

NEWARK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Learning Drives Success



2026-2027

Design by Colin Shields
Class of 2028

Newark Community High

School District #18

2026-2027



Student Handbook

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This agenda belongs to:

Student Name: _____

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Section 1-Introductory Information and General Notices

Introduction

The faculty and staff of Newark Community High School would like to extend a sincere welcome to all of our students and their parents. The 2026-2027 school year will offer many challenges and opportunities for all of us. We look forward to working with you to provide each student with the best possible educational opportunity and share the goal that each student will reach his or her maximum potential. This handbook is intended to describe the school, its current practices, procedures, rules, and code of conduct. It is not intended to be all-inclusive nor does it intend to create a contractual relationship with the student. As such we recognize that, from time to time, questions may arise regarding the policies and regulations. Accordingly, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school at (815) 695-5164.

School Operations During a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads

sustainably. Newark Community High School, along with the local health department and emergency management agencies, play an essential role in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic or other health emergency.

During a pandemic or other health emergency, you will be notified in a timely manner of all changes to the school environment and schedule that impact your child. Please be assured that even if school is not physically in session, it is the goal of the school and district to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

Additionally, please note the following:

1. All decisions regarding changes to the school environment and schedule, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education (ROE).
2. Available learning opportunities may include remote and/or blended learning. Blended learning may require your child to attend school on a modified schedule.
3. Students will be expected to participate in blended and remote instruction as required by the school and district. Parents are responsible for assuring the participation of their child. Students who do not participate in blended or remote learning will be considered truant.
4. All school disciplinary rules remain in effect during the interruption of in-person learning. Students are subject to discipline for disrupting the remote learning environment to the same extent that discipline would be imposed for disruption of the traditional classroom.
5. Students and parents will be required to observe all public health and safety measures implemented by the school and district in conjunction with state and local requirements.
6. During a pandemic or other health emergency, the school and district will ensure that educational opportunities are available to all students.
7. School personnel will work closely with students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations to minimize the impact of any educational disruption.
8. Students who have a compromised immune system, live with an individual with a compromised immune system, or have a medical condition that may impact their ability to attend school during a pandemic or other public health emergency should contact school officials.
9. During a pandemic or other health emergency, teachers and school staff will receive additional training on health and safety measures.
10. In accordance with school district or state mandates, the school may need to conduct a daily health assessment of your child. Parents and students will be notified of the exact assessment procedures if this becomes necessary.
11. Parents should not send their child to school if their child exhibits any symptoms consistent with the pandemic or other health emergency.
12. Please do not hesitate to contact School or District officials if you have any concerns regarding your child's education, health or safety.

Visitors

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a tag identifying themselves as a guest and place the tag on their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

No person on school property or at a school event shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, board member, sports official, coach or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law or municipal, local or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectable, regardless of when and/ or where the use occurred.
10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with Illinois' Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act and district policies.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 10 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized district employee's directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
15. Violate other district policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or district employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the district or a school function.

Any person who engages in prohibited conduct may be ejected from or denied admission to school property in accordance with State law. The person may also be subject to being denied admission to school athletic or extracurricular events for up to one calendar year.

Equal Educational Opportunities and Sex Equity

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental

disability, status as homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, reproductive health decisions, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact: Tim Ulrich, NCHS Building Principal.

Any student may file a sex discrimination complaint under the District's Title IX Grievance Procedure. Any student may file a sex equity complaint under the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure.

A student may appeal the Board's decision to the Regional Superintendent and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education.

Animals on School Property

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the Building Principal or Designee in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

School Volunteers

All school volunteers must complete the volunteer information requirements and be approved by the building principal or designee prior to assisting at the school. Forms are available in the school office and on the district website. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents or guardians. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the Building Principal.

Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor badge before going to their destination.

Emergency School Closings

Newark Community High School utilizes an automated parent message notification system. The automated notification system allows the district to send recorded telephone, text, and email messages to parents regarding school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather, as well as remind parents about various school events. If you have any questions regarding the automated notification system, please call the school office.

In cases of bad weather and other local emergencies, please listen to WSPY 107.1 FM as well as the NCHS website. School closings for any reason will be announced by 6:00 a.m. Families will be notified via the automated notification system blast message as well. If bad weather or other emergencies occur during the day, please listen to local media stations for possible early dismissal information. For your child's safety, make certain your child knows ahead of time where to go in case of an early dismissal.

Video & Audio Monitoring Systems

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system may be in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Students with Food Allergies

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules. If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the NCHS Nurse at (815) 695-5164.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed support so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities. Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means. Questions regarding 504 Plans may be directed to the School Counselor or Building Principal.

Care of Students with Diabetes

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the school nurse.

Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- Inform the school in a timely manner of any change that needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
- Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
- Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the School Nurse.

Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school district.

The school district maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including a copy of the district's policies are posted on the school district website. Information can also be obtained from the school office.

Accommodating Breastfeeding Students

Students who choose to breastfeed an infant after returning to school are provided reasonable accommodations. A student who is a nursing mother may take reasonable breaks during the school day to express breast milk or breastfeed her infant. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to:

1. Access to a private and secure room, other than a bathroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant.
2. Permission to bring onto school campus a breast pump or other equipment used to express breast milk.
3. Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk.
4. Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely.
5. Reasonable breaks to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child, or attend to health needs associated with breastfeeding (including eating, drinking, or using the restroom).
6. The opportunity to make up work missed due to the student's use of reasonable accommodations for breastfeeding.

Complaints regarding violations of this procedure should be made to the District's Complaint Manager or Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Parent organizations and booster clubs are invaluable resources to the District's schools. While parent organizations and booster clubs have no administrative authority and cannot determine District policy, the School Board welcomes their suggestions and assistance.

Parent organizations and booster clubs may be recognized by the Board and permitted to use the District's name, a District school's name, a District school's team name, or any logo attributable to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee's express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club has by-laws containing the following:

1. The organization's or club's name and purpose, such as, to enhance students' educational experiences, to help meet the educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities.
 2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
 3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.
 4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to all parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, District staff, and community members.
 5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members, including on any organization or club's websites or social media accounts.
 6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances.
 7. A recognition that money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense.
- Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be

given to the District to use at its discretion. The Board's legal obligation to comply with Title IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will supersede an organization or club's recommendation.

Permission to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos may be rescinded at any time and does not constitute permission to act as the District's representative. At no time does the District accept responsibility for the actions of any parent organization or booster club regardless of whether it was recognized and/or permitted to use any of the above-mentioned names or logos. The Superintendent shall designate an administrative staff member to serve as the recognized liaison to parent organizations or booster clubs. The liaison will serve as a resource person and provide information about school programs, resources, policies, problems, concerns, and emerging issues. Building staff will be encouraged to participate in the organizations.

Student Appearance

A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The school does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protecting hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. The school will not prohibit students from wearing or accessorizing the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or any other protected characteristic or category identified in the Illinois Human Rights Act. Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise the standards of health and safety must modify their appearance.

Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and Boundary Violations

Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent/guardian, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

Warning signs of child sexual abuse include the following:

Physical signs:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections
- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

Behavioral signs:

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual
- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

Emotional signs:

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating

- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling “down”
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors

School and District employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students’ ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.

Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says “no”
- Engaging in touching that a student or student’s parents/guardians have indicated is unwanted
- Trying to be a student’s friend rather than filling an adult role in the student’s life
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student’s life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Expressing unusual interest in a student’s sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts without occasion or reason
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student’s access to other adults

Warning Signs of Boundary Violations

School and District employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student’s health, safety, or general welfare. Examples of boundary violations include:

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to “hang out” or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student

- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission
- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee's home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student not through normal team communication tools (i.e. Remind, Band, GroupMe)
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

If you believe you are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, or you believe that your child is a victim, you should immediately contact the Building Principal, a School Counselor, a School Social Worker, or another trusted adult employee of the School.

Additional Resources include:

National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Sexual Abuse Chatline at online.rainn.org

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873)

Employee Ethics, Conduct, and Conflict of Interest

Faith's Law Notifications - All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their job performance, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff members, and others. The Superintendent or designee shall provide this policy to all District employees and students and/or parents/guardians in their respective handbooks, and ensure its posting on the District's website, if any. School districts are required to include in their student handbook the District's Employee Code of Professional Conduct. These standards, in part, define appropriate conduct between school employees and students. A copy of these standards can be found on the District's website or requested from the Superintendent's office.

Professional and Appropriate Conduct

Professional and appropriate employee conduct are important Board goals that impact the quality of a safe learning environment and the school community, increasing students' ability to learn and the District's ability to educate. To protect students from sexual misconduct by employees, and employees from the appearance of impropriety, State law also recognizes the importance for District employees to constantly maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students following established expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries. Many breaches of employee-student boundaries do not rise to the level of criminal behavior but do pose a potential risk to student safety and impact the quality of a safe learning environment. Repeated violations of employee-student boundaries may indicate the grooming of a student for sexual abuse. As bystanders, employees may know of concerning behavior that no one else is aware of, so their training on: (1) preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior; (2) this policy; and (3) federal and state reporting requirements is essential to maintaining the Board's goal of professional and appropriate conduct.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify employee conduct standards that define appropriate employee-student boundaries, provide training about them, and monitor the District's employees for violations of employee-student boundaries. The employee conduct standards will require that, at a minimum:

1. Employees who are governed by the *Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators*, adopted by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE), will comply with its incorporation by reference into this policy.
2. Employees are trained on educator ethics, child abuse, grooming behaviors, and employee-student boundary violations as required by law and policies 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; and 5:100, *Staff Development Program*.
3. Employees maintain professional relationships with students, including maintaining employee-student boundaries based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels and following District-established guidelines for specific situations, including but not limited to:
 - a. Transporting a student;
 - b. Taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and
 - c. Meeting with a student or contacting a student outside the employee's professional
4. Employees report prohibited behaviors and/or boundary violations pursuant to Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*; and 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*.
5. Discipline up to and including dismissal will occur for any employee who violates an employee conduct standard or engages in any of the following:
 - a. Violates expectations and guidelines for employee-student boundaries
 - b. Sexually harass a student.
 - c. Willfully or negligently fails to follow reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.), or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7926).
 - d. Engages in grooming as defined in 720 ILCS 5/11-25.
 - e. Engages in grooming behaviors. Prohibited grooming behaviors include, at a minimum, sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is any act, including but not limited to any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, by an employee with direct contact with a student, that is directed toward or with a student

to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- i. A sexual or romantic invitation.
- ii. Dating or soliciting a date.
- iii. Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog.
- iv. Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- v. Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- vi. A sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with the student.

Statement of Economic Interests

The following employees must file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act:

1. Superintendent;
2. Building Principal;
3. Head of any department;
4. Any employee who, as the District's agent, is responsible for negotiating one or more contracts, including collective bargaining agreement (s), in the amount of \$1,000 or higher;
5. Hearing officer;
6. Any employee having supervisory authority for 20 or more employees; and
7. Any employee in a position that requires an administrative or a chief school business official endorsement.

Ethics and Gift Ban

School Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*, applies to all District employees. Students shall not be used in any manner for promoting a political candidate or issue.

