

Pioneer Elementary

Student/Parent Handbook

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www.Pioneer.asd20.org**

MISSION STATEMENT AND WELCOME LETTER

Principal's Message

Welcome to a new school year at Pioneer! For those of you who have attended Pioneer Elementary in the past, we are glad you are returning. New families, we are pleased to have you join us. Your child's success in school is enhanced when there is a mutually supportive effort between the home and school staff. Your support and involvement are needed and always welcome at Pioneer. There are many ways for you to be involved in your child's school experience, including opportunities to volunteer, attending awards assemblies, participating in PTO and Title I school wide events and joining your child for lunch. This is the beginning of my seventh year at Pioneer, six as assistant principal and now as your interim principal. I am once again looking forward to working with you and our staff to provide an awesome learning experience for your child. I appreciate your contributions and ideas on how Pioneer can become an even better school, so please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Annette Zook
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District Mission

We educate and inspire students to thrive.

District Vision

We provide creative and personal learning opportunities, accessible to all students, preparing them to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Pioneer Mission

At Pioneer, we are a safe and nurturing community where every child is known and empowered to reach their highest potential in academic and character development through differentiated and rigorous instruction.

Pioneer Vision

All Students will learn at high levels-All Means All

Academy District 20 is committed to a learning and working environment free from any form of violence and abuse including, but not limited to, actions, words, or insults toward our students, staff, and parents. It is a matter of mutual respect.

ATTENDANCE

School Hours 8:15 am -3:20 pm. Students are allowed to enter the building when the first bell rings at 8:00 for breakfast and to enter their classroom. At 8:20 am students are considered tardy. Breakfast will not be served after 8:20.

ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY

Student Attendance JE

In accordance with state law, it is the obligation of every parent to ensure that every child under his/her care and supervision who has attained the age of six years on or by August 1, and is under the age of seventeen years, receives adequate education and training and attends school.

Each year the Board of Education shall establish the school attendance period by adopting a school calendar. Secondary students are required to be in attendance a minimum of 1,080 hours and full-time elementary students a minimum of 990 hours during each school year.

Attendance is a key factor in student achievement. When absences do occur, they will be treated as either excused or unexcused.

Excused absences are as follows:

- a. absences approved by the principal or his/her designee.
- b. absences due to temporary illness or injury
- c. absences for an extended period of time due to physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.
- d. absences due to being in the custody of the court or law enforcement authorities.

If an absence does not fall into one of the above categories, it will be considered unexcused. Each school shall establish a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences. When a student fails to attend school on a regularly scheduled school day and school personnel have received no indication that his/her parent is aware of the absence, school personnel shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent. Excessive unexcused absences may result in referral to the court system.

If a student is absent without a signed parental excuse or if the student leaves school or class without permission of the teacher or administrator in charge, the student shall be considered truant. A child who is habitually truant shall be defined as a student who has attained the age of six years on or before August 1, and is under the age of seventeen years, is a registered student in Academy District 20, and has four total days of unexcused absences in any one month or ten total days of unexcused absences during any school year.

When a student becomes habitually truant, the school shall require a meeting between the student's parent and appropriate school personnel to review and evaluate the reasons for the student being habitually truant. Such meeting shall be arranged by appropriate administrative personnel.

Consequences for truancy shall be determined at the building and shall appear in student handbooks. "Parent" includes a parent or legal guardian.

Adopted/Approved: February 5, 1987

Reviewed: June 17, 2004

Revised:

February 17, 1994

September 19, 2007

January 23, 2009

October 16, 2023

Cross Refs:

JEB, School Entrance Age Requirements

JHB, Truancy

Legal Refs:

C.R.S. 22-33-104 (Compulsory attendance)

C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (Home-based education)

C.R.S. 22-33-107 (Enforcement of compulsory school attendance)

1 CCR 301-78 (Colorado State Board of Education Standardized Calculation for Counting Student Attendance and Truancy)

"Habitual truant" shall be defined as a student who has reached age six by August 1 and is under age seventeen and who has four total days of unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten total days of unexcused absences during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be counted in the total of unexcused absences for purposes of defining a student as "habitually truant."

In order to reduce truancy, parents/guardians of all students shall be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year of their obligation to ensure that all children of compulsory attendance age attend school. The school shall establish a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences. When a student fails to report on a regularly scheduled school day and school personnel have received no indication that the parent/guardian is aware of the absence, school personnel shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent/guardian by telephone or email. A plan shall be developed for a student who is at risk of being declared habitually truant with the goal of assisting the child to remain in school. When practicable, the student's parent, guardian or legal custodian shall participate with district staff during the development of the plan. Appropriate school staff shall make reasonable efforts to meet with the parent or guardian to review and evaluate the reasons for the student's truancy. In accordance with law, the district may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while truant.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child is not going to be at school, please call the office at 234-5000 or report online through the Pioneer website.

If you would like to pick up missed schoolwork, notify the office before 8:00 am. Teachers will make every attempt to provide that for pickup in the office by the end of the day. If you leave a message, please include your child's name, the teacher's name and the reason for the absence.

