised and submitted to the state as the amendments to the law has required. To review the bullying prevention and intervention plan, please visit www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/pride.

The Chelmsford Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, positive, and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying as articulated in the Bullying Intervention Plan. It is a violation of this policy for any student or member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional to engage in bullying or cyberbullying or for any employee of the Chelmsford Public Schools to condone or fail to report acts of bullying or cyberbullying that they witness or become aware of (i) on school grounds and property immediately adjacent to school grounds; (ii) at school sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs whether on or off school grounds; (iii) at school bus stops; (iv) on school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; (v) through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district and (vi) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district, (vii) if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the

rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

It is the responsibility of every employee, student and parent/guardian to recognize acts of bullying, cyberbullying and retaliation against students and take every action necessary to ensure that the applicable policies and procedures of the Chelmsford Public Schools are implemented. Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to bullying and/or cyber bullying has the right to: (i) file a complaint to his/her teacher or principal and to (ii) receive prompt and appropriate handling of the complaint. Further, all reasonable efforts shall be made to maintain the confidentiality and protect the privacy of all parties, but proper enforcement of this policy may require disclosure of any and all

information received. A report of bullying or retaliation may be made anonymously, provided that no disciplinary action shall be taken against the student solely on the basis of such report.

Students, parents and Chelmsford Public Schools' employees (including but not limited to educators, administrators, school nurses, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, custodians, van drivers, van monitors), who witness or become aware of bullying, cyber bullying or retaliation should immediately report it to the principal. The Chelmsford Public Schools will not tolerate retaliation against a person who reports bullying or cyberbullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying or cyberbullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying or cyberbullying.

The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation the principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. The principal or designee (or whomever is conducting the investigation) will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the principal or designee, other staff members as determined by the principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with school or district policies and procedures for investigations. If necessary, the principal or designee will consult with legal counsel about the investigation.

The principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The principal or designee will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2) determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary.

Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's or aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

If the school principal or a designee determines that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the principal or designee shall inform the parents or guardians of the victim about the department's problem resolution system and the process for seeking assistance or filing a claim through the problem resolution system.

The Chelmsford Public Schools will provide students with age-appropriate instruction on bullying/cyberbullying prevention. Each principal shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Plan at his/her program.

If the principal or designee decides that disciplinary action is appropriate, the disciplinary action will be determined on the basis of facts found by the principal or designee, including the nature of the conduct, the age of the student(s) involved, and the need to balance

accountability with the teaching of appropriate behavior. Discipline will be consistent with the Plan and with the rubrics developed for each level. The rubrics are developed as a guide for principals or designees and do not prohibit them from using their judgment when assigning consequences. Discipline procedures for students with disabilities are governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which should be read in cooperation with state laws regarding student discipline. If the principal or designee determines that a student knowingly made a false allegation of bullying or retaliation, that student may be subject to disciplinary action.

The principal or designee will consider what adjustments, if any, are needed in the school environment to enhance the target's sense of safety and that of others as well. One strategy that the principal or designee may use is to increase adult supervision at transition times and in locations where bullying is known to have occurred or is likely to occur. Within a reasonable period of time following the determination and the ordering of remedial and/or disciplinary action, the principal or designee will contact the target to determine whether there has been a recurrence of the prohibited conduct and whether additional supportive measures are needed. If so, the principal or designee will work with appropriate school staff to implement them immediately.

Title IX and Chapter 622

It is the policy of the Chelmsford Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, and national origin in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be directed to the Coordinator of Title IX and Chapter 622, 230 North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824. Telephone (978) 251-5100, extension 6904. Any student or school employee who feels that he/she has been discriminated against for any of the reasons cited above should use the following procedure to register a grievance:

1. Students or employees should submit any allegations of discrimination in writing to their building principal for consideration.
2. The principal will investigate the allegations and respond to the complainant through personal interview and in writing promptly.
3. If the matter is not resolved, the complainant may appeal in writing to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will meet with the complainant and

respond in writing promptly.