Prohibited Interests; Conflict of Interest; and Limitation of Authority

In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/22-5, "no school officer or teacher shall be interested in the sale, proceeds, or profits of any book, apparatus, or furniture used or to be used in any school with which such officer or teacher may be connected," except when the employee is the author or developer of instructional materials listed with the ISBE and adopted for use by the Board. An employee having an interest in instructional materials must file an annual statement with the Board Secretary.

For the purpose of acquiring profit or personal gain, no employee shall act as an agent of the District nor shall an employee act as an agent of any business in any transaction with the District. This includes participation in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) when the employee has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when an employee or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in the entity selected for the contract:

1. A member of the employee's immediate family;
2. An employee's partner, or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the employee or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

Employees shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

Guidance Counselor Gift Ban

Guidance counselors are prohibited from intentionally soliciting or accepting any gift from a prohibited source or any gift that would be in violation of any federal or State statute or rule. For guidance counselors, a *prohibited source* is any person who is (1) employed by an institution of higher education, or (2) an agent or spouse of or an immediate family member living with a person employed by an institution of higher education. This prohibition does not apply to:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the guidance counselor pays market value.
3. A gift from a relative.
4. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship, unless the guidance counselor believes that it was provided due to the official position or employment of the guidance counselor and not due to the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the guidance counselor must consider the circumstances in which the gift was offered, including any of the following:
 - a. The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the guidance counselor, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals.
 - b. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the guidance counselor, the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift.
 - c. Whether, to the actual knowledge of the guidance counselor, the individual who gave the gift also, at the same time, gave the same or a similar gift to other school district employees.
5. Bequests, inheritance, or other transfer at death.
6. Any item(s) during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.
7. Promotional materials, including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, banners, posters, and pennants.

A guidance counselor does not violate this prohibition if he or she promptly returns the gift to the prohibited source or donates the gift or an amount equal to its value to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity.

Outside Employment

Employees shall not engage in any other employment or in any private business during regular working hours or at such other times as are necessary to fulfill appropriate assigned duties.

Prevention of Anaphylaxis

While it is not possible for the School or District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the District maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students who desire more information or who want a copy of the District's policy may contact the building principal or view the policy on the district website.

Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resource Guide

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) maintains a resource guide on sexual abuse response and prevention. The guide contains information on and the location of children's advocacy centers, organizations that provide medical evaluations and treatment to victims of child sexual abuse, organizations that provide mental health evaluations and services to victims and families of victims of

child sexual abuse, and organizations that offer legal assistance to and provide advocacy on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse. This guide can be accessed through the ISBE website at www.isbe.net or you may request a copy of this guide by contacting the school's office.

The following notification is provided to all households of students at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, and 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees. This notification is also provided to households of students transferring to the District during the school year.

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications

The following notification is provided to all households of students at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*, and 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. This notification is also provided to households of students transferring to the District during the school year. For more information, see www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges, and/or contact the Building Principal or designee.

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility

When the parents/guardians of students are unable to pay for their child(ren)'s meal services, meal charges will apply per a student's eligibility category and will be processed by the District accordingly. A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed by the Ill. State Board of Education.

Meal Charges for Meals Provided by the District

The Building Principal and District staff will work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort to collect all funds due to the District will be made on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. Contact your Building Principal or designee about whether your child(ren)'s charges may be carried over at the end of the school year, i.e., beyond June 30th.

Unpaid meal charges are considered delinquent debt when payment is overdue as defined by Board policy 4:45, *Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery* and the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act (105 ILCS 123/). The District will make reasonable efforts to collect charges classified as delinquent debt, *including repeated contacts to collect the amounts and, when necessary, requesting that the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) apply for meal benefits* to determine if the student qualifies for such benefits under Board policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*. The District will provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of the student's ability to pay or negative account balance.

When a student's funds are low and when there is a negative balance, reminders will be provided to the staff, students, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at regular intervals during the school year. State law allows the Building Principal to contact parent(s)/guardian(s) to attempt collection of the owed money when the amount owed is more than the amount of five lunches [*or insert lower amount*]. If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money for the child(ren) that he/she is responsible for in the District and does not qualify for free meal benefits or refuses to apply for such benefits, the Building Principal or designee will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover

the unpaid meal charges, up to and including seeking an offset under the State Comptroller Act, if applicable.

Section 2-Attendance, Grades, and Graduation

Attendance

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall ensure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall ensure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

School Hours

Students may enter the building at 7:45 a.m. and must leave the building by 3:15 p.m. through the main doors. Teachers may give permission to arrive earlier or stay later for meetings if the student is involved in a supervised extra-curricular activity, is receiving help from a teacher, or is serving detention.

Tardy to School

All students should be in their respective classrooms by the start of the school day. Those students who arrive late to school must report to the office to sign in. Students who have been detained by school personnel should ask for a written note before going to class. Excessive unexcused tardies may result in additional consequences.

Students are expected to be in their first period class when the 8:00 a.m. tardy bell rings. Students who arrive late to school must report to the office and sign in. Students who arrive late, but prior to 8:25 a.m. will receive an unexcused tardy. On the second occurrence of an unexcused tardy and each succeeding occurrence, the student will receive a tardy notice. Students who arrive after 8:25 a.m. will receive a tardy notice plus an unexcused absence for each class period they fail to attend.

Consequences -- Excessive Late to School and Class Tardiness

Repeated and excessive late to school and class tardiness may result in the following consequences:*

- Second Tardy Notice - Written warning issued to the student.
- Third Tardy Notice - Assignment to an after-school detention, in addition to an unexcused tardy for the class period in which the student was tardy.
- Fourth Tardy Notice - Assignment to after-school detention, in addition to an unexcused tardy for the class period in which the student was tardy. At this time a conference may be held with the student, parent(s), guidance counselor, administrator(s), and other school support personnel (as appropriate) to review the student's attendance. In addition, a warning will be given that could result in social probation
- Fifth Tardy Notice - Assignment of after-school detention, in addition to an unexcused tardy for the class period in which the student was tardy. Social Probation may occur.
- Sixth Tardy Notice - Assignment to an after-school detention, in addition to an unexcused tardy for the class period in which the student was tardy. Social Probation may occur.
- Consequences beyond the sixth tardy may result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension for each occurrence and additional loss of privileges.

* The accumulation of late to school tardy notices and consequences for late to class is reset at the beginning of each semester.

Leaving the Building during School Hours

All students who leave the building, for any reason, during the school day must have parent permission and must sign out in the main office.

1. Students who feel that they are ill must report to the office.
2. Students may use the office phone or a cell phone to contact parents/guardians but must receive permission from the office prior to making contact during the school day
3. When returning to the building, students are required to sign back in.
4. Students not following this procedure will be considered unexcused when they return.
5. Students will not be allowed to leave school to pick up personal items that are left at home (homework, uniforms, medicine, etc.)

Student Absences

Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

For students who are required to attend school there are two types of absences: excused and unexcused. Excused absences include: illness (including up to 5 days per school year for mental or behavioral health of the student), attendance at a verified medical or therapeutic appointment (including a victim services provider), observance of a religious holiday or event, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the school board, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety, attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS¹, attend a civic event,² or other reason as approved by the building principal. For students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence, an excused absence includes the fulfillment of a parenting responsibility and addressing circumstances resulting from domestic or sexual violence. Students eligible to vote are also excused for up to two hours to vote in a primary, special, or general election.

Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Board of Education, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment. A student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teachers prior to any excused absences and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by the student prior to his or her return to school.

Students who are excused from school will be given a reasonable timeframe (one day for each excused absence) to make up missed homework and classwork assignments.

All other absences are considered unexcused. Pre-arranged excused absences must be approved by the building principal. The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence.

In the event of any absence, the student's parent/guardian is required to call the school attendance line before 8:00 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence. If a call has not been made to the school by 10:00 a.m. on the day of a student's absence, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not at school. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent/guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

Diagnostic Procedures for Identifying Student Absences and Support Services to Truant or Chronically Truant Students

State law requires every school district to collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. This review must include an analysis of chronic absence data from each attendance center.

Furthermore, State law provides that school districts are encouraged to provide a system of support to students who are at risk of reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels with strategies and are also encouraged to make resources available to families such as those available through the State Board of Education's Family Engagement Framework to support and engage students and their families to encourage heightened school engagement and improved daily school attendance.

"Chronic absence" means absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause, and out-of-school suspensions.

The School and District use the following diagnostic procedures for identifying the causes of unexcused student absences: Interviews with the student, his or her parent/guardian and any school officials who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problems.

Supportive services to truant or chronically truant students include: parent conferences, student counseling, family counseling, and information about existing community services.

Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s).

Attendance Policies

Philosophy - Newark Community High School's educational program is founded on the premise that regular school attendance is vital to the success of each student. Seeing that a student maintains regular attendance requires a cooperative effort between the student, the parent(s), and school personnel. While written assignments and tests may be made up, the student who is frequently absent misses social interaction, class instruction and discussion that are critical to the educational process.

Expectations - Newark Community High School expects parents or guardians to make reasonable efforts to ensure the regular attendance of their school children, consistent with Section 26-1 of the Illinois School Code, and to inform the school of any absences and their causes. The school will monitor each student's attendance and inform parents or guardians of any attendance problems.

Attendance Policy Procedures

In the event that it is necessary to report your student absent you should:

- Call the school (815) 695-5164 between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. to report your student's absence. An answering machine will accept absence calls prior to 7:00 a.m.
- You must leave your student's name, your name, the reason for the absence, and a phone number where you may be reached during the school day.
- If a phone call is not received before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the absence, the student's absence will be considered unexcused.

Early Release - Should it become necessary for a student to be released from school prior to the end of the school day, the parent or guardian must call prior to the student's release time. The student will be required to report to the office for an early release pass to be presented to his or her teacher at the time of departure and must sign out in the office prior to leaving the building. If the student is being released for medical/dental appointments, written verification from the physician/dentist will be required upon the student's return to school.

Determining Excused or Unexcused Absences - Newark Community High School will follow the attendance policies established by the State of Illinois in reference to excused/unexcused absences. The administration will decide whether a student is to receive an excused or unexcused absence regardless of the parent's approval of their child's absence. A student's absence will be considered excused for the following reasons:

EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE GIVEN FOR:

- illness - parent(s)/guardian must present medical documentation that resulted in a student's absence. Verification must be presented within three school days of the absence and include the date the student was seen by a doctor.
- observance of a religious holiday;
- death in the immediate family;
- family emergency;
- circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent or guardian for the safety or health of the student as determined by the school administrator;
- other situations approved by the school administrator; and
- suspensions.

Excused absences require that the student make up any work missed. It is the responsibility of the student that work is made up within the time allotments prescribed in the handbook (see make-up work).

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE GIVEN FOR:

- oversleeping;
- shopping;
- non-emergency personal reasons;
- unexplained appointments;
- missing the bus;
- car trouble;
- driver's license test;
- babysitting;
- traffic;
- vacations (family or otherwise)
- skip days.

Attendance: School Activities

In order to participate in an after school activity, the student must be in attendance for at least a half day. A student who leaves school because of an illness will not be allowed to participate. Students are reminded that they are to abide by ALL Newark Community High School rules and regulations at all school-sponsored events both at home and away from the school.

Extended Absences

Parents are strongly encouraged to schedule family trips and vacations during school breaks whenever possible. Absences for reasons other than personal illness, a serious illness in the immediate family, a death in the family, or a legal quarantine should be requested and approved in advance.