If your student will be arriving after 8:45 am, call the office to request your student's lunch choice.

Early Pick-Up from School

We discourage students being picked up during school hours. However, if a student must be picked up a parent or legal guardian **MUST** sign the child out through the office. You will be asked to show your identification. Anyone other than a parent/legal guardian picking up a student must be authorized by parent/guardian and have a current Pick Up Authorization Form

on file that is renewed each school year AND have prior verbal authorization from the parent to pick up.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

The Pioneer parking lot is closed from 8:00 to 8:15 and 3:20 – 3:35. If you park in the parking lot please be prepared to wait to exit until a staff member directs you.

When parking in the neighborhood please be courteous to the neighbors by not blocking driveways , etc. **Use the crosswalks** when walking to and from the school.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Students may be dropped off and picked up in the drop off zone on Woodland Hills Drive. Students should not be dropped off before 8:00 am unless they are in a before school club. Adult supervision begins at 8:00 am.

Students should stay in the vehicle until staff unloads them – do not drop off prior to entering Kiss and Go area.

Handicapped Parking and Fire Lane Area

Please remember that the designated handicapped parking spaces are for use by those with handicapped parking tags or plates. We do have students and parents that qualify to use these parking places and the spaces need to be kept available. Do not park by a red curb or fire lane EVER. Emergency vehicles must always have access to our parking lots.

For Those Who Walk or Park in the Neighborhood

1. Always use the sidewalks.
2. Respect other people's property by not taking short cuts.
3. Always use crosswalks where available.
4. Proceed directly to school and from school.
5. REFUSE TO GO WITH A STRANGER.

Bicycles, Scooters, or Skateboards

Children in grades 1-5 may ride bicycles, scooters and skateboards to school if parents have provided them with appropriate safety instruction. Helmets should be worn. Bikes and scooters are to be WALKED and skateboards are to be CARRIED on all school sidewalks and should be locked to the bicycle racks. The school is not responsible for these items brought to school. Bringing a bike, scooter or skateboard to school is a privilege. Students who choose to disobey the rules may lose the privilege of riding to school.

Bus Students

ONLY REGULARLY SCHEDULED BUS STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO RIDE THE BUS. Riding the bus is a privilege. Improper conduct will result in loss of that privilege. Bus passes will only be issued to students whose parents have made appropriate arrangements by sending a signed request to the school office allowing enough time for the pass to be written. The student cannot make these arrangements over the phone. We must have a signed written request. Additional information is available in Academy District #20 School Board Policies EEA E 1 for more information regarding fees and routes, contact transportation at (719)234-1410 or see the Transportation page on the D20 website.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

Assessment of students' skills is a critical part of the teaching-learning cycle at Pioneer. Teachers use informal observation, common formative assessments and a variety of other assessments to identify what students know and what they need to learn next. Benchmark tests are administered three times yearly to ensure that students are on track to achieve end of year goals in reading, writing, and math. For more information regarding

assessment policies please see Board Polies IKA and IKA R.

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments will be administered to students in the state of Colorado. All students in grades 3-9 complete the English Language Arts (ELA) CMAS assessment and the Math CMAS assessment.

In the spring, the following CMAS assessments are also given to students:

- 4th & 7th grade students take the CMAS social studies assessment (3 year assigned rotation).
- 5th, 8th and 11th grade students take the CMAS science assessment.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE “IMAGINATION IN EDUCATION”

Imagination in Education Before and After School Care program for students is offered on the Pioneer campus. This fee-based program is available for students who may need childcare before school 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM and/or after school, 3:20 PM-6:00 PM. Call IIE for information on holiday and summer hours. Their onsite number is 719-651-4220. The main office number is 719-272-9070.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast is served from 8:00 AM – 8:20 AM every school day **except** on 2-hour late starts due to weather or scheduled PLC days. Student lunch choices includes an entrée and a variety of fruit and vegetable choices, along with milk and/or juice. Students bringing lunch from home may purchase milk, chocolate milk, juice or bottled water. Students may order a second entrée (double) for a set fee. Please send cash or make checks out to Pioneer Elementary School in advance of need. Parents are always welcome to join their child(ren) for lunch. Please call the school before 8:45 AM to order an adult lunch for a fee. **Please do not send your child with energy drinks for lunch or snacks.**

All Pioneer students will have access to reimbursable breakfast and lunch school meals at no cost. A la carte purchases will continue to be offered for a fee. These purchases will be charged to the student’s meal account, or the student may pay for the food items with cash.

Qualifying families should still submit applications or Free or Reduced Meal status to support Pioneer’s Title I status and to qualify for fee reductions for athletics, activities, and course fees.

CLASSROOM SNACKS, PARTIES, AND BIRTHDAYS

In order to maintain a safe learning environment for all of our students at Pioneer including those with life threatening allergies, we have some restrictions on when and where nut products can be served. Students may only have nut products at lunch because students with nut allergies sit with friends at a nut-free table. All students clean their hands before returning to class after eating lunch.