4. If, at the end of ten (10) school days following the written response from the Title IX Coordinator the matter remains unresolved, the complainant has the right to appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. All allegations of discrimination are to be communicated to the Superintendent of Schools in writing.
5. The Superintendent shall investigate the complaint and respond in writing to the complainant promptly.
6. If the matter still remains unresolved for the complainant, he/she has the right to invoke the complaint procedure for Title IX and Chapter 622 by contacting:

Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD),
One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 727-3990

And/or

Office for Civil Rights
1W McCormack Post Office and Court House,
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 223-9662

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 is an Act which prohibits discrimination against a person with a handicap in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who:

1. has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities including activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working)
2. has a record of such an impairment; or
3. is regarded as having such an impairment.

The Chelmsford Public Schools recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a handicap will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parents or guardian disagrees with the determination of the professional staff of the school district, he/she has the right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

Parents and/or guardians of a student should contact the Coordinator of Section 504: Director of Student Services at 230 North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

Transgender and Non-Conforming Students

The Chelmsford Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Chelmsford Public Schools prohibits discrimination (policy P5303) on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, disability, national origin, age, or sexual orientation and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study.

Understanding the terminology associated with gender identity is important to providing a safe and supportive school environment for students whose rights are protected under the law. The following terms are defined to assist in understanding the guidance presented. Although these are the most commonly used terms, students may prefer other terms to describe their gender identity, appearance, or behavior.

Gender expression: the manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, activities, voice, or mannerisms.

Gender identity: a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth.

Gender nonconforming: a term used to describe people whose gender expression differs from stereotypic expectations. The terms "gender variant" or "gender atypical" are also used.

Transgender: an umbrella term used to describe a person whose gender identity or gender expression is different from that traditionally associated with the assigned sex at birth.

Transition: the process in which a person goes from living and identifying as one gender to living and identifying as another. Transition is a process that is different for everyone, and it may or may not involve social, legal, or physical changes.

STUDENT TRANSITIONS

A student chooses when to transition. In order to maintain privacy regarding their transition and gender identity, transgender students may wish — but are not required — to transition over a summer break or between grades. Regardless of the timing of a student’s transition, the school shall act in accordance with the following age-appropriate rules.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Generally, it will be the parent or guardian that informs the school of the impending transition or if the student has already transitioned. However, it is not unusual for a student’s desire to transition to first surface at school. If school staff believe that a gender identity or expression issue is presenting itself and creating difficulty for the child at school, approaching parents about the issue is appropriate at the elementary level,

after discussion with the student to ensure the prospect of such a conversation with the parent does not provoke fear in the child. Together, the family and school can then identify appropriate steps to support the student.

SECONDARY SCHOOL: Generally, notification of a student’s parent about his or her gender identity, expression or transition is unnecessary, as they are already aware and may be supportive. In some cases, however, notifying parents carries risks for the student. Prior to notification of any parent or guardian regarding the transition process, school staff should work closely with the student to assess the degree to which, if any, the guardian will be involved in the process and must consider the physical and mental health, well-being, and safety of the transitioning student.

When a student is transitioning or notifies the school of a plan to transition or if the student has already transitioned, the school shall offer to meet with the student (and parents if they are involved in the process) to ascertain desires and concerns, and to discuss a plan that will create the conditions supporting a safe and accepting environment at the school for the student. This plan may include items such as: the student’s chosen name and pronoun; a plan to initiate the use of the student’s chosen name and pronoun within school; communication between the school and the parent/guardian; name and gender markers in

the student record; and the student's right to use restrooms, locker rooms or changing facilities, in accordance with the policy outlined below.

PRIVACY

All persons, including students, have a right to privacy, and this includes the right to keep one's transgender status private at school. Protecting the privacy of transgender and gender nonconforming students must be a top priority for staff. Information about a student's transgender status, legal name, or gender assigned at birth may constitute confidential medical information. Disclosing this information to other students, the student's parents, or other third parties may violate privacy laws, such as the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Transgender and gender nonconforming students have the right to discuss and express their gender identity and expression openly and to decide when, with whom, and how much to share private information. The fact that a student chooses to disclose his or her transgender status to staff or other students does not authorize school staff to disclose other medical information about the student. Also, to prevent a breach of confidentiality, *unless the student, parent, or guardian has specified otherwise*, school staff should use the

student's legal name and the pronoun corresponding to the student's gender assigned at birth when communicating with the parent or guardian of a transgender student.