Students and parents are responsible for ensuring that all missed assignments are completed. Please note that absences during state or district assessments for reasons other than illness or a death in the family will be considered unexcused. In accordance with Board policy, family vacations taken during the school year are considered unexcused absences.

College Visit/Job Shadowing Days

Seniors may speak to representatives from various universities and schools during their advisory period with the Counselor's permission. College Day/Job Shadowing Students will be allowed 2 college/job shadowing days total to be used during their junior and senior years at the discretion of the principal/guidance counselor. Prior permission from the guidance counselor or principal is required and must be given at least **five** school days before the visit. Students are to visit schools with their parents or guardians whenever possible. Before any college visit/job shadowing, a request for absence form must be completed. Any students who have not followed the above-specified procedure will be unexcused for their absence. It is suggested that seniors visit universities or colleges on days when Newark Community High School is not in session.

College Required Testing

Any student required to take college or service testing during the school day must receive prior permission from the counselor at least five school days before the test. Students not following this procedure will be unexcused for their absences.

Truancy

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district. Students who miss more than 1% but less than 5% of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are truant. Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause are chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline

A student who misses 15 consecutive days of school without valid cause and who cannot be located or, after exhausting all available support services, cannot be compelled to return to school is subject to

expulsion from school. A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State Law.

Make-Up Work

Students with *excused* absences will be allowed the same number of school days as their absence to complete missed assignments for full credit. Any work not completed within the allotted time will receive a grade of zero (0).

For *unexcused* absences, including family vacations, students may make up academic work for credit for up to five (5) *unexcused* absence days per school year. All make-up work must be completed upon the student's return to school and is subject to district guidelines and timelines.

Beginning with the sixth (6th) *unexcused* absence, students will not be permitted to make up missed academic work for credit.

Grading and Promotion

School report cards are issued to students on a per semester basis. For questions regarding grades, please contact the classroom teacher. The following is an explanation of the grading scale that will be used in all classes:

98-100= A+	87-89=B+	77-79= C+	67-69= D+
93-97.5= A	83-86.5= B	73-76.5 = C	63-66.5 = D
89.5-92.5= A-	79.5-82.5= B-	69.5-72.5= C-	59.5-62.5 = D-

The decision to promote a student to the next grade level is based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on standardized tests and other testing. A student will not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance.

Homework

Homework is used as a way for students to practice what they have learned in the classroom. The time requirements and the frequency of homework will vary depending on a student's teacher, ability and grade level.

Cheating/Academic Integrity/Definition of cheating/academic dishonesty – cheating occurs when a student obtains or assists others in obtaining credit for work that is not his/her own. Examples of academic dishonesty (cheating) include, *but are not limited to*:

- Using a “cheat sheet” or other unauthorized information (including A.I.) to complete a test, quiz, or assignment
- Copying from another student's test or helping another student during a test
- Providing another student with information regarding a test
- Submitting another person's work as one's own
- Copying another student's homework, test, quiz, project, book report, or take-home test
- Allowing another student to copy homework, test, quiz, project, book report, or take-home test
- Changing answers on a test, assignment, project, etc. after grading
- Changing grades in a grade book or altering a computer grading program
- Using programmable calculators or other electronic devices such as cell phones in a manner not specified by the teacher
- Using language translation programs in a manner not specified by the teacher
- Stealing copies of a test or answer key

Cooperative learning is a recognized instructional practice. When this practice is acceptable to the teacher for a project or assignment, the teacher will clearly explain this expectation to the students. If not clearly delineated as approved, the copying of any work will be considered episodes of cheating.

1st Consequence: Teacher notifies parents and students will re-do the assignment or may be provided an alternate assignment, assessment or project to demonstrate student's academic proficiency. Referral to administration for possible intervention.

2nd Consequence: A second offense will result in the student redoing the assignment, assessment or project for a grade of 50% of the total. The parents will be notified as well as administration.

3rd or subsequent offenses: The parents will be notified. A zero will be issued on the assignment, assessment or project and the student may be removed from the class. The administration will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is most simply defined as cheating. Any work submitted by students must be a product of your own original efforts. To plagiarize means to copy and pass off as one's own ideas, writings, etc. of another. Students should document the source of any material that they choose to copy or paraphrase.

1st Consequence: Any kind of student work, assignment or project that contains undocumented copying or paraphrasing in any amount, large or small, will result in students being required to redo the assignment, assessment or project and may be referred to administration for possible intervention. Parents are notified promptly of any instance of plagiarism by the teacher.

2nd Consequence: A second offense will result in the student redoing the assignment, assessment or project for a grade of 50% of the total. The parents will be notified as well as administration.

3rd or subsequent offenses: The parents will be notified. A zero will be issued on the assignment, assessment or project and the student may be removed from the class. The administration will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

Cheating on an Assessment - any cheating on an assessment can result in the following consequences:

1st Consequence - Must redo assessment and final grade reduced by 50%

2nd and Subsequent Consequences - Assessment will be scored a 0%

Consequences for plagiarism are cumulative and applied to each individual offense. More information on plagiarism can be found listed below in the NCHS Writing Expectations.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

"Artificial intelligence" or "AI" is intelligence demonstrated by computers, as opposed to human intelligence. "Intelligence" encompasses the ability to learn, reason, generalize, and infer meaning. Examples of AI technology include ChatGPT and other chatbots and large language models.

AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI generated content as their own work. The use of AI to take tests, complete assignments, create multimedia projects, write papers, or complete schoolwork without permission of a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited. The use of AI for these purposes constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

In certain situations, AI may be used as a learning tool or a study aid. Students who wish to use AI for legitimate educational purposes must have permission from a teacher or an administrator. Students may use AI as authorized in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Students may not use AI, including AI image or voice generator technology, to violate school rules or school district policies. In order to ensure academic integrity, tests, assignments, projects, papers, and other schoolwork may be checked by AI content detectors and/or plagiarism recognition software.

Exemption from Physical Education Requirement

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse for medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request. Upon written notice from a student's parent/guardian, a student will be excused from engaging in the physical activity components of physical education during a period of religious fasting.

A student in grades 9-12 may submit a written request to the building principal requesting to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated below.

1. Enrollment in a marching band program for credit;
2. Enrollment in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;
3. Ongoing participation in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program;
4. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade); or
5. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the student being unable to graduate (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade).

Students with an Individualized Education Program may also be excused from physical education courses for reasons stated in Handbook Procedure 10.30.[1]

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practices Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits the School District from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District.

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical. The following considerations will be used to determine when a student shall return to a physical education course:

1. The time of year when the student's participation ceases;
2. The student's class schedule; and
3. The student's future or planned additional participation in activities qualifying for substitutions for physical education, as outlined above or in Handbook Procedure 10.30.[3]

Credit for Proficiency, Non-District Experiences, Course Substitutions and Accelerated Placement Credit for Non-District Experiences

A student may receive high school credit for successfully completing any of the listed courses or experiences even when it is not offered in or sponsored by the District:

1. Distance learning course, including a correspondence, virtual, or online course.
2. Courses in an accredited foreign exchange program.
3. Summer school or community college courses.
4. College or high school courses offering dual credit at both the college and high school level.
5. Foreign language courses taken in an ethnic school program approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.
6. Work-related training at manufacturing facilities or agencies in a Tech Prep Program.
7. Credit earned in a Vocational Academy.

Students must receive pre-approval from the building principal or designee to receive credit for any non-district course or experience. The building principal or designee will determine the amount of credit and whether a proficiency examination is required before the credit is awarded. Students assume responsibility for any fees, tuition, supplies, and other expenses. Students are responsible for (1) providing documents or transcripts that demonstrate successful completion of the experience, and (2) taking a proficiency examination, if requested. The Building Principal or Designee shall determine which, if any, non-District courses or experiences, will count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities.

Students who do not otherwise meet a community college's academic eligibility to enroll in a dual credit course taught at the high school may enroll in the dual credit course, but only for high school credit.

Proficiency Credit

Proficiency credit is available in limited subjects where a student demonstrates competency. Contact the Building Principal for details.

Substitutions for Required Courses

Vocational or technical education. A student in grades 11-12 may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing related vocational or technical education courses if:

1. The building principal or designee approves the substitution and the vocational or technical education course is completely described in curriculum material along with its relationship to the required course; and
2. The student's parent/ guardian requests and approves the substitution in writing on forms provided by the District.

Registered apprenticeship program. A student in grades 9-12 who is 16 years or older may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing a registered apprenticeship program listed by the school district. Students may find a registered, but not listed, apprenticeship program with a business or organization if a registered apprenticeship program is not offered in the school district.

Advanced placement computer science. The advanced placement computer science course is equivalent to a high school mathematics course. A student in grades 9-12 may substitute the advanced placement computer science course for one year of mathematics. The transcript of a student who completes the advanced placement computer science course will state that it qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative course.

Volunteer service credit. A student participating in the District's Volunteer Service Credit Program, if any, may earn credit toward graduation for the performance of community service. The amount of credit given for program participation shall not exceed that given for completion of one semester of language arts, math, science, or social studies.

The District provides for an Accelerated Placement Program (APP) for qualified students. It provides students with an educational setting with curriculum options that are usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student. Accelerated placement includes but may not be limited to: early entrance to kindergarten or first grade, accelerating a student in a single subject and grade acceleration. Participation is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted or talented.

Home and Hospital Instruction

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or licensed advance practice registered nurse anticipates his or her absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital. Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program. A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, the fulfillment of parenting obligations related to the health of the child, or health and safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence will be provided home instruction under the following circumstances: 1. Before the birth of the child when the student's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction. 2. For up to three months after the child's birth or a miscarriage. 3. When a student must care for his or her ill child if: a. The child's physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse informs the school, in writing, that the child has a serious health condition that would require the student to be absent from school for two or more consecutive weeks; and b. The student or the student's parent/guardian informs the school, in writing, that the student needs to care for the child during this period. 4. The student must treat physical or mental health complications or address safety concerns arising from domestic or sexual violence when a health care provider or an employee of the student's domestic or sexual violence organization informs the school in writing that the care is needed by the student and will cause the student's absence from school for two or more consecutive weeks. The school may reassess home instruction provided to a student under No. 3 or No. 4 every two months to determine the student's continuing need for home instruction. Periodic conferences will be held between appropriate school personnel, parent(s)/guardian(s), and hospital staff to coordinate course work and facilitate a student's return to school.

For information on home or hospital instruction, contact the Building Principal.

Early Graduation

Students who will have successfully completed graduation requirements after seven (7) semesters may petition to graduate. Applications must be submitted to the building principal prior to the beginning of the student's seventh semester.

Early graduates must make arrangements with the high school office for anything pertaining to the graduation ceremony (i.e. announcements, cap and gown rental, graduation practices, etc.). Any student enrolled in an off-campus course to fulfill graduation requirements must show documentation of such

course(s) by the last day of the seventh semester. Failure to produce this documentation will result in denial of the early graduation petition.

The student and a parent will schedule a conference with the Building Principal and the Guidance or School Counselor prior to September 15th of the student's seventh semester. At the conference, the student should be prepared to justify his/her request to graduate early.