Classroom Snacks

Pioneer restricts products containing nuts in the classroom for snacks. No food containing nuts or processed in a plant containing nuts will be allowed in the classroom. There may be children with life-threatening food allergies in your classroom, so it’s important to read the labels and check with your child’s teacher(s) to make sure snack foods are safe for all children in the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation with our efforts to keep all our children safe at school.

Holiday Parties

Occasional classroom parties help kids relax and socialize. Most of the time allocated for a seasonal party will be used to play games and make crafts. Pioneer has three parties each year which include fall, winter and Valentines’ Day. All materials for the parties, including a

snack and drink for each party, will be provided by Pioneer. No food or drink treats will be purchased or supplied by families. Parents with students who have severe allergies will be consulted to ensure student safety.

Birthdays

In order to promote health and ensure consistency at Pioneer, **no outside food or drink items will be served as birthday treats. No exceptions.**

Instead, students will be recognized during morning announcements and invited to select a special item from the Administration. Any deliveries of flowers, balloons, etc. will be held in the office for students to pick up after school.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pioneer celebrates thirteen character traits throughout the school year. Each month Pioneer focuses on particular character traits and encourages students to demonstrate those traits throughout the month. If a student is noticed exemplifying the traits, they receive a colored paper heart and recognition at the monthly assembly. We invite you to discuss the character traits with your child and help them find ways at school, home, and in the community to demonstrate these admirable traits. Below is a list of all the traits and their months of celebration.

August/September - Respect and Responsibility

Respect - Respect is an action word. When you are respectful, you treat others, yourself and the environment with honor and kindness. When you are respectful, you remember to treat others how you like to be treated.

Responsibility - Being responsible means being dependable, keeping promises, and honoring your commitments. It means you accept the consequences for what you say and do.

October - Courage

Courage - Courage is doing something in spite of how scary it may be. It's the required bravery to try again and carry on.

November - Loyalty

Loyalty - Loyalty means giving support, service and contribution to others. Loyalty means looking outside of ourselves to help others. When we support and stand by others, we are being loyal. Some children may have the idea that loyalty to a friend means not "telling on them" or "keeping quiet" or even lying to protect them when they've done something wrong. Be careful of this false loyalty. A truly loyal friend will always act in the friend's best interest to keep them safe and help them make good choices, even if it's hard.

December/January - Justice and Citizenship

Justice - Justice means standing up for what is right, even when it is not popular. Think of all of the people who have changed the world for the better because they have stood up for what is right.

Citizenship - Citizenship means taking action and being involved to help make home, school, and the community a better place.

February - Hope

Hope - Hope is a powerful emotion. It is the feeling that tomorrow will be better than today and that events will turn out for the best. Hope keeps us going; keeps us trying and tells us "I will be successful". Hope is an emotion we can feel for ourselves and even give to others. Hope keeps us persevering and seeking out the best in others.

March - Honesty and Integrity

Honesty - Honesty means always telling the truth, even when it's difficult.

Integrity - Integrity means doing what is right, because it is right, even when no one is looking.

April - Love and Compassion

Love - Love is the feeling of being intensely concerned for another person. It requires a self-

sacrificing regard which seeks the well-being of another. Some say love is the most important of all emotions.

Compassion – Compassion is putting love into action. It is helping others in need and acting with kindness. Compassion is being moved to help better another person's circumstance.

May - Excellence and Perseverance

Excellence - Excellence means challenging yourself to do better; making good choices that help you to reach your goal. Excellence means always giving your personal best and raising your bar until you reach your goal.

Perseverance - Perseverance means working at something even when, and especially when, it becomes difficult. It means even when you feel like quitting, you keep trying.

COMMUNICATION

Parent/Teacher Communication

Pioneer's website is the "go to" place for parents to feel connected. The front page includes upcoming events, announcements, and a school calendar. This website contains links for all clubs and activities. Classroom teachers have individual ways of communicating with parents. This could be weekly newsletters sent home with students or communicated through regular emails or SeeSaw and Schoology. Please visit the Pioneer website pioneer.asd20.org. Like us on Facebook!

20 Alert

20 Alert is the email/text notification system that is used by Academy District 20 and Pioneer to send messages to parents and the community. Through this system, we will communicate important events, changes to schedules and/or emergency information. It is important to keep your email information up to date in IC to receive 20 Alerts. Pioneer normally sends out updates on Friday afternoons. Please check your spam/junk folder if you are not receiving them and that your e-mail is correct in IC.

Emergency Information

All contact information for your child must be up to date. Please keep your address, email, phone numbers, work and emergency contact phone numbers current by updating them through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal regularly.

Injuries

If a child is sick or injured, he/she will be sent to the office. A student who is injured at school (playground or elsewhere) will be given basic first aid. Parents will be notified of any serious injuries such as head injuries, potential broken bone, etc. A district nurse is assigned to Pioneer on a limited basis. Therefore, health room personnel will notify parents to pick up their student for outside medical evaluation when warranted. If the school is unable to reach a child's parents, we will contact the people listed as emergency contacts. 911 will be called if/when needed.