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Changes of a student's name and/or gender marker within the student records should be made upon request of the student and/or parent/guardian, depending on the student's age/grade, as set out in the student records regulations. 603 CMR 23.01; 603 CMR 23.08. For students under 14 years old, only the parent/guardian may request the change. For students who are 14-17 years old, or who have entered ninth grade, the parent and the student may either alone or together make decisions about the student record. Any student 18 years or older who is not under guardianship may make the request. Massachusetts recognizes common law name changes, which means that anyone can use their chosen name for an honest purpose. Therefore, when requested to do so, the school will record the

student's chosen name and gender marker on all records, whether or not the student, parent or guardian provides the school with a court order formalizing a name change. If a change is made to the student's name and/or gender marker in the student record, the

school should seal all prior records that contain the student's birth name and/or gender in a separate, confidential file.

NAMES AND PRONOUNS

Every student has the right to be addressed by a name and pronoun that corresponds to the student's gender identity. A court-ordered name or gender change is not required, and the student need not change his or her official records to be afforded the respect of having school staff use the pronoun requested. It is strongly recommended that a trained staff member privately ask transgender or gender nonconforming students at the beginning of the school year how they want to be addressed in class, in the school's correspondence to the home, and at conferences with the student's parent/guardian. In accordance with the student's desires, the staff member should disseminate the student's chosen name and pronoun to other staff who may be in regular contact with the student and/or the student's home, to ensure the student is appropriately addressed and referred to. As noted above, this conversation about the student's chosen name and pronoun should be part of the initial planning meeting with the student.

FACILITIES

With respect to all restrooms, locker rooms or changing facilities, students shall have access to facilities that correspond to their gender identity. Schools shall allow students to access the restroom, locker room or changing facilities consistent with their gender identity.

In any gender segregated facility, any student who is uncomfortable using a shared facility, regardless of the reason, shall, upon the student's request, be provided with a safe and non-stigmatizing alternative. This may include, for example, addition of a privacy partition or curtain, provision to use a nearby private restroom or office, or a separate changing schedule. However, requiring a transgender or gender nonconforming student to use a separate, nonintegrated space threatens to publicly identify and marginalize the student as transgender and should not be done. Under no circumstances may students be required to use sex segregated facilities that are inconsistent with their gender identity.

Where available, schools are encouraged to designate facilities designed for use by one person at a time as accessible to all students regardless of gender, and to incorporate such single user facilities into new construction or renovation. However, under no circumstances may a student be required to use such facilities because they are transgender or gender nonconforming.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

All students shall be permitted to participate in physical education classes and intramural sports in a manner consistent with their gender identity. Furthermore, unless precluded by state interscholastic association policies, all students shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

OTHER GENDER-BASED ACTIVITIES, RULES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

As a general matter, schools should evaluate all gender-based activities, rules, policies, and practices — including but not limited to classroom activities, extra-curricular activities, school ceremonies, school photos, and documentation requests, such as field trip permission forms, and maintain only those that have a clear and sound pedagogical purpose and do not violate anti-discrimination law. Students shall be permitted to participate in any such activities or conform to any such rule, policy, or practice consistent with their gender identity.

DRESS CODE

Schools may enforce dress codes pursuant to district policy. Students shall have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity, within the constraints of the dress codes adopted by the school. School staff shall not enforce a school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The administration shall conduct training for all staff members on their responsibilities under applicable laws and this policy, including teachers, administrators, counselors, social workers, and health staff. Information regarding this policy shall be incorporated into training for new school employees. The administration shall implement ongoing professional development to build the skills of all staff members to prevent, identify and respond to bullying, harassment and discrimination that may result from gender identity issues.