Graduation Requirements

Requirements for high school graduation are established by the Board of Education and reviewed periodically to determine the need for changes, as well as compliance with state law. Credits that count toward graduation from Newark Community High School begin accumulating during the ninth grade with the exception that students enrolled in high school classes during the eighth grade shall receive credit for the classes taken.

A student must carry a full class load, which is a minimum of seven classes with an academic enrichment or eight classes per semester. Any deviation from this enrollment requirement must be recommended by the high school principal and/or guidance counselor and approved by the superintendent of schools. Students are encouraged to check with the Guidance or School Counselor for entrance requirements of a specific school, college or university that they desire to attend.

To graduate from high school, unless otherwise exempted, each student is responsible for:

- Completing all State mandated graduation requirements listed below.
- Completing all District graduation requirements that are in addition to State graduation requirements.
- Passing an examination on patriotism, principles of representative government, and proper use and display of the American flag.
- Participating in the State assessment required for graduation.

State Mandated Graduation Requirements

1. Four years of English.
2. Two years of writing intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.
3. Three years of mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I and one of which must include geometry content.
4. For students entering high school through the 2023-24 school year, two years of science. For students entering high school beginning with the 2024-25 school year, two years of laboratory science.
5. Two years of social studies, of which at least one year must be history of the United States or a combination of history of the United States and American government. Within the two years of social studies requirement, one semester of civics is required.
6. One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C) foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American Sign Language, (D) career and technical education, or (E) forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech course used to satisfy the course requirement for language arts may not be used to satisfy the course requirement under this subdivision.
7. One semester of health education.

8. Physical education classes.
9. A course covering American patriotism and the principles of representative government, as enunciated in the American Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the proper use and display of the American flag.
10. Nine weeks of consumer education.
11. One year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social studies, or any other subject and which may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

The above requirements do not apply to students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program or students who are exempted from participation in certain courses in accordance with State law.

NCHS Graduation Requirements:

English	4 credits	Computer Education*	1/2 credit
Mathematics	3 credits	Consumer Economics	1/2 credit
Science	2 credits	Health	1/2 credit
Social Studies**	2 credits	Physical Education	1 credit per year
Senior Seminar	1/2 credit	Fine Arts	1 credit
College & Career	1/4 credit	Media Literacy*	1/2 credit

**Computer Apps/Keyboarding and Media Literacy should be taken during the Freshman year. A student may earn proficiency credit for Computer Apps/Keyboarding if the student passes a proficiency exam.*

***Two social studies credits MUST include one credit of US History/American Government and one-half credit of Civics.*

Required courses plus electives must equal 28 credits in addition to a successful Senior Project Presentation:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Graduation Requirement

As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, the parent or guardian of each student or, if a student is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student must comply with either of the following:

- File a FAFSA with the United States Department of Education or, if applicable, an application for State financial aid.
- File a waiver indicating that the parent or guardian or, if applicable, the student understands what the FAFSA and application for State financial aid are and has chosen not to file an application.

Upon request, the school will provide a student and his or her parent or guardian any support or assistance necessary to comply with this requirement

A school district must award a high school diploma to a student who is unable to meet this requirement due to extenuating circumstances, as determined by the school district, if (i) the student has met all other graduation requirements, and (ii) the principal attests that the school district has made a good faith effort to assist the student or, if applicable, his or her parent or guardian in filing an application or a waiver.

Please refer to the Course Description Guide for specific requirements.

Graduation: Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions

Students will acquire the credits needed for graduation in courses taken at Newark Community High School. In general, students will be allowed to earn up to three credits from outside agencies. Outside

agencies are defined as other public or private schools, correspondence schools, evening schools, and online schools.

There will be the following exceptions to the three-credit policy:

1. Transfer Students – Students who transfer to Newark Community High School from another school that is certified and recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education shall be able to transfer the credits earned at that institution. The transcript must show that credit was awarded by that institution.
2. Correspondence Courses – Students attending Newark High School may apply for credit earned through correspondence courses in accordance with board policy. In special cases where a student is temporarily a nonresident of the District, it shall be within the discretion of the Principal to determine the number of credits earned through correspondence courses that shall be accepted. The student should have the courses and institution approved by the principal before course work is begun. The institution must be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. In cases where the courses were not pre-approved, the principal will judge the acceptance of credit based on material covered, testing procedure and length of time spent on course work.
3. Evening School - Newark High School will accept one credit per academic year earned through evening school and a maximum of four credits so earned may be applied toward the credits required for graduation. Whenever possible, these courses should be approved before course work is begun. The institution must be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. In cases where the courses were not pre-approved, it shall be within the principal's discretion to determine which credits shall be accepted.
4. Online courses - Newark High School will accept credit for online coursework. The institution providing the on-line work must be certified by the Illinois State Board of Education. Students may not select a course that is taught at Newark High School and that can fit in their schedule. Students need to get the on-line course approved by the principal before they enroll in the course. Students may earn four credits via online coursework. Students wanting to earn more than four credits must petition the Principal and the Principal will decide on a case by case basis.

All costs associated with these outside agencies are the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parents/guardians.

Students may earn up to 4 credits from outside agencies under the exceptions listed above.

High School Graduation Ceremony

Participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege reserved for students who have attained graduate status. As indicated in Board Policy number 6:300, a student with a disability who has completed 4 years of high school at the end of a school year, and who is to receive certain services beyond the student's 4 years of high school, may participate in the school's graduation ceremony of the student's high school graduating class and receive a certificate of completion.

Assistance with FAFSA Application

The following individual(s) has/have been designated by the school to assist senior students with questions related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as FAFSA) or to refer senior students to other appropriate resources.

The school offers a variety of services aimed at helping senior students complete FAFSA paperwork, including the opportunity to receive help during the school day in completing the student's portion of the FAFSA application.

FAFSA Contact Person:

Wendy Ahearn
413 Chicago Road
815-695-5164 wahearn@nchs18.org

Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Parents or guardians have the right to inspect all instructional materials used as a part of their child's education. If you believe that curriculum, instructional materials, or programs violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy, you may file a complaint under the District's uniform grievance policy.

Parents or guardians with other suggestions or complaints about curriculum, instructional materials, or programs should complete a Curriculum Objection Form, which is available from the school office. A parent or guardian may also request that their child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a Curriculum Objection Form.

Exempting a child from using instructional material or refusing to allow a child from taking or participating in course content or a program that allows parents or guardians to object in writing and/or opt their child out of participation shall not be reason for disciplinary action or academic penalty to the student.

Section 3-Student Fees and Meal Costs

Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees

The school establishes fees and charges to fund certain school activities. Students will not be denied the opportunity to participate in curricular and extracurricular programs of the school district due to the inability of their parents or guardian to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver applies to all fees related to school, instruction, and extracurricular activities.

Applications for fee waivers may be obtained from the school office and may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. A student is eligible for a fee waiver if at least one of the following prerequisites are met:

Numbers instead of dots

1. The student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for federal free meals programs;
2. The student's parent is a veteran or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
3. The student is homeless, as defined by the Mc-Kinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The Building Principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- An illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Unemployment;

- Emergency situations; or
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

The building principal will notify the parent/guardian promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. Questions regarding the fee waiver application process or an appeal of the District's decision to deny a fee waiver should be addressed to the Building Principal.

Pursuant to the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act, the school is required to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks. Students may not be provided with an alternative meal or snack and the school is prohibited from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for or owes money for a meal or snack.

The school district will seek restitution from students and their parents/guardians for vandalism or other student acts that cause damage to school property. Fines for loss or damage to school property are waived for students who meet certain eligibility guidelines.

Lunch Period and Lunch Money

Students need to sign up for hot lunch in the student center prior to first period. Students wishing to purchase lunch will keep on their account with Newark Grade School.

Section 4-Transportation, Parking, and Drop Off/Pick Up

Bus Transportation

The district provides bus transportation to and from school for all students living 1.5 miles or more from the school. A list of bus stops will be published at the beginning of the school year before student registration. Parents must, at the beginning of the school year, select one bus stop at which a student is to be picked up, and one stop at which a student is to be dropped off. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Building Principal or Designee.

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the Building Principal or Designee.

Students are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus. Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for violating school rules or for engaging in other gross disobedience or misconduct. The school board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus.

A student who is suspended from riding the school bus and who does not have alternative transportation to school shall be allowed the opportunity to make up all missed work for equivalent academic credit. It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternative transportation to school.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are also expected to observe the following:

1. Be aware of moving traffic and pay attention to your surroundings.
2. Dress properly for the weather. Make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, etc. on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed to lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
3. Arrive on time at the bus stop, and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.
4. Stay away from the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board. Enter in a single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.
5. Take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms, and head inside the bus.
6. Talk quietly on the bus. No shouting or creating loud noises that may distract the driver. Tablets, computers, smartphones, smart watches, and other electronic devices must be silenced on the bus unless a student uses headphones
7. Help keep the bus neat and clean. Keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.
8. Always listen to the driver's instructions. Be courteous to the driver and other students. Sit with your hands to yourself and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers. Remain seated, keeping your hands, arms, and head inside the bus at all times.
9. Wait until the bus pulls to a complete stop before standing up. Use the handrail when exiting the bus.
10. Stay out of the danger zone next to the bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. Take five giant steps away from the bus and out of the danger zone, until you can see the driver and the driver sees you. Never crawl under a bus.
11. If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal and then cross in front of the bus. Cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
12. Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

Video and audio cameras may be active on buses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus.

For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact the Transportation Coordinator at 815-695-5164.

Parking

Students may park their vehicles in the school lot. Vehicles must be parked between the painted lines, and must be driven under the speed limit of 10 miles per hour while in the lot. Vehicles should be driven safely and must yield to pedestrians. Vehicles parked outside painted lines or designated parking spots may be ticketed or towed at the discretion of the school, at the vehicle owner's expense. Students caught driving recklessly in the parking lot may be subject to disciplinary action.

The school is not responsible for student vehicles, any possessions left in them, or anything attached to the vehicles. **STUDENTS PARK THEIR VEHICLES ON OR NEAR SCHOOL PROPERTY AT THEIR OWN RISK.** Students should be aware their vehicles are not protected in any way while in the parking lot, and items of value should not be left in or near the vehicle while unattended.

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in cars parked on school grounds. School lots are regularly searched by contraband dogs, administration, and police officers. Students should be aware that items and spaces on school grounds are subject to search and view by others, and that prohibited items

discovered during the course of a search may result in discipline, including, but not limited to, expulsion from school.

Vehicles may not be parked or located in the bus lanes or fire lanes at any time. Bus lanes and fire lanes are clearly marked. Vehicles located in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.

Video cameras may be active in parking lots and may be used for the purposes of investigation into student misconduct. Discipline for misconduct includes all disciplinary measures in the student discipline code and/or withdrawal of parking privileges.

Section 5-Health and Safety

Required Health Examinations and Immunizations

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases within one year prior to:

1. Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
2. Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
3. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). An age-appropriate developmental screening and an age-appropriate social and emotional screening are required parts of each health examination.

Per State law, failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. A student will not be excluded from school due to his or her parent/guardian's failure to obtain a developmental screening or a social and emotional screening.