DOG AND PET POLICY

No dogs are allowed on the campus between 7:30 AM–4:30 PM. Please do not bring your pets on campus when you come to drop off or pick up your children. The noise and movement of excited children can startle even the gentlest of pets. A child could very easily be injured under these circumstances and the safety of all our students is of utmost importance to us as it is to you. We follow the district's policy regarding service animals.

DRESS CODE

1. Hats and baseball caps are not allowed to be worn inside the building, except on "spirit" days," and sweatshirt hoods must be down.
2. Shorts and skirts must be at least fingertip in length.
3. Shirts showing skin in the mid-torso or shoulder tops are not permitted (no midriff)

shirts, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, tank tops, etc.) No underwear should be exposed.

4. Any gang related clothing, or clothing that can be interpreted as such, is not permitted. No sagging of pants.
5. Clothing with inappropriate language or pictures (as determined by building administration) is not allowed.
6. Students should always wear comfortable, appropriate footwear and clothing for PE days and other such activities.
7. Backless slippers and flip flops should never be worn due to the danger they pose to your child during recess.
8. Shoes with embedded wheels can only be worn with the wheels taken out.
9. Weather conditions should determine a child's apparel because children spend a part of each day outside playing. ALL students will be expected to go outside for daily recess unless the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit (including wind chill).
10. Due to the age of our students, makeup is discouraged. If worn, it should be minimal.

If clothing or hairstyle is determined to be disruptive to the learning environment, an administrator may request a student be sent home or clothing be brought from home.

FOOD ALLERGIES

More and more of our students are coming to school with allergies – some life threatening. We have students with severe/life threatening nut allergies at Pioneer. In order to provide a safe environment for these students, a nut free table is available in our cafeteria. A friend may be invited to sit at this table if they have purchased a school lunch. Our school lunches are prepared nut free. All of our classrooms are labeled “nut protected,” and have specific restrictions regarding food for snacks, parties and special events. Please see **Classroom Snacks, Parties, and Birthdays** section for additional information.

HEALTH AND MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Medications at School

If your child will be receiving prescription medication at school, a district Permission to Administer Medication form needs to be filled out and signed by you as well as your child's medical provider. Parents must transport all medication to and from school at the elementary level. This includes prescription and non-prescription medications such as cough drops, Tylenol, throat lozenges, etc. Asthma inhalers are kept in the health office for use by students. Prescription/non-prescription medication must be in original containers with correct dose and directions on label.

Health Care Plans

Academy School District 20 encourages Health Care Plans for any student who needs a medical procedure done at school or has a health condition that needs to be closely monitored. Examples may include: Asthma, Severe life threatening allergies, etc. Please have medical providers fill out the necessary forms (in the school office or on the District 20 website under Parent Resources and Documents and Forms prior to the start of each school year. Contact your school nurse if your student has special medical needs that may require a Health Care Plan not available online. Examples may include: Diabetes, Bleeding disorders, Heart conditions, G-tube feedings, etc.

Illness Guidelines

Here are some of the common symptoms that, if present, would require you to keep your child home:

- Temperature of 100.4°F or higher - children may return to school if fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication

- Vomiting or diarrhea – children must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to school
- Uncontrolled cough or other common cold symptoms that are so severe the student cannot function at school
- Undiagnosed skin rash or open lesions that are rapidly changing or accompanied by fever
- If prescribed antibiotics, student must receive 24 hours treatment before returning to school
- Flu-like symptoms. Student must stay at home until symptoms are resolved for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Immunization

Please provide any updated immunization records to the school in order to keep you child’s record updated. The school nurse / staff will be checking the immunization records on all students to see if state requirements have been met. Current state immunization requirements are listed on the district website.

Communicable Diseases

If your student has a communicable (contagious) disease / condition, please let the office or health room para know. Examples are chickenpox, strep throat, COVID, head lice, scarlet fever, fifth’s disease (slapped cheek appearance), meningitis, measles, impetigo, scabies, etc.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

Screenings are done for students according to Colorado State guidelines. The vision screening done at school is a very basic screening. We, along with the medical community, recommend that all school children receive yearly comprehensive eye exams with an eye specialist at your expense. The basic screenings done at school do not take the place of these more complete exams. Please contact your school nurse if insurance is an issue. Also, if you suspect a hearing problem, please let your school nurse know and if indicated, we will arrange a more thorough exam with our district audiologist. If you do not want your child to be screened at school for either vision or hearing please notify your school nurse in writing in advance of your school’s screening date and supply a copy of your child’s latest report from their doctor.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Academy District Twenty believes that homework is an extension of the classroom and is a vital part of each student’s education. Homework develops study habits and self-discipline needed by all learners. It also establishes a direct line of communication which helps parents to remain involved with their child’s progress on a consistent basis. The following are general guidelines for homework by grade level.