The content of such professional development shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) terms, concepts, and current developmental understandings of gender identity, gender expression, and gender diversity in children and adolescents;
- (ii) developmentally appropriate strategies for communication with students and parents about issues related to gender identity and gender expression that protect student privacy and safety;

References

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 4 Section 7 – Definitions of Statutory Terms
Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, § 5 – School Attendance: Discrimination
603 CMR 26.00 – Access to Equal Education Regulations
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools: Creating a Safe and Supporting School Environment – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity*
P5303 – [Anti-discrimination policy]

Special Education Program

Student Study Team

Parents, Guardians, and/or staff may initiate a referral of any Student to the Student Study Team at any time. The Student Study Team is comprised of both regular education and special education staff. Once a referral has been made to the Student Study Team, staff will collaborate to ensure that any student experiencing difficulty in school will receive any needed regular education services or classroom modifications that the Student Study Team deems necessary to address the student's needs.

Referrals to the Student Study Team are considered as a regular education initiative. Such referrals do not preclude any parent, guardian, or other person in a care-giving or professional position concerned with the Student's development, from initiating a referral for special education evaluation and services. Further information regarding the special education referral and evaluation process may be obtained from the office of the Director of Student Services.

Student Records

The Massachusetts Student Record Regulations address all issues associated with parents' and eligible students' rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment, and destruction of student records, as well as the District's responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of such records. The following information is a basic summary of those regulations and should not be considered as providing any rights or imposing any responsibilities in excess of the actual Student Record Regulations; such regulations may be found at 603 CMR 23.00.

The regulations apply to all information kept by a school committee on a student in a manner such that he or she may be individually identified. The regulations divide the student record into two sections: the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript includes only the minimal information necessary to reflect the student's educational

progress and to assist the District in operating its educational system. This information may include the student name, address, phone number(s), and date of birth; name, address, and phone number(s) of the parents or guardian; course titles, grades, course credits, grade level completed, and the year completed. The transcript is kept by the District for at least sixty years after the student leaves the school system.

By contrast, the temporary record contains all of the information in the student record that is not in the transcript. This may include such things as standardized test results, class rank, extra-curricular activities, and evaluation and comments by teachers, counselors, and other persons, as well as other similar information. The temporary record is destroyed no later than seven years after the student leaves the school system.

1. Inspection of Records

A parent, or a student who has entered the ninth grade or is at least fourteen years old (eligible student), has the right to inspect the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or eligible student no later than ten days after the request, unless the parent or eligible student consents to a further delay. The parents or eligible student has the right to receive copies of any part of the student record. The District may charge a reasonable fee for such copying, not to exceed the costs of reproduction, unless the charging of such fee would effectively prevent the parents or eligible student from exercising their federal rights to inspect and review the records. Finally, the parents or eligible student may request to have the record interpreted by a professionally qualified school employee or a 3rd party of their choosing, who may thereafter inspect and interpret the records following their production of specific written consent from the parent or eligible student.

2. Confidentiality of Records

Subject to specific exceptions enumerated in the regulations, no individuals or organizations are allowed to have access to information in the student record without the specific, written consent of the parent or eligible student. In addition, subject to specific exemptions enumerated in the regulations, any person inspecting or releasing information contained in the student record must note in a log kept as part of the temporary record, which portion of the record was inspected or released, and for what purpose. Authorized school personnel are allowed to have access to the information without consent. Authorized school personnel includes school administrators, teachers, counselors and other professionals who are employed by the school committee or who are providing services to the student under an agreement between the school

committee and a service provider, and who are working directly with the student in an administrative, teaching counseling, and/or diagnostic capacity. It includes contractors, electronic/online vendors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions. Administrative office staff and clerical personnel who are either employed by the school committee or are employed under a school committee service contract, and whose duties require them to have access to student records for purposes of processing information for the student record.

3. Amendment of Records

The parent and the eligible student have the right to add relevant comments, data, information, or other relevant written materials to the student record. In addition, the parent and eligible student have the right to request that certain information in the record be amended or deleted. Parents or eligible students should refer to the specific requirements contained within the Student Record Regulations with regard to the appropriate procedure to follow with regard to any such requested amendment or deletion of a student record.