New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

Eye Examination

All students entering kindergarten or the school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

Dental Examination

All students entering kindergarten, second, sixth and ninth grades must present proof by May 15 of the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to

present proof allows the school to hold the child's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

Exemptions

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

1. Medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
2. Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
3. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
4. Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
5. Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

Homeless Child

Any homeless child shall be immediately admitted, even if the child or child's parent/guardian is unable to produce immunization and health records normally required for enrollment. School Board policy 6:140, Education of Homeless Children, governs the enrollment of homeless children.

Student Medication

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a "School Medication Authorization Form."

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine injector (e.g., EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler or medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form. Students who are diabetic may possess and/or self-administer diabetic testing supplies, equipment, and insulin if authorized by the student's diabetes care plan, which must be on file with the school. Students with epilepsy may possess and/or self-administer supplies, equipment and medication, if authorized by the student's seizure action plan, which must be on file with the school. Students may self-administer (but not possess on their person) other medications required under a qualified plan, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form. The school district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine injectors, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the

school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine injector, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

Administration of Medical Cannabis

In accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program, qualifying students are allowed to utilize medical cannabis infused products while at school and school events. Please contact the building principal for additional information. Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

Undesignated Medications

The school may maintain the following undesignated prescription medications for emergency use: (1) Asthma medication; (2) Epinephrine injectors; (3) Opioid antagonists; and (4) Glucagon. No one, including without limitation, parents/guardians of students, should rely on the School or District for the availability of undesignated medication. This procedure does not guarantee the availability of undesignated medications. Students and their parents/guardians should consult their own physician regarding these medication(s).

Please be aware that Newark Community High School maintains a supply of undesignated medications including Epinephrine, Asthma medication, and Opioid Antagonist to be used in emergency situations. A parent or guardian may submit a written request to NOT administer one or more of the undesignated medications to the school nurse.

Emergency Aid to Students

Nothing in the policies or procedures of the District shall prohibit a school employee from providing emergency assistance (including administering medication) to students.

Communicable Diseases

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
- In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
- The school will provide written instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
- A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

Head Lice

The school will observe the following procedures regarding head lice.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
- The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.

Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

Threats and acts of targeted school violence harm the District's environment and school community, diminishing students' ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Providing students and staff with access to a safe and secure environment is an important goal of the School and District. While it is not possible to completely eliminate threats, the School and District maintain a Targeted School Violence Prevention Program and a Threat Assessment Team to reduce these risks to its environment.

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, School, or self. Reports can be made to any school administrator, law enforcement authorities, or the Safe2Help Illinois helpline (www.safe2helpil.com/).

Students and parents are urged to participate in behavioral threat assessment and intervention programs if the Behavioral Threat Assessment Team believes that intervention is necessary to prevent a student from harming themselves or others. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker(s) or parent/guardian(s), the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

For further information, please contact the Building Principal.

Guidance & Counseling

The school provides a guidance and counseling program for students. The school's counselors are available to those students who require additional assistance. Under Illinois law, any student 12 years of age or older may receive counseling services without consent of the student's parent/guardian. However, until the consent of the student's parent/guardian has been obtained, counseling services provided to a student under the age of 17 are generally limited to not more than eight 90-minute sessions. The guidance program is available to assist students in identifying career options consistent with their abilities, interests, and personal values. Students are encouraged to seek the help of counselors to develop class schedules that meet the student's career objectives. High school juniors and seniors have the opportunity to receive college and career-oriented information. Representatives from colleges and universities, occupational training institutions and career-oriented recruiters, including the military, may be given access to the school campus in order to provide students and parents/guardians with information.

Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance and a student's parent/guardian may elect to exclude their child from participating in this drill. All other drills will not be preceded by a warning to students.

Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence

Domestic and sexual violence affect a student's ability to learn. Students who are parents or expectant parents have unique needs. Providing support services that enable students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence (Article 26A Students) to succeed in school are important school and district goals and are required by law.

Requesting Support Services

To facilitate the full participation of Article 26A Students, the school district provides in-school support services and information regarding non-school-based support services. Article 26A Students are also able to make up work missed on account of circumstances related to their status as a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence.

In-school support services include, but are not limited to, enabling a student to meet with counselors or others service providers, excusing the student from class as necessary for circumstances consistent with their Article 26A status, and assisting students with the development of a student success plan.

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may request a complete copy of the District's policies related to Article 26A Students and information on support services by contacting the Article 26A Resource Person listed below.

Filing a Complaint

An Article 26A Student and/or their parent/guardian may file a complaint for violations of this procedure with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking.

Article 26A Resource Person:

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road, Newark, IL 60541
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road, Newark, IL 60541
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Title IX Coordinator:

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road, Newark, IL 60541
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Complaint Managers:

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road, Newark, IL 60541
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Jeanette Buhle
413 Chicago Road, Newark, IL 60541
(815) 695-5164 jbuhle@nchs18.org

Section 6-Discipline and Conduct

General Building Conduct

Students shall not arrive at school before 7:45 a.m. Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. each day. The following rules shall apply, and failure to abide by the rules may result in discipline:

- Students shall not run, talk loudly or yell in the hallways nor shall they push, shove or hit others.
- Students shall not write on walls, desks or deface or destroy school property.
- Water guns, play guns, and/or real guns are not permitted at school.

Lockers and Book Bags

Students will be responsible for the care of their own personal equipment. Lockers should be orderly. The only items that may be placed in the lockers are articles of clothing, school books or supplies relating to school use, lunches, and personal items that the student needs for school activities.

To maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities may inspect and search student lockers and other school property. This property includes but is not limited to desks and parking lots, as well as personal effects left in those places, without notice to or consent of the students, and without a search warrant. Lockers will be searched when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a law or rule has been broken and that search will reveal evidence of this violation. This statement should be considered "Prior Notice" of locker search procedure. For more information regarding search and seizure, see Board Policy 7:140. Stickers of any type are not allowed on the inside or outside of lockers.

School Dress Code

All students at Newark Community High School are expected to exemplify appropriate hygiene and dress standards in a manner that projects an appropriate image for the student, school, and district. While we respect students' personal freedom to dress and groom themselves according to personal taste, students must dress appropriately for the school setting.

Student dress and grooming should meet reasonable standards of health, cleanliness, safety, and standards of the community. Students are expected to dress in a manner appropriate to the school environment and not cause disruption to the educational process. The basic responsibility for students' appearance while attending school and school activities lies with the students and his/her parents. Both students and parents should be proud of a student's appearance and the dignity that it presents to others.

If there is a disagreement between students and/or parents/guardians and staff regarding the appropriateness of clothing, the administration will make the final determination.

All students must observe the following guidelines:

Bottoms:

- Must not be see-through.
- Must fit appropriately and not drag on the floor.
- Must be at the waist and appropriately fastened with belts when needed.
- Must be clean and in appropriate repair – holes and/or rips below mid-thigh are permissible, as long as private parts and undergarments are covered.
- Must cover undergarments at all times.
- Shorts (athletic or other) must cover undergarments at all times. Shorts do not have a length restriction as long as private parts and undergarments are covered.

- Must cover the waistline, no skin may show between bottoms and tops when seated or standing.
- Dresses, leggings, skirts, skorts, pants, spandex, and yoga pants should be at least mid-thigh length and cover all private body parts at all times.

Tops:

- Must not be see-through.
- Must fit appropriately.
- Must be clean and in appropriate repair with no holes or tears.
- Must cover undergarments at all times (visible straps are allowed).
- Must cover the waistline, no skin may show between bottoms and tops when seated or standing.
- Tank tops are acceptable if the straps are at least one inch in width.
- Must cover all private body parts at all times. (Example: glutes, cleavage, abdomen)
- May include a hood but the hood is not to be worn on the head.

Footwear:

- Athletic shoes, laced shoes, shoe boots, loafers, dress shoes, or sandals are permissible.
- Must be secured on feet.
- No house slippers or Heely's are allowed.
- Shoes of some kind must be worn at all times for safety purposes, no exceptions.

Hats

- Students are allowed to wear hats in the building
- Students may not wear hoods

Additional Expectations:

Students must maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is required, such as Science labs, Physical Education, FFA, FACS, various field trips and IVVC. These classes may require eye protection, proper hand/feet coverage and possible body protection.

- Clothing representing gangs or gang related activity, including gang-related colors if for purposes of gang identification, may not be worn.
- Clothing that contains pictures, innuendo and/or writing referring to alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, sexual references, profanity, illegal drugs, epithets, harassment/hate messages, or messages of hostility toward race including but not limited to the confederate flag, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation may not be worn.
- Dress and grooming should be clean and free from unpleasant odors.
- Undershorts or undergarments may not be worn as outerwear.
- Outerwear, including coats, winter hats, gloves/mittens and scarves, may not be worn inside unless a student is going to their locker after coming in from outside, or with administrative approval.
- Attire that can be considered a weapon is forbidden. This includes long or heavy chains and accessories with sharp or pointed protrusions.
- Jewelry, piercings, tattoos or similar artifacts that are obscene, potentially dangerous or may cause disruptions to the educational environment may need to be removed or covered up.
- Attire or accessories that conceal identity are not allowed (e.g. masks, sunglasses, etc.).

Enforcement: To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the procedures below.

First Occurrence - The student will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing – if available at school or they will be provided a change of clothes by the office. The parents will be contacted.

Second Occurrence - The student will be issued a behavioral referral and provided a change of clothes by the office and will be assigned one hour of after-school detention. The parents will be contacted.

Third Occurrence - The student will be issued a behavioral referral and provided a change of clothes by the office and will be assigned two hours of after-school detention. The parents will be contacted both by phone and in writing.

Fourth and Subsequent Occurrence(s) - The student will be issued a behavioral referral and provided a change of clothes by the office and a one day in-school suspension will be assigned. The parents will be contacted both by phone and in writing.

Student Conduct

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens or other vaping related products.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
 - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
 - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
 - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
 - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.

- g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
 - h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form. Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.
4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a “weapon” or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
 5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
 6. Using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student’s individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student’s lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
 7. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member’s direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
 8. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member’s request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
 9. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
 10. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
 11. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
 12. Engaging in teen dating violence.
 13. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person’s personal property.
 14. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
 15. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
 16. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
 17. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.

18. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
19. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.
20. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
22. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.
23. Sexting, which, for purposes of this procedure, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing indecent visual depictions, non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, and non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions, as defined in State law.

For purposes of these rules, the term “possession” includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student’s person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student’s clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school’s student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports, shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student’s parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or

4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property; or
5. During periods of remote learning

Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference (lunch or after school detention).
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension.
7. After-school detention or Saturday detention provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. Community service.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 school days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.
15. Social probation - If a student demonstrates that he/she cannot follow the rules of the school the student may be placed on social probation instead of or in addition to receiving another consequence. If a student is placed on social probation, he/she may be suspended from:
 - School or school grounds outside of school hours
 - Attending, as a spectator, any school sponsored event after school hours or on weekends
 - Participation in school social activities such as assemblies, celebrations, ceremonies (i.e., Awards Night, graduation, etc.), pep rallies, picnics, field trips, dances, prom, etc.

A student may, in addition to or in lieu of social probation, be denied the opportunity to participate in athletic and/or extracurricular events as a result of disciplinary action taken against him/her.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out and Physical Restraint

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The school may not use isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim or set an example for others. It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by State law.