- Kindergarten 10 minutes on homework, plus 10 minutes nightly reading
- 1st Grade 15 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes nightly reading
- 2nd Grade 20 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes nightly reading
- 3rd Grade 25 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes nightly reading
- 4th Grade 30 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes nightly reading
- 5th Grade 30 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes nightly reading

LOST AND FOUND

Please write your child’s name inside all personal possessions including lunch boxes or lunch bags, coats, jackets, etc. A lost and found area is located just outside the cafeteria. We encourage you and your child to check the Lost and Found frequently. Articles not claimed will be donated to a local charity.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

The overarching purpose of a school wide MTSS program is to improve education outcomes for all students. MTSS is a proactive, multi-tiered approach to address academic and behavioral needs whether a child is working below grade level, at grade level or above grade level. Monthly MTSS meetings give educators the opportunity to make collaborative decisions based on data derived from frequent monitoring of student performance and rate of learning. MTSS plans are updated regularly and communication with parents regarding student progress occurs throughout the school year.

The MTSS Team is comprised of the MTSS Coordinator, school administration, grade level teachers, specials teacher, math specialist, literacy specialist, counselor, resource teacher, and other specialists as needed (nurse, speech therapist, etc.).

PLAYGROUND RULES

Please do not bring sports equipment from home.

1. **Boundaries** - Students are to stay within the eyesight of the adults in charge at recess. Students must ask permission to leave the recess area/playground. All games are to be played in appropriate areas; sports games must be played on the field or basketball court.
2. **Behavior** - Play fairly, in a friendly manner, and for fun. **In order to play a sport or competitive game, students must get permission from an adult first.** Any unsportsmanlike behavior will require the student to sit out or leave the game.
3. **Play Structures** - All equipment must be used the way it was intended.
 - **Slides** - Go up the ladders, go down the slides. Slide down on your bottom first, exit the area quickly for the next student. **DO NOT** stand on the slide. One student at a time on all slides.
 - **Monkey Bars** - **DO NOT** sit on top, **DO NOT** jump off, no “chicken fights”.
 - **Dome** - Climb only on the dome, do not push or pull other climbers.
 - **Swings** - Swing straight on your bottom only. Do not twist swings or jump off. Only one student on the swing at a time. Students may count “toes-up” to free up swings. (Number of counts depends on grade levels)
4. **Games and Play** - Only appropriate equipment provided by adults may be used at recess. Please do not bring sports equipment from home. Playground monitors will determine if play is safe and will redirect students if they feel it is not. Take turns. No ball hogging.
 - **Soccer** - No hands except for goalie. Only one goalie per team can be used. When the ball goes out of bounds, it is thrown back into the center of the field.
 - **Flag Football** - Players must play two hand touch only. No tackling, shoving or tripping.
 - **Basketball** - Play on the basketball court. Follow all appropriate basketball rules (age appropriate). No stealing the ball out of an opponent’s hands.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT (PBIS)

Pioneer is a Positive Behavior Intervention Support School (PBIS). Students can earn blue Respect Tickets for displaying one of the 3 R’s (Respect Self, Respect Others, Respect the Environment). They use 20 of these tickets to complete a Punch Card. Students trade punch cards periodically at the prize cart for rewards such as books, toys, lunch with a principal, or other fun activities with select staff members.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

We believe that children benefit when parents are involved in school activities. The PTO brings together the talents of parents and staff to create a positive and supportive learning environment. Activities include helping with fund raising events, volunteering in classrooms, and providing additional materials and supplies for the school. All parents are encouraged to join the PTO and support its many worthwhile activities.

REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

Standards-Based Report Cards are completed by classroom teachers at the end of each quarter and by the Art, Music, and P.E. teachers at the end of each semester. Parent/Teacher Conference are held at the end of the first and third quarters. These conferences provide an individual opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the classroom teacher. All parents are requested to attend. Teachers are available for additional conferences when needed. Report cards are available to parents electronically through the Parent Portal no later than 4 pm the day prior to parent conferences and at the end of the year.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (SAC)

The School Accountability Committee is a group of parents, staff and community members who meet quarterly and provide important input and feedback to the principal about school goals and school policies. We always welcome any parent who desires to serve on our SAC. Please call the school office to get more information. One or two members of Pioneer's SAC also serve on the District Accountability Committee (DAC).

SECURE BUILDING

All schools in Academy District 20 are secure and all exterior doors are locked. At Pioneer, visitors are asked to enter through the main front doors once they ring the doorbell and are given access by school staff to the secure vestibule. For safety, we enter one family at a time. A driver's license or state ID is required to receive a visitor's pass into the building. Pioneer uses the Raptor system that scans a driver license to create the photo visitor pass.

TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

While at Pioneer during the 2024-25 school year, your students will be assigned an iPad (K-2) or laptop (3-5) for school use. A \$50.00 fee will be collected in Campus Payments at the beginning of the year as a device use and insurance fee for students in grades 3, 4, and 5. For all devices please note: these devices will only go home in event of an eLearning situation or per parental request if the fees have been paid.

If devices are damaged due to student negligence and/or misuse, additional fees beyond the \$50.00 insurance could be charged as per administration discretion. While on devices, students are expected to demonstrate digital citizenship skills such as respecting the device and always following teachers' expected guidelines.