4. Destruction of Records

The regulations require that the student record and transcript be destroyed within a certain period of time after the student leaves the school system. In addition, school authorities are allowed to destroy misleading, outdated, or irrelevant information in the student record from time to time while the student is enrolled within the school system. Before any such information may be destroyed, the parent and eligible student must be notified and have an opportunity to receive a copy of any of the information before its destruction.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Act

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires that the school notifies you to obtain consent or allow you to opt out of the following school activities: a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following seven areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
4. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

5. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
6. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
7. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.

The Chelmsford Public Schools will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, a notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law).

Parents Right to Know - Teacher Qualifications

Several schools in Chelmsford receive Title I funds from the federal government. These funds support funding for the early intervention reading program providing supportive reading services to grade 1 students. Federal law has established the right of parents at schools served by Title I funding to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Please be assured however, that the Chelmsford Public Schools have been very successful in obtaining highly qualified certified teachers for teaching positions.

In compliance with federal regulations, we would like you to be aware that federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child’s classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s classroom teachers:

1. Whether the Massachusetts State Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
2. Whether the Massachusetts State Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
3. The teacher’s college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.

4. Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call the Director of Human Resources at 978-251-5100, ext. 6904.

Internet and Email – Acceptable Use

The Technology and Information Department will provide Internet access to all school buildings and users in the Chelmsford Public Schools. The Internet is to be used for educational purposes. The Technology Department has the right to place restrictions on the Internet to ensure that all use is in accordance with its educational purpose.

- a. Students may not use the system for personal or commercial purposes, including offering or purchasing products or services.
 - b. Students may not use the system for non-educational activities.
 - c. Students may not engage in any behavior that could be considered “cyber-bullying” or inappropriate for an educational environment.
1. Student use of the Internet will be governed by this policy, related policies and regulations of the Technology Department.
 2. When the Chelmsford Public Schools provides school-owned instructional computing devices, students are to treat all school-owned equipment properly, in accordance with the rules set up by the classroom, school and district.
 3. Students have the option to use school-owned devices or to bring personally owned computing devices to access the wireless network. A variety of devices including but not limited to school-owned laptops, Chromebooks and tablets are available for in-class instructional activities that require them. Students will find that in addition to using their devices for specific instructional activities, they may also use their personal computing devices to increase their efficiency at note taking, organizing, and managing projects. Students may use their personal computing devices to access the available wireless network in classrooms where teachers have allowed personal computing devices. **For more information on Bring Your Own Device, please refer to the Technology Department Guidelines and FAQs for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). BYOD information can be found on the Technology Department Website.**

4. In the event that there is suspicion or evidence of inappropriate use of the Internet by students, due process rights of students will be respected. Students have no expectation of privacy in the contents of their files and/or online activity. The Technology Department reserves the right to examine all data stored on district machines or accessed using district devices and/or accounts to insure that all users are in compliance with this policy.
5. The Technology Department makes no warranties of any kind; either expressed or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the Internet will be error-free or without defect.
 - a. The Technology Department will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data, or interruption of service.
 - b. The Technology Department is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through the Internet.
 - c. The Technology Department will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the Internet.

This policy represents the Technology Department's good faith efforts to promote the safe, ethical, responsible, and legal use of the Internet. This policy supports the effective use of the Internet for educational purposes, protects students against potential dangers in their use of the Internet, and ensures accountability of all users. All Internet documents that appear on school web sites will be prescreened for appropriate and educationally relevant material.

- a. Students will receive instruction regarding the safe, ethical, legal, and responsible use of the Internet, as well as their rights and responsibilities under this policy.
- b. Student use of the Internet will be structured and supervised by staff in a manner that is appropriate to the age and skills of students.
- c. A CIPA compliant firewall will monitor student use of the Internet.