Weapons Prohibition

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

- (1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.
- (2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look alike" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or

threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The Building Principal or Designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important district and school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any

nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes; (1) the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying; (2) the distribution by electronic means of communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying, and (3) the posting or distribution of an unauthorized digital replica by electronic means if the posting or distribution creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, posting or distributing sexually explicit images, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal, nondiscrimination coordinator Tim Ulrich, district complaint manager Tim Ulrich or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who have information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road- Newark, IL
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Complaint Managers

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road- Newark, IL
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Jeanette Buhle
413 Chicago Road- Newark, IL
(815) 695-5164 jbuhle@nchs18.org

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to read the following school district policies found on the district website or in the district office: *7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited and 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment.*

Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the school shall make diligent efforts to notify a parent or guardian within 24 hours after the school's administration is made aware of a student's involvement in an alleged bullying incident. The term "bullying incident" includes individual instances of bullying, as well as all threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be a result of bullying. Notification to a parent or guardian shall include, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.

Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin negatively affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from such discrimination and harassment is an important District and School goal. The District and School do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, or national origin in any of its education programs or activities and comply with federal and State non-discrimination laws.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Examples of conduct that may constitute discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: disciplining students more harshly and frequently because of their race, color, or national origin; denying students access to high-rigor academic courses, extracurricular activities, or other educational opportunities based on their race, color, or national origin; denying language services or other educational opportunities to English learners; and assigning students special education services based on a student's race, color, or national origin.

Harassment is a form of prohibited discrimination. Examples of conduct that may constitute harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin include: the use of racial, ethnic or ancestral slurs or stereotypes; taunts; name-calling; offensive or derogatory remarks about a person's actual or perceived race, color, or national origin; the display of racially-offensive symbols; racially-motivated physical threats and attacks; or other hateful conduct.

Making a Report or Complaint: Investigation Process

Individuals are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidences of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Reports will be processed under the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure.

Reports and complaints of discrimination or harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational environment that is productive, respectful, and free of unlawful discrimination, including harassment.

Federal and State Agencies

If the District fails to take necessary corrective action to stop harassment based on race, color, or national origin, further relief may be available through the Illinois Dept. of Human Rights (IDHR) or the U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights. To contact IDHR, go to: <https://dhr.illinois.gov/about-us/contact-idhr.html> or call (312) 814-6200 (Chicago) or (217) 785-5100 (Springfield).

Prevention and Response Program

The District maintains a prevention and response program to respond to complaints of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including harassment, and retaliation. The program includes procedures for responding to complaints which:

1. Reduce or remove, to the extent practicable, barriers to reporting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation;
2. Permit any person who reports or is the victim of an incident of alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to be accompanied when making a report by a support individual of the person's choice who complies with the District's policies and rules;
3. Permit anonymous reporting, except that an anonymous report may not be the sole basis of any disciplinary action;
4. Offer remedial interventions or take such disciplinary action as may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis;
5. Offer, but do not require or unduly influence, a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation the option to resolve allegations directly with the accused; and
6. Protects a person who reports or is the victim of an incident of harassment or retaliation from suffering adverse consequences as a result of a report of, investigation of, or a response to the incident.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion, consistent with the student discipline information in this handbook.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited.

Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Harassment & Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Harassment Prohibited

No person, including a school or school district employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived: race; color; national origin; military status; unfavorable discharge status from military service; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender-related identity or expression; ancestry; age; religion; physical or mental disability; order of protection status; status of being homeless; actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy; association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics; or any other distinguishing characteristic. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, sexual, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile,

or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatening or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited (Title IX)

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment when that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
3. Sexual assault as defined in or stalking as defined in District policy and federal law.

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, sexual coercion, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term teen dating violence occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

Making a Report or Complaint

Students are encouraged to promptly report claims or incidents of bullying, intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, or any other prohibited conduct to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the student is comfortable speaking.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Tim Ulrich
413 Chicago Road, Newark, IL 60541
(815) 695-5164 tulrich@nchs18.org

Title IX Coordinator:

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Complaint Managers:

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Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to discipline.

Investigation Process

All complaints will be investigated by the District in accordance with state and federal law and corresponding District policies.

Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Any District student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be subject to remedial action and/or disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion, consistent with the student discipline information in this handbook.

Any third party who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent/guardian, invitee, etc. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding prohibited conduct will likewise be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action.

Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for bringing complaints, participating in the complaint process, or otherwise providing information about discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin is prohibited. Individuals should report allegations of retaliation to the Building Principal, an administrator, the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, and/or a Complaint Manager.

Cafeteria Rules

1. Students shall not save seats for other students.
2. Students shall walk to lunch and shall be orderly and quiet during lunch.
3. No food shall leave the cafeteria.
4. Loud talking, yelling, screaming, and other disruptions are prohibited.
5. Students shall not throw food, milk cartons or other items.
6. Students shall follow the instructions of the lunchroom aides and show proper respect toward all cafeteria personnel.
7. Students shall remain seated while in the cafeteria except to throw items away.
8. Students shall immediately become silent when staff or presenters make announcements in the cafeteria.
9. Students shall report spills and broken containers to cafeteria staff immediately.

10. Students shall be dismissed from the cafeteria by the lunchroom supervisor or bell.

Misbehavior will result in disciplinary action according to the school's disciplinary procedures.

Field Trips

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field trip activities and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline.

All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

Access to Students Social Networking Passwords and Websites

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination. Pursuant to 105ILCS75/15

Student Use of Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices, except as provided herein. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following: cell phone, smart phone, audio or video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), ipod®, ipad®, laptop computer, tablet computer, smart watch, smart glasses or other similar electronic device. Pocket pagers and other paging devices are not allowed on school property at any time, except with the express permission of the building principal.

During instructional time electronic devices must be kept powered-off (or silenced based on teacher discretion) and stored in the door pockets unless: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals. Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes but is not limited to, the following: (1) using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms; (2) cheating; and (3) creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting).

The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school. Students in violation of this procedure are subject to consequences.

Students in violation of this procedure are subject to the following consequences:

1. First offense – The device will be confiscated by school personnel. A verbal warning will be assigned. The student will receive the device back at the end of the day in the school office.

2. Second offense – The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student’s parent/guardian will be notified and may be required to pick up the device in the school office.
3. Third offense – The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student’s parent/guardian will be notified and may be required to pick up the device in the school office. Additionally, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the next 10 school days. If the student is found in possession of the device during this 10-day period, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.
4. Fourth and subsequent offense – The device will be confiscated. The student will be assigned a detention and will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student’s parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student’s account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Section 7-Internet, Technology, & Publications

Acceptable Use of the District’s Electronic Networks

All use of the District’s electronic networks shall be consistent with the District’s goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Terms and Conditions

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District’s technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District’s local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-provided Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District’s networking infrastructure or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned and District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

Acceptable Use - Access to the District’s electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District’s educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

Privileges - The use of the District’s electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The system administrator or Building Principal or designee will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

Unacceptable Use - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the networks. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- a. Using the electronic network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other intellectual property rights, or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- b. Using the electronic networks to engage in conduct prohibited by Board policy;
- c. Unauthorized downloading of software or other files, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or scanned for malware;
- d. Unauthorized use of personal removable media devices, such as flash or thumb drives;
- e. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- f. Using the electronic networks for private financial or commercial gain;
- g. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- h. Hacking or attempting to hack or gain unauthorized access to files, accounts, resources, or entities by any means;
- i. Invading the privacy of individuals, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of personal nature, such as a photograph or a video;
- j. Using another user's account or password;
- k. Disclosing any network or account password (including your own) to any other person, unless requested by the system administrator or building administration;
- l. Posting or sending material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- m. Posting or sending anonymous messages;
- n. Creating or forwarding chain letters, spam, or other unsolicited messages;
- o. Using the electronic networks for commercial or private advertising;
- p. Accessing, sending, posting, publishing, or displaying any abusive, obscene, profane, sexual, threatening, harassing, illegal, or knowingly false material;
- q. Misrepresenting the user's identity, or the identity of others; and
- r. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

Network Etiquette - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
- b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
- d. Recognize that the District's electronic networks are not private. People who operate District technology have access to all email and other data. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- e. Do not use the networks in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the electronic networks to be private property.

No Warranties - The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Indemnification - By using the District's electronic networks, the user agrees to indemnify the School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

Security - Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify or suspects a security problem on the Internet, the user must promptly notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep user accounts and passwords confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

Vandalism - Vandalism will result in the cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of malware, such as viruses and spyware.

Telephone Charges - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, texting or data use charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

Copyright Web Publishing Rules - Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the internet or on District websites or file servers/cloud storage without explicit written permission.

- a. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
- b. Students engaged in producing web pages must provide library media specialists with email or hard copy permissions before the web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of "public domain" documents must be provided.
- c. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the website displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
- d. The fair use rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permitted limited use of graphics and text.
- e. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and the student.

Use of Email - The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the School District. The School District provides email to aid students in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, as an education tool.

- a. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student to an email account is strictly prohibited.
- b. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an email message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an email message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
- c. Electronic messages transmitted via the District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet *domain*. This domain is a registered name and identifies the

author as being with the District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all email messages transmitted to external recipients.

- d. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet, such as spam or potential phishing emails, should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
- e. Use of the School District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.

Guidelines of Student Distribution of Non-School Publications

A student or group of students seeking to distribute more than 10 copies of the same material on one or more days to students must comply with the following guidelines:

1. The student(s) must notify the Building Principal of the intent to distribute, in writing, at least 24 hours before distributing the material. No prior approval of the material is required.
2. The material may be distributed at times and locations determined by the Building Principal, e.g., before the beginning or ending of classes at a central location inside the building.
3. The Building Principal may impose additional requirements whenever necessary to prevent disruption, congestion, or the perception that the material is school-endorsed.
4. Distribution must be done in an orderly and peaceful manner, and may not be coercive.
5. The distribution must be conducted in a manner that does not cause additional work for school personnel. Students who distribute material are responsible for cleaning up any materials left on school grounds.
6. Students must not distribute material that:
 - a. Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
 - b. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
 - c. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the student's maturity level, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board Policy and Student Handbook;
 - d. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
 - e. Incites students to violate any Board Policy,
7. A student may use the School District's Uniform Grievance Procedure to resolve a complaint.
8. Whenever these guidelines require written notification, the appropriate administrator may assist the student in preparing such notification.

A student or group of students seeking to distribute 10 or fewer copies of the same publication on one or more days to students must distribute such material at times and places and in a manner that will not cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities and in compliance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Internet Safety

Internet access is limited to only those *acceptable uses* as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is supported if users will not engage in *unacceptable uses*, as detailed in these procedures and otherwise follow these procedures. Staff members will supervise students while students are using District Internet access to ensure that the students abide by the *Terms and Conditions* for Internet access contained in these

procedures. Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful and inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The system administrator and Building Principal shall monitor student Internet access.

Guidelines for School-Sponsored Publications, Productions and Websites

School-sponsored publications, productions and websites are governed by the Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act, school board policies and the student/parent handbook. Student journalists are responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of those publications, productions, and websites.

Student journalists must:

1. Make decisions based upon news value and guided by the Code of Ethics provided by the Society of Professional Journalists, National Scholastic Press Association, Journalism Education Association, or other relevant group;
2. Produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity, and fairness;
3. Review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation;
4. Check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations;
5. In the use of personal opinions, editorial statements, and/or letters to the editor, provide opportunity and space for the expression of differing opinions within the same media to align with the District's media literacy curriculum mandate; and
6. Include an author's name with any personal opinions and editorial statements, if appropriate.