Academy District 20 provides an electronic device to all students in grades 3 - 12. Families who provide personal electronic devices for their students should be aware, depending on device type and age, that the device might not connect to District-provided resources and is not supported by District staff.

See asd20.org/district-provided-devices for FAQs.

TOYS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal items not directly related to student learning should not be brought to school. These items include, but are not limited to, electronic or battery-operated items, sentimental keepsakes, toys, in-line skates, any sports equipment, any items looking like a weapon, etc. Students may not bring toys or sports equipment to school unless a teacher asks students to

bring a particular object for the purpose of sharing on a special day or for a classroom project. When items are brought in for a special day or a special project, teachers will provide specific instructions/expectations regarding the use and storage of these items. The school is not responsible for ANY personal items brought to school which become lost or stolen.

Cell phones

We know some parents provide their students with cell phones to facilitate communication before and after school. In order to maintain our learning environment, cell phones **MUST** be turned off and kept in a closed and zipped pocket of the student's backpack during school hours. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times. Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other district policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated. For additional information, see Board Policy JICJ. If you need to get a message to your child during school hours, please call the school office and we will see that the message is delivered. Pioneer will not be responsible for the damage or loss of such items.

District 20 administration recognizes that personal electronic communication devices can play a vital communication role. However, unless expressly permitted by a teacher for instructional purposes, the use of electronic communication devices within the classroom is not permitted. For purposes of this policy, an "electronic communication device" is any device which records, replays, transmits, receives or otherwise conveys information electronically between the student and another person or entity.

Student use of personal electronic devices may be limited by supervising staff members. Use of personal electronic devices with cameras is prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. Use of cameras to record others is prohibited unless approved by the teacher. Use of cameras to record all or part of any school-sponsored event is permissible only with the approval of the applicable supervising staff member.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure the personal device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times.

Violation of this policy and/or use of a personal electronic device that violates any other District policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student, and school personnel may be required in the event a personal electronic device is confiscated.

The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of personal electronic communication devices brought onto District property.

VISIT OR VOLUNTEER

We strongly encourage parents and community members to visit or volunteer at Pioneer Elementary. **All visitors and volunteers MUST sign in at the office and will receive a visitor badge.** Student safety and security are our number one concern. All parents are required by Academy District 20 to have a background check through District 20 to volunteer. The volunteer application can be found on the District 20 website. Check with the office for more details and additional requirements for non-parents. Parents with non-school aged children are asked to make other arrangements for their child/ren when volunteering in the classroom or the teacher workroom.

When visiting or volunteering in the school, please park in the school parking lot in the front or the west bus lot. Parking on a side street is also an option. The bus lot on the west side of the building is off limits for parking from 7:45-8:35 and 2:45-3:30 and any time along the curb areas. Violators may be ticketed.

WEATHER RELATED INFORMATION

Snow Days/Inclement Weather: Academy District 20 will make a decision by 5:30 AM about closing school. You will be notified by 20Alert via email/text about closures, delays, and early releases. Local TV and radio stations will be informed by 5:30 AM if school is canceled due to weather. All school events will also be canceled INCLUDING Imagination in Education Before and After School Program.

Two Hour Delayed Start: If adverse weather conditions appear to be developing during the 5:30 AM decision time, the Superintendent may delay the start of school for two hours. Local TV and radio stations will be informed by 5:30 AM that the starting time for all Academy District 20 schools will be delayed for two hours. Doors will open at 10:00. School will begin at 10:15. Breakfast will not be served and all morning clubs and activities will be cancelled. Bus pick-up will be delayed two hours.

Early Release: If school is in session when a storm develops during the day, a decision may be made by 10:30 AM to send students home early. School will be dismissed approximately two hours early and bus drivers will make their regular runs in the usual sequence. Local TV and radio stations will broadcast early dismissals. Please make prior arrangements for your child's care if you will not be home. Students will be released at any time to parents who believe the weather conditions warrant that their child be taken home.

Delayed Release: In the event that inclement weather during release time causes a delayed release, the following D20 Alert will be sent to parents:

"Pioneer is now in **DELAYED RELEASE OF STUDENTS** due to **Inclement Weather**. **Parents** please **WAIT IN CARS**. **Students** stay in **CLASSROOMS**. We will release when it is safe for students to be dismissed."

Indoor Recess: ALL students will be expected go outside for daily recess unless the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit (including wind chill) or conditions are not favorable or safe.

For the most updated policies, guidelines, and forms, refer to the Pioneer website.

DISTRICT STUDENT HANDBOOK FOLLOWS.

Academy District 20

Handbook of Students' Rights and Responsibilities and Annual Notifications to Parents

School Year 2024-2025



This document is provided as a resource to Academy District 20's parents and students. **Readers should be aware that much of this information is in summary form. Current policies in their entirety, including revisions which may have occurred after publication of this document, are available on the District website at <http://www.boarddocs.com/co/asd20/Board.nsf/Public>.** Policies may also be reviewed at the Education and Administration Center of Academy District 20 located at 1110 Chapel Hills Drive. A printed copy of the Handbook of Students' Rights and Responsibilities and Annual Notifications to Parents may be requested at no cost in the administrative office of any school or by calling Legal Relations at 719-234-1200. Policies are subject to change as necessary at any time during the school year. Students are expected to be knowledgeable about and comply with District and school policies, including ones which may not be included in this publication but are on the website.