6. The Technology Department will protect against access to Internet documents that are considered inappropriate for students. Inappropriate documents will be designated into three categories: prohibited, restricted and limited access.
 - a. Prohibited documents are documents containing material that is harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. Students may not access prohibited materials at any time, for any purpose.
 - b. Restricted documents are documents that contain objectionable material but have a limited educational purpose in the context of the student's educational program. Restricted documents may not be accessed by students at any time.
 - c. Many social media sites are blocked on the school network. Students found trying to circumvent the block on social media will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Use of Social Media

The Chelmsford Public Schools respects the right of students to use social networking sites (e.g., Instagram, Facebook), personal Web sites, Weblogs, Wikis and other web tools (collectively "Internet Postings") as a medium of self-expression. However, inappropriate Internet Postings by students can cause substantial disruptions to the school environment. Accordingly, the Chelmsford Public Schools requires that students observe the following guidelines for Internet Postings, regardless of the location of the internet access.

Prohibited Behaviors:

1. Students shall not use profane, pornographic, obscene, indecent, lewd, vulgar or sexually offensive language, pictures or graphics in Internet Postings that could cause a substantial disruption to the school environment.
2. Students shall not use Internet Postings/pictures/videos to libel or defame the school committee, school system, school employees, or other students or anyone else.
3. Students shall not use Internet Postings to harass, bully, or intimidate employees or other students. Behaviors that constitute harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, age or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating, or demeaning comments; and threats to stalk, haze, physically injure or damage the property of another student, employees or anyone else.
4. Students shall not falsely represent themselves as an employee or another student of the Chelmsford Public Schools.

Consequences

A student shall be disciplined for creating and/or distributing written or electronic material, including Internet Postings that causes substantial disruption to school operations and/or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members. Violations shall result in disciplinary action.

1. Use of Student CPS Lions Email

The Chelmsford Public Schools established official student email addresses to enable faculty, staff and administrators to communicate more effectively and efficiently with students, and to allow students a safe and effective way to move documents from home to school. Appropriate use of email is essential to the success of this mode for contacting students. Email is a mechanism for official communication within the Chelmsford Public Schools. The Chelmsford Public Schools has the right to expect that such communications will be received and read in a timely fashion. Official email communications are intended only to meet the academic and administrative needs of the public school community.

2. Assignment of Student Email Accounts

Official Chelmsford Public Schools student email accounts are available for all enrolled students. The addresses are accessed using the following convention: networkID@cpslions.com. Students begin using email to communicate with teachers in middle school.

3. Redirecting of Student Email

If a student wishes to have email redirected from their official cpslions.com address to another email address (e.g., aol.com, gmail.com) they may do so, but at their own risk. The Chelmsford Public Schools will not be responsible for the handling of email by outside vendors. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her cpslions.com account.

4. Expectations of Student Email

Students are expected to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with Chelmsford Public Schools communications. Students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical. "I didn't

check my email", error in forwarding mail, or email returned to the Chelmsford Public Schools with "Mailbox Full" or "User Unknown" are not acceptable excuses for missing official Chelmsford Public Schools communications via email.

5. Authentication

It is a violation of Chelmsford Public Schools policies, including the acceptable use policy, for any user of official email addresses to impersonate a Chelmsford Public Schools office, faculty/staff member, or student.

6. Privacy

Users should exercise extreme caution in using email to communicate confidential or sensitive matters, and should not assume that email is private and confidential. It is especially important that users are careful to send messages only to the intended recipient(s). Particular care should be taken when using the "reply" command during email correspondence avoiding reply all unless required.

7. Educational Uses of Student Email

Faculty will determine how electronic forms of communication will be used in their classes, and will communicate their requirements to students. This will ensure that all students will be able to comply with email-based course requirements specified by faculty. Faculty can assume that students' official cpslions.com accounts are being accessed, and faculty can use email for their classes accordingly.

Video Surveillance

The Chelmsford Public Schools utilizes video surveillance equipment to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all students, staff, and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment.

Search and Seizure

The Supreme Court of the United States of America has ruled:

1. A warrant is not required before a teacher or school administrator conducts a search of a student suspected of violating a school rule or criminal statute.

2. Probable cause is not required before a student may be searched; rather before conducting a search, the teacher must have “reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.”
3. The search must be reasonable in its scope as well as its inception.

The Principal, Deans or the principal’s designee are entitled to conduct a search of a student’s person, and immediate possessions, including, but not limited to, backpack, personal property (wallet, pocketbook, etc.) and vehicle on school grounds whenever the school administrator has a reasonable suspicion that the student has violated or is violating the law or the rules of the school relating to drug and/or alcohol/tobacco and/or student safety.