Student journalists may not create, produce, or distribute school sponsored media that:

1. Is libelous, slanderous, or obscene;
2. Constitutes an unwanted invasion of privacy;
3. Violates Federal or State law, including the constitutional rights of third parties; or
4. Incites students to (a) commit an unlawful act; (b) violate any school district policy or student handbook procedure; or (c) materially and substantially disrupt the orderly operations of the school.

The District will not engage in prior restraint of material prepared by student journalists for school-sponsored media unless the material fits into one of the four prohibited categories listed above, in which case the Building Principal and/or student media advisers may review, edit, and delete such media material before publication or distribution of the media.

The author's name will accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

No expression made by students in the exercise of freedom of speech or freedom of the press under this policy shall be deemed to be an expression of the School, District or an expression of the Board Policy.

Access to Non-School Sponsored Publications or Distribution on Campus

Creating, distributing, and/or accessing non-school sponsored publications shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution or the publication is endorsed by the School District.

Students are prohibited from creating, distributing, and/or accessing at school any publication that:

1. Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;

2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the maturity level of the students, including but not limited to material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board policy and the Student Handbook;
4. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
5. Encourages or incites students to violate any Board policies.

Accessing or distributing on-campus includes accessing or distributing on school property or at school-related activities. A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for: (1) accessing or distributing forbidden material, or (2) for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school.

Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed Off-Campus

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing a publication that: (1) causes a substantial disruption or a foreseeable risk of a substantial disruption to school operations, or (2) interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as *operators*. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information, username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English language learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)

- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents/guardians
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district

Section 8-Search and Seizure

Search and Seizure

In order to maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. “School authorities” includes school liaison police officers.

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The Building Principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

Student-Searches

School authorities may search a student and/or the student’s personal effects in the student’s possession (such as purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the District’s student conduct rules. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to the objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student’s age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student’s account on a social networking website that violates the school’s disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required

to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination. School officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

Questioning of Students Suspected of Committing Criminal Activity

Before a law enforcement officer, school resource officer, or other school security person detains and questions on school grounds a student under 18 years of age who is suspected of committing a criminal act, the building principal or designee will: (a) Notify or attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian and document the time and manner in writing; (b) Make reasonable efforts to ensure the student's parent/guardian is present during questioning or, if they are not present, ensure that a school employee (including, but not limited to, a Social Worker, Psychologist, Nurse, School or Guidance Counselor, or any other mental health professional) is present during the questioning; and (c) If practicable, make reasonable efforts to ensure that a law enforcement officer trained in promoting safe interactions and communications with youth is present during the questioning.

Section 9-Extracurricular and Athletic Activities

Newark Community High School believes in good sportsmanship. It is expected that coaches, advisors, players, students, parents, and fans will demonstrate sportsmanship at all times. In addition to the following rules, Newark Community High School is subject to the rules and regulations of the Illinois High School Association.

This Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Code of Conduct applies, where applicable, to all school-sponsored athletic and extracurricular activities that are not part of an academic class nor otherwise carry credit for a grade.

Requirements for Participation in Athletic Activities

A student must meet all academic eligibility requirements and have the following fully executed documents on file in the school office before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity:

- A current certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse or physician assistant. The preferred certificate of physical fitness is the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) "Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form."²
- A permission slip to participate in the specific athletic activity signed by the student's parent/guardian.
- Proof the student is covered by medical insurance.
- A signed agreement by the student not to ingest or otherwise use any drugs on the IHSA's most current banned substance list (without a written prescription and medical documentation provided by a licensed physician who performed an evaluation for a legitimate medical condition) and a signed agreement by the student and the student's parent/guardian agreeing to IHSA's Performance-Enhancing Substance Testing Program.

- Signed documentation agreeing to comply with the School District's policies and procedures on student athletic concussions and head injuries.
- An athletic fee per sport as well as all school registration fees must be paid in full unless the fee is waived by administration.

Illinois High School Association (IHSA)

Eligibility for most athletics is also governed by the rules of the Illinois High School Association and, if applicable, these rules will apply in addition to this Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Code of Conduct. In the case of a conflict between IHSA and this Code, the most stringent rule will be enforced.

Academic Eligibility

At Newark Community High School, academics and graduation are the top priority. While we believe that extra-curricular activities are important in a student's life and their development, they do not supersede the importance of academics. Therefore, eligibility rules have been established to provide a guideline to support students and focus on improving their academic standing. Eligibility reports become active the third week of each semester.

1. NCHS has a weekly NO PASS – NO PLAY policy. So, students in activities /athletics must pass all credit hours of high school work each week to be eligible to participate in that week's contests or performances. Students are expected to go to practice and tutoring during ineligibility.
2. You must have passed and received credit towards graduation for thirty-five (35) credit hours of high school work for the entire previous semester to be eligible at all during the ensuing semester. Thirty-five hours would mean passing seven (7) half (.5) credit courses of study. IVVC counts as four (4) half (.5) credit courses of study. This rule also works in conjunction with the criteria set forth in rule #5.
3. The official eligibility report will be run on Monday and any student ineligible will be held out of competition from that Monday through the following Saturday.
4. Any NCHS student that has 2 or more D's/ F's during a weekly eligibility report may have a meeting with the athletic director. The student may also have to miss practice due to academic assistance.

Absence from School on Day of Extracurricular or Athletic Activity

A student who is absent from school after 11:00 am is ineligible for any extracurricular or athletic activity on that day unless the absence has been approved in writing by the principal. Exceptions may be made for justifiable reasons, including: 1) a pre-arranged medical absence; 2) a death in the student's family; or 3) a religious ceremony or event.

A student who has been suspended from school is also suspended from participation in all extracurricular and athletic activities for the duration of the suspension.

A student who is absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event may be withheld from Saturday extracurricular or athletic activities at the sole discretion of the designated teacher, sponsor or coach.

Travel

All students must travel to extracurricular and athletic activities with his or her team by use of school approved transportation. At the completion of the event, a student may be signed out and excused to leave the activity with a parent/guardian. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by the administration upon advance written request of a student's parent/guardian and provided the responsible adult appears and accepts custody of the student. Oral requests will not be honored and oral permissions are not valid.

Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Representing Newark in interscholastic athletics and activities is regarded as an honor and a privilege. This Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular and athletic activities and is enforced 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. This Code does not contain a complete list of inappropriate behaviors. Violations will be treated cumulatively, with disciplinary penalties increasing with subsequent violations. A student may be excluded from extracurricular or athletic activities while the school is conducting an investigation into the student's conduct.

Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to seek assistance from the Student Assistance Program for alcohol or other drug problems. Participation in an alcohol or drug counseling program will be taken into consideration in determining consequences for Code of Conduct violations.

The athletic and activity code will cover inclusively, but not exclusively, the following violations:

- Violate the school rules and School District policies on student discipline including policies and procedures on student behavior;
- Use of or possession of tobacco products and all vaping paraphernalia.
- Misuse of illegal possession of drugs.
- Theft or possession of athletic equipment not assigned to the person holding such equipment.
- Violations of school rules and regulations or the public display of behavior that could generally be regarded as being "unbecoming of an athlete" as determined by the coach, athletic director, or other school officials.
- Violate any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and reckless driving;
- Consumption or possession of prohibited chemical substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) at parties, automobiles, etc.
- Conviction of an illegal act (that will result in a suspension from further competition until review of the case by athletic director and principal).
- Haze or bully other students;
- Violate the written rules for the extracurricular or athletic activity;
- Behave in a manner that is detrimental to the good of the group or school;
- Be insubordinate or disrespectful toward the activity's sponsors or team's coaching staff;

Hazing is any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a team or group, regardless of his or her willingness to participate. *Bullying* includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
- Causing a detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
- Interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
- Interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatening or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Code of Conduct Procedure

1. All violations shall be reported to the administration. What constitutes an acceptable source in reporting will be left to the discretion of the administration.
2. The athletic director shall arrange to hold a conference with the reported athlete and the coach if necessary.
3. The athletic director is the administrator responsible for invoking all penalties.
4. The athletic director shall notify the principal of the penalties involved. The parent/ guardian will be contacted if necessary.

Potential Disciplinary Consequences (if violating the Code of Conduct)

1. First Offense- The athletic director will determine the suspension of the student/athlete based on the severity of the offense. The suggested suspension for a student/ athlete is equivalent to 25 percent of a sport season.
2. Second Offense- The athletic director will determine the suspension of the student/athlete based on the severity of the offense. The suggested suspension for a student/ athlete is equivalent to 50 percent of a sport season.
3. Third Offense- The athletic director will determine the suspension of the student/athlete based on the severity of the offense. The student may be suspended the remainder of his/her high school career.

A student may be eligible to reduce their penalty of suspended contests by agreeing to complete a remediation program determined by the administration.

Athletics

If a student athlete is suspended for any part of a season, the Athletic Director, Building Principal, Coach of the sport, and the athlete's parent will discuss the requirements for attending practices and games for the length of the suspension. At the discretion of the Athletic Director and coach, the suspended student-athlete may be required to attend all practices and games for the entire suspension. Failure to abide by the agreement determined by the athletic director, coach, and parent will be considered a violation of the suspension. When a suspension violation occurs, the student must repeat the entire suspension. If the suspension violation occurs at the end of the season and there is not sufficient time left to re-serve the suspension, the suspension will be carried into the next sports season in which the student participates. If the student does not finish the season the suspension will need to be repeated. When a student-athlete is suspended for an entire season/year, the student-athlete will not be allowed to attend any practices or games as a member of the team.

Activity or Activities

If a student is suspended from an activity, the building principal and sponsor will discuss the requirements for attending the activity and the length of the suspension. At the discretion of the building principal, sponsor, and parent the suspended student may be required to attend all practices and contests for the entire suspension. Failure to abide by the agreement determined by the building principal, sponsor, and parent will be considered a violation of the suspension. When a suspension violation occurs, the student must repeat the entire suspension. If the suspension violation occurs at the end of the activity's season and there is not sufficient time left to re-serve the suspension, the suspension will be carried into the next activity season in which the student participates. If the student does not finish the season the suspension will need to be repeated. When a student is suspended for an entire season/year, the student will not be allowed to attend any practices or games as a member of the activity. A second offense of the above will result in no further participation as an NCHS student.

Application of Penalties

In the event that a student is suspended for one-third of a season, and there are less than one-third of the contests remaining in the sports season, the penalty shall carry over (so as to equal one-third of the contests) to the next sport in which the student-athlete participates and completes. Violations that occur in the summer or off season shall be enforced in the next sport in which the student- athlete participates and completes. All students remain subject to all the School District's policies and the school's student/parent handbook.

IHSA Mandatory Drug Testing:

All high school athletic teams, in or out of season, are subject to a third-party random drug test per IHSA. Parents and students will be expected to sign a consent form each season giving IHSA permission to administer this test if Newark Community High School is selected. For more information, visit www.ihsa.org.

Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries:

Student athletes must comply with Illinois' Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act and all protocols, policies and bylaws of the Illinois High School Association before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity, including practice or competition. A student who was removed from practice or competition because of a suspected concussion shall be allowed to return only after all statutory prerequisites are completed, including without limitation, the School District's return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols.

Uniforms

It is the student's responsibility to maintain and return all uniforms. If uniforms are lost or not returned, additional money will be due for the cost of lost articles.

Attendance at School-Sponsored Dances

Attendance at school-sponsored dances is a privilege. Only students who attend the school may attend school-sponsored dances unless the principal or designee approves a student's guest in advance of the event. A guest must be "age appropriate," defined as under the age of 21.

All school rules, including the school's discipline code and dress code, are in effect during school-sponsored dances.

Students who violate the school's discipline code will be required to leave the dance immediately and the student's parent/guardian will be contacted. The school may also impose other discipline as outlined in the school's discipline code.

Spectator Code of Conduct

Newark High School encourages all spectators to model positive behavior and sportsmanship at all events. The actions of spectators reflect directly on our school, student-athletes, and community. To ensure a safe and respectful environment, all spectators are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

Expectations for Spectators:

- Demonstrate respect for all student-athletes, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators.
- Support and encourage student-athletes through positive cheering and sportsmanship.

- Refrain from using profanity, abusive language, or inappropriate gestures.
- Do not engage in negative comments, taunting, or harassment toward players, coaches, officials, or other fans.
- Respect the decisions of game officials; understand that they are an essential part of the contest.
- Remain in designated spectator areas and follow all facility rules.
- Comply with requests from school personnel, and officials
- Do not enter the playing area or approach team benches, locker rooms, or officials before, during, or after contests.
- Promote a positive, family-friendly environment for all in attendance.

Spectators who fail to follow this code of conduct may be subject to removal from the event, suspension from future athletic contests, and/or additional consequences as determined by school administration.

Chain of Command

Newark High School Athletics values open and respectful communication. To ensure concerns are addressed effectively and efficiently, all stakeholders are expected to follow the established chain of command when addressing questions or concerns related to athletic programs.

Communication Guidelines:

All communication should be conducted in a respectful and constructive manner. Appropriate time should be allowed for responses before moving to the next level. Issues should not be discussed during or immediately after a contest; a 24-hour waiting period is required before contacting a coach.

Chain of Command Order:

1. Student-Athlete (when appropriate) communicates directly with the coach.
2. Parent/Guardian contacts the Coach.
3. Parent/Guardian contacts the Athletic Director/Assistant Principal.
4. Parent/Guardian contacts Principal/Superintendent.

Failure to follow the chain of command may result in delays in addressing concerns.

Section 10-Special Education

Education of Children with Disabilities

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The School provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the school. The term “children with disabilities” means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22nd birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed, except those children with disabilities who turn 22 years of age during the school year are eligible for special education services through the end of the

school year. It is the intent of the school to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

A copy of the publication “Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities” may be obtained from the school district office. Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implementing provisions of this Illinois law, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student (i) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of physical or mental impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities - Behavioral Interventions

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The School Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.

Discipline of Special Education Students

The District shall comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education’s *Special Education* rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student’s particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The School may not use isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

Exemption From Physical Education Requirement

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student’s participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student’s Individualized Education Program.

Certificate of High School Completion

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student’s 4 years of high school,

qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed 4 years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her high school graduation class.

Access to Classroom for Special Education Observation or Evaluation

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child. For further information, please contact the Building Principal.

Related Service Logs

For a child with an individualized education program (IEP), the school district must create related service logs that record the type of related services administered under the child's IEP and the minutes of each type of related service that has been administered. The school will provide a child's parent/guardian a copy of the related service log at the annual review of the child's IEP and at any other time upon request.

PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services)

Database Information for Students and Parents or Guardians

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) maintains a statewide database known as the PUNS database (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) that records information about individuals with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities who are potentially in need of services.

IDHS uses the data on PUNS to select individuals for services as funding becomes available, to develop proposals and materials for budgeting, and to plan for future needs. The PUNS database is available for children with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities with unmet service needs.

Registration to be included on the PUNS database is the first step toward receiving developmental disabilities services in this State. A child who is not on the PUNS database will not be in the queue for State developmental disabilities services.

For more information and to sign up for PUNS, see the Illinois Department of Human Services PUNS information page at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131>.

Section 11-Student Records and Privacy

Student Privacy Protections - Surveys

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the District's educational objectives, or assist in students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

Surveys by Third Parties

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the

questions. Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Building Principal.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- Behavior or attitudes about sex.
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

The student's parent/guardian may: (1) inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and within a reasonable time of, their request, and/or (2) refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

Instructional Material

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request. The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information

No school official or staff member may market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term *personal information* means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent/guardian has consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

- College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
- Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
- Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools.
- Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of aggregate data from such tests and assessments.

- Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a school official or staff member provide a student's personal information to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards.

A parent/guardian who desires to opt their child out of participation in activities provided herein or who desires a copy or access to a survey or any other material described herein may contact the Building Principal.

A complete copy of the District's Student and Family Privacy Rights policy may be obtained from the Superintendent's office or accessed on the District's website.

Student Records

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings (including electronic recordings made on school buses) that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes, though such electronic recordings may become a student record if the content is used for disciplinary or special education purposes regarding a particular student.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 business days of the day the District receives a request for access.

The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copyrights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. Within 10 business days, the building principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. In certain circumstances, the District may request an additional 5 business days in which to grant access. The District charges \$.35 per page for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost.

These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.

The right to have one or more scores received on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript.

Parents/guardians or eligible students may have one or more scores on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript. The District will include scores on college entrance examinations upon the written request of the parent/guardian or eligible student stating the name of each college entrance examination that is the subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be included.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/ guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that is believed to be inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper. Requests should be sent to the building principal and should clearly identify the record the parent/guardian or eligible student wants changed and the specific reason a change is being sought.

If the District decides not to amend the record, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board. A school official may also include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or educational technology vendor); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility or contractual obligation with the district.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records.

Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring.

Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; to another school district that overlaps attendance boundaries with the District, if the District has entered into an intergovernmental agreement that allows for sharing of student records and information with the other district, any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; to the Ill. Department of Human Services (DHS) for the sole purpose of assessing or evaluating the student's eligibility for Medicaid waiver benefits consistent with the rules adopted by the DHS; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.

The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

The right to prohibit the release of directory information. Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

- Name
- Address
- Grade level
- Birth date
- Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers
- Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs
- Academic awards, degrees, and honors
- Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics
- Major field of study
- Period of attendance in school

Any parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.

The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student's information without your prior written consent.

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the student's parent/guardian, or student who is 18 years of age or older, submits a written request that the information not be released without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. If you wish to exercise this option, notify the building principal.

The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education- Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20202-8520

Student Biometric Information

Before collecting biometric information from students, the school must seek the permission of the student's parent/guardian or the student, if over the age of 18. Biometric information means information that is collected from students based on their unique characteristics, such as a fingerprint, voice recognition or retinal scan.

Military Recruiter and Institutions of Higher Learning

Upon their request, military recruiters and institutions of higher learning will be given access to students' names, addresses and telephone numbers. Parents who do not want their child's name to be released (or students over the age of 18 who do not want their name released) should contact the building principal.

Section 12 - Parental Right Notifications

Teacher Qualifications

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their student's teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification and licensing criteria have been waived; Whether the teacher is teaching in a field of discipline of the teacher's certification; Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your student and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

Standardized Testing

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that the State and District require students to take certain standardized tests.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to cooperate in preparing students for the standardized testing, because the quality of the education the school can provide is partially dependent upon the school's ability to continue to prove its success in the state's standardized tests. Parents/Guardians can assist their students achieve their best performance by doing the following:

- Encourage students to work hard and study throughout the year;
- Ensure students get a good night's sleep the night before exams;
- Ensure students eat well the morning of the exam, particularly ensuring they eat sufficient protein;
- Remind and emphasize to students the importance of good performance on standardized testing;
- Ensure students are on time and prepared for tests, with appropriate materials;
- Teach students the importance of honesty and ethics during the performance of these and other tests;
- Encourage students to relax on testing day.

Homeless Child's Right to Education

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined by law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

- continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
- enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

Family Life & Sex Education Classes

Students will not be required to take or participate in any class or courses in comprehensive sex education, including in grades 6-12, instruction on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; family life instruction, including in grades 6-12, instruction on the prevention, transmission, and spread of AIDS; instruction on diseases; recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse; or instruction on donor programs for organ/tissue, blood donor, and transplantation, if his or her parent or guardian submits a written objection. The parent or guardian's decision will not be the reason for any student discipline, including suspension or expulsion. Parents or guardians may examine the instructional materials to be used in any district sex education class or course.

English Learners

The school offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all children are expected to meet.

Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children, and (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.

For questions related to this program or to express input in the school's English Learners program, contact Tim Ulrich at (815) 695-5164.

School Visitation Rights

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, academic meetings and behavioral meetings. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

Pesticide Application Notice

Newark Community High School has adopted an integrated pest management program that incorporates the guidelines as established Public Act 91-525 for the schools in the district. The district contracts with a professional pest control service to assist the district in maintaining a safe and pest free environment for the students of the district.

Applications are made on the 3rd Thursday of each month throughout the year and are completed when students are not in attendance. Emergency applications are made when situations warrant and only after proper notification.

A copy of the Integrated Pest Management Plan is on file in the Administration Office. Should you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent of Schools. (Telephone: 815-695-5164)

Mandated Reporters

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Student Privacy

The District has adopted and uses several policies and procedures regarding student privacy, parental access to information and administration of certain physical examinations to students. Copies of these policies are available upon request.

Sex Offender and Violent Offender Community Notification Laws

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board.

Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property – including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

Information about sex offenders or violent offenders against youth is available to the public on the Illinois State Police (ISP) website. The ISP website contains the following:

Illinois Sex Offender Registry: <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/Disclaimer>

Illinois Murderer & Violent Offender Against Youth Registry: <https://isp.illinois.gov/MVOAY/Disclaimer>

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Sex Offenders: <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/FAQs>

Parent Notices Required by the Every Student Succeeds Act

Teacher Qualifications

A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, whether:

- The teacher has met the State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- The teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status.
- The teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

- Paraprofessionals provide services to the student and, if so, their qualifications.

Testing Transparency

The State and District require students to take certain standardized tests. For additional information, contact the building principal.

A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, information regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by law or District policy, which shall include information on any applicable right you may have to opt your student out of such assessment.

Annual Report Card

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's website at www.nchs18.org

Unsafe School Choice Option

The unsafe school choice option allows students to transfer to another District school or to a public charter school within the District under certain circumstances. For additional information, contact the Building Principal.

Student Privacy

Students have certain privacy protections under federal law. For additional information, contact the Building Principal.

English Learners

The school offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all children are expected to meet. For additional information, contact the Building Principal.

Homeless Students

For information on supports and services available to homeless students, contact the Building Principal.

For further information on any of the above matters, please contact the Building Principal.

NEWARK NORSEMEN

Anti-Bullying Pledge

I will: Speak out against bullying.

I will: Report bullying when I see it happen.

I will: Learn what is and is not bullying.

I will: Make others feel included and valued.

I will: Solve problems in peaceful ways.

I will: Think before I comment on, post, or forward messages.

I know: I don't deserve to be bullied.