Regarding lockers and desks:

1. Master keys and copies of combinations for lockers are retained by the school administration.
2. The school administration retains the right periodically to conduct locker and desk searches, when warranted, in compliance with these rules.
3. All students should be aware that the school administration will permit specially trained “search dogs” to patrol the schools upon occasion, under the supervision of law enforcement officials and completely at the discretion of the administration, and that the administration shall cooperate completely with all law enforcement officials relative to the results of any searches that may be performed during such dog patrols including, without limitation, delivering any contraband discovered to said officials.
4. All students should also be aware that school lockers and desks assigned to individual students by the school’s teachers or administration remain the property of the school and that the administration reserves the right to open and inspect any locker or desk and its contents at any time, even without a reasonable suspicion. In the event that any illegal substances, weapons, tobacco products, or other contraband are found in the locker or desk assigned to a student, that student shall be presumed to possess that contraband and shall be subject to immediate and appropriate discipline. Students have no right to privacy in the lockers or desks assigned to them or in the belongings students store in those lockers.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is Chelmsford Public Schools' commitment to responsibility, honesty, trust, and respect. Academic Integrity essentially means being responsible for one's own work, it is held in high regard in our schools. Students can take pride in work they have produced from their own efforts; they have worked honestly and fairly.

Academic Integrity also means upholding values and beliefs that are considered important, not just by our schools, but also by society, including sports teams, employers, friends and family. Violating our policy on Academic Integrity is cheating. For more specific Middle School Information on the Academic Honor Code, please visit the McCarthy or Parker School Website. For more specific High School Information on the Academic Honor Code, please see the High School Handbook Addendum.

What are some examples of cheating?

- Copying another student's answers on a test or quiz, with or without their permission
- Sharing questions from an exam with another student who has not yet taken the exam
- Copying another student's answers on a homework assignment
- Copying some other student's work and claiming it as your own
- Allowing another student to copy your work or giving your work to them to turn in as their own
- Forging (signing) your parent's/guardian's name on a note or permission slip
- Plagiarism (copying another's words/work without giving credit)
- Changing grades on midterm or report card
- Use of electronic devices for unauthorized sharing of information.

Why is cheating wrong?

- It breaks a bond of trust — we become suspicious of others
- It is against the rules and there are serious penalties. People have been thrown out of college, lost jobs, and ruined their careers over cheating.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Alexander Lindey has defined plagiarism as: "...the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind and presenting it as one's own...To use another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source is to plagiarize. Plagiarism, then, constitutes intellectual theft." (Lindey, Alexander. Plagiarism and Originality)

The following will be considered plagiarism:

1. Buying or downloading a paper from a research service or a term-paper mill and offering it as your own.
2. Turning in another student's work, with or without that student's knowledge, as your own.
3. Copying any portion of another's work without proper acknowledgement.
4. Paraphrasing ideas and language from a source without proper documentation.

Consequences for Cheating or Plagiarism

1. The student will receive a zero for the entire assignment/assessment. A student will not be allowed the opportunity for make-up of any kind.
2. A conference may be held with the student, teacher, and the student's Dean.
3. Parents/guardians will be notified of the offense.
4. Students will be required to attend an after school session on cheating and plagiarism.

Exception: The definition of plagiarism given above includes "Paraphrasing ideas and language from a source without proper documentation" (definition number 4). In violations that pertain to this type of plagiarism, the teacher, in consultation with the student's administrator, will determine the consequences. The purpose of the consequence in this case will be to teach the proper way to attribute sources in academic work. The teacher will use his or her professional expertise to determine whether or not the offense relates to definition number 4.

Directory Information

(603 CMR 23.07 (4) (a))

A school may release the following directory information: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school

plans without the consent of the eligible student or parent; provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release under 603 CMR 23.07 and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after such notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent.

Incident Management

The Chelmsford Public School District has a comprehensive Incident Management Plan. It is expected that all students participate in the prescribed emergency drills in their schools as instructed by the school administration and staff. It is imperative that students understand the importance of engaging in these procedures in a serious manner so as to be fully prepared should an emergency arise during the school day.

There are four types of drills that are required for all staff and students in all school buildings during the school year:

Evacuation Drill – is used when it is important to move away from the building to a secure location away from the building. This drill will take place at least three times per year under the direction of the Chelmsford Fire Department.

Safety Drill – is used when a bomb-type threat is made to the safety of building. These drills will take place at least two times per year.

Hold in Place – is used to protect staff and students from incidents and/or distractions that are taking place in the hallway. A hold in place implies that instruction should continue within the classroom, and that students should remain in the classroom until further notice. These drills will take place at least two times per year.

Lockdown – is used to protect staff and students from a threat inside the building. It is to be used when it may be more dangerous to evacuate the building than it is to stay in a secure classroom within the school. These drills will take place at least two times per year.

Emergencies are unexpected, unpredictable, and take many forms. No one can ever be fully prepared for everything that may happen as each situation happens in its own unique context. However, the district Incident Management Plan is designed to provide a proven framework within those unique situations on which leaders and staff can rely. When a school's procedures are well rehearsed and automatic, the opportunity for a school leader to assess the situation and make appropriate immediate decisions is greater.

Delayed Openings and School Cancellations

In cases of inclement weather or other emergency necessitating the closing or delaying of school, the Superintendent will make the decision. Central administration personnel then notify the radio and television stations between 5:00 AM and 5:45 AM. A Blackboard ConnectEd message will be sent to all families and staff. Delayed Openings will be posted on the district and school websites.

School openings will be delayed by 2 hours. All activities in the schools will continue as usual including the same dismissal time. Morning Kindergarten and CHIPS Preschool classes will be cancelled when the start of school is delayed. Please see the school website for a complete listing of school start and dismissal times.

There will be no change in afternoon Kindergarten or Preschool hours on delayed opening days. Dismissal for afternoon Kindergarten will be at the regular time.

Emergency Closings

On a rare occasion school may be closed due to a weather-related event. In this case, all children must be sent home, with the exception of those children scheduled to attend the Community Education Extended Day Childcare program. Elementary children enrolled in the Extended Day Childcare program will remain at their school and parents will pick them up as soon as possible, but no later than 6 p.m. McCarthy Childcare students will be bussed as usual to Parker, and parents should pick up Parker and McCarthy students at Parker as soon as possible, but no later than 6 p.m.

1. The Superintendent would notify the school that busses would be arriving to take children home at a specified time.
2. A Connect-Ed call would be used to notify parents of dismissal procedures.

It is important that parents keep their home, business and emergency numbers current with the school as these are the numbers, which will be called through Connect-Ed.

Parents who plan to come to the school to pick up their child are strongly encouraged NOT to call the school and tie up the phone lines. Just come to the office and your child will be dismissed.

It is imperative that each child knows where to go in the event that a parent cannot be notified. For parent peace of mind, this would also help in those rare cases when an emergency arises and a parent cannot get home to meet their child.

Hazing

Section 17

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

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully and recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to prosecution under this action.

Section 18

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself/herself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law

enforcement official as soon as is reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

Section 19

Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of

higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

Vehicle Idling

Buses and vehicles are not to be left idling at schools. Whenever a bus or vehicle arrives, the driver is to secure the bus or vehicle and shut the engine down as soon as possible. No bus or vehicle will be left at idle in excess of five minutes of anticipated idling time.

McKinney-Vento

According to the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, schools are required to immediately enroll homeless students in school, even if they do not have the documents usually required for enrollment, such as school records, medical records or proof of residency. There are similar protections under Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act for foster care students. For additional information regarding the education of homeless students, please contact the homeless liaison coordinator. For information regarding foster care students, please contact the DCF liaison of the Chelmsford Public Schools.

The Chelmsford Public Schools prohibits discrimination or harassment based on homelessness. Any complaints of discrimination or harassment based on homelessness may be reported to the homeless liaison and will be investigated using the same process and steps as the Chelmsford Public Schools' non-discrimination procedures.