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Introduction

Public school students have certain rights guaranteed by the constitution and laws of Colorado as well as the United States of America. These rights are not the same as adults because the school is a special setting. The law provides that school officials need flexibility to control student behavior in the schools and at school activities, even possibly for actions that occur off-campus, on weekends or during the summer, if the actions have a nexus to school or are detrimental to the welfare of students or staff at the school. However, students do have numerous protections from undue censorship, arbitrary actions of school staff members and elected officials, and unlawful search and seizure, among other things.

This handbook informs you of your rights and your responsibilities as an Academy District 20 student. It will help you be a successful student and citizen in our District. Please read it carefully and ask questions of your principal, your counselor, or your teachers if you do not understand.

Academic Rights

To function well in the classroom, you must have a clear idea of what the teachers expect of you. Therefore, you have a right to know exactly what the requirements are for each course in which you are enrolled. If the course requirements seem unclear to you, or if you have questions, you have not only a right but also an obligation to yourself, your fellow classmates, and to your teacher, to ask for clarification.

Academy District 20 Mission Statement

The mission of Academy School District 20 is to educate and inspire students to thrive.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Annual Legal Notification:

In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the District has Asbestos Management Plans available for review at each school and at Facilities Management, 10221 Lexington Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Contact the Director for Facilities with any questions. Telephone: 719-234-1510.

Assessments (administrative policy [IKA](#)):

State and federal laws require District students to take standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. If a student's parent/guardian chooses to opt the student out of taking a state assessment, the District shall not prohibit the student from participating in an activity, or receiving any other form of reward, that the District provides to students for participating in the state assessment. C.R.S. § 22-7-1013 (8)(b).

Attendance and Truancy (administrative policies [JE](#), [JH](#), [JHB](#)):

Daily attendance at school is a critical factor in school success. Students are expected to arrive at school each day on time, ready to learn. It is difficult to replace the learning that occurs in the classroom through the exchange of ideas with study outside the classroom. Excessive absences and/or tardies, whether excused or unexcused, may have a negative effect on a student's learning and grades.

Colorado law requires every student who is age six by August 1 and under 17 to attend school a certain number of hours [C.R.S. § 22-33-104(1)(a)]. Parents have a legal obligation to ensure that every child under their care and supervision receives adequate education and training [C.R.S. § 22-33-104(5)(a)].

Per District policy [JE](#) and state law, excused absences are as follows:

1. Absences approved by the principal or designee.
2. Absences due to temporary illness or injury.
3. Absences for an extended period of time due to physical, mental or emotional disabilities.
4. Absences due to being in the custody of the court or law enforcement authorities.

If an absence does not fall into one of the above categories, it will be considered unexcused. Medical notes may be requested if a student has excessive absences.

State statute defines any student who has four unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a school year as habitually truant. [Administrative policy [JE](#) and C.R.S § 22-33-102(3.5)]. Be aware that the District will first take steps to work with families to reduce truancy, but that we partner with local juvenile courts to intervene and address "habitual truancy." When a student has an excessive number of absences, whether excused or unexcused, they negatively impact the student's academic success. The principal may identify a student who is absent 10% of a quarter, even if the absences are excused, as "chronically absent." [Administrative policy [JH](#), Student Absences and Excuses]. Legal action may be taken by school administrators if parents and students fail to follow compulsory attendance laws [Administrative policy [JHB](#), Truancy].

Balancing Rights and Responsibilities

With student rights come student responsibilities. In most cases, this means "follow the rules." The rights of all others in the school environment are protected when students exercise responsibility and follow the rules.

The rules and regulations, the most important of which are summarized in this handbook, are designed to protect rights, yours and others'. They help set expectations so that students learn behavior patterns which enable them to become responsible members of society. The rules also allow us, if necessary, to discipline individuals who do not respect rules. They also help protect every student's right to an education. Given the Columbine tragedy and other more recent events, students need to tell an adult if they are aware of

other students who are planning to harm themselves or others in the school or community. This is not being a “snitch” or a “tattle-tale.” It is responsible citizenship that could save lives, including your own. Safe2Tell® provides a way for students to anonymously report any threatening behaviors or activities endangering them or someone they know. A report can be made by calling 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233) or online at [Make a Report](#).

[Bullying \(administrative policy JICDE\):](#)

The District supports a school climate that is free from threats, harassment and any types of bullying behavior. All types of bullying are unacceptable. “Bullying” is defined in District policy JICDE and state law as “the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental, or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal, or electronically transmitted expressions (i.e., cyberbullying) or by means of physical act or gesture.” Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived. Bullying does not necessarily include all conflicts between students. A student who engages in an act of bullying and/or a student that takes retaliatory action against a person, who in good faith reports an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The District cannot respond to allegations of bullying unless it knows about them. Please tell an adult in your building if you have been bullied or if you have witnessed bullying. Safe2Tell® is a way to anonymously report any threatening behavior that endangers you, your friends, your family or your community. To make a report using Safe2Tell®, call 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233) or online at [Make a Report](#).

[Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices \(administrative policy JICJ\)](#)

Policy [JICJ](#) allows students to carry electronic communication devices approved by the building principal, but these devices must be turned off and put away during instructional time unless they are being used for instructional purposes and with approval of the teacher. During non-instructional time, school staff may restrict students’ use of such devices if, in their judgment, use of the devices interferes with the educational environment. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated. School personnel will not accept responsibility for lost or stolen personal property. The student will assume responsibility for replacement costs in the event that an electronic device or cell phone is lost or stolen.

Clubs (see Student Organizations, administrative policy [JJA](#))

Meetings of student groups must be organized, scheduled, and conducted within the guidelines established by policy JJA and accompanying procedure. All proposed student organizations shall use the common District-wide application that can be found in [JJA E](#). The principal, or designee, will communicate a final decision to all proposals using the submitted District-wide application.

College Classes-Opportunity to Earn College Credits and Accelerate Learning Pathways to College

Students may earn college credit at a significant cost and time savings.

Concurrent Enrollment (CE) Programs Act [C.R.S § 22-35- 103(6)(a)] and **District 20 Concurrent Enrollment policy [IHCDA](#)** make it possible for eligible students in grades 9-12 who are under the age of 21 and officially registered at an Academy District 20 high school and at a qualified institution of higher education with whom the District has a written cooperative agreement to earn college credit at a significant cost and time savings. Interested students may contact the high school counselor for information on the eligibility criteria and application process as identified by the statute and the District policy.

Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) (administrative procedure [IHCDA R 2](#)) is a fifth-year program which allows eligible students to participate in concurrent enrollment courses for the year after 12th grade. Student eligibility includes meeting graduation requirements and the completion of at least 12 credit hours of transcribed postsecondary courses (non-remedial) by the completion of the 12th grade year. [C.R.S § 22-35-108]. ASCENT is a fifth year only program. Participation in the CE or ASCENT programs must align with a student's Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). Students must complete the District's ASCENT application process and submit all approved documents to the high school concurrent enrollment designee by the published deadline.

Confidential Student Records-*a/so see* (The) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The District protects the confidentiality of student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Therefore, without written consent from a parent or guardian, we do not disclose personally identifiable information from a child's education records unless disclosure is covered by one of the exceptions in FERPA (see administrative policy [JRA/JRC](#)). If you wish to allow a third party (for example, a step-parent or other family members) access to personally identifiable information from your child's education records, please contact your building administrator to request a third-party consent form. Each parent or guardian must complete the form and have his or her signature notarized. Return the notarized forms to your building administrator. The permission will be effective until a parent/guardian revokes permission in writing and submits the revocation to the building administrator.

Disciplinary Removal from Classroom (administrative policy [JKBA](#))

It is the policy of the District to maintain classrooms in which student behavior does not interfere with the ability of the licensed staff member to teach effectively or the ability of other students to participate in classroom learning activities.

Students shall be expected to abide by the code of conduct adopted by the District and any other appropriate classroom rules of behavior established by the licensed staff member, and approved by the building principal, for the purpose of maintaining order and a favorable academic atmosphere. Any student who violates the code of conduct or other classroom rules may be subject to removal from class and/or disciplinary removal.

Student removal from class is a serious measure and should not be imposed in an arbitrary, casual, discriminatory or inconsistent manner. Behavioral expectations are always more constructive and more likely to be followed when they are communicated as clearly as possible to students. However, it is neither possible nor necessary to specify every type of improper or inappropriate behavior, or every circumstance that would justify removal from class under this policy. Licensed staff members are expected to exercise their best professional judgment in deciding whether it is appropriate to formally remove a student from class in any particular circumstance. All instances of formal removal from class shall be documented.

A licensed staff member is authorized to immediately remove a student from his or her classroom if the student's behavior:

1. violates the code of conduct adopted by the District administrative policy; or
2. is dangerous, unruly, or disruptive; or
3. seriously interferes with the ability of the teacher to teach the class or of the students to learn.

A student with a disability may be removed from class and placed in an alternative educational setting only to the extent authorized by state and federal laws and regulations.

Removal from class under this policy does not prohibit the District from pursuing or implementing additional disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, detentions, suspensions, or expulsions for the conduct or behavior for which the student was removed, in accordance with District policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions. Parents/guardians should be notified of the student's removal from class in accordance with established procedures.

Equal Educational Opportunity (administrative policy [JB](#))

Every student in this school district shall have equal educational opportunities through programs offered in the school district regardless of race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, religion, national origin,

immigration/citizenship status, ancestry, age, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, disability, family composition and genetic information.

Evaluation

You have a right to be evaluated fairly. Grades, progress reports, and other forms of evaluation should be based on requirements that are clearly set forth by teachers and they should be applied fairly to all students.

(The) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (administrative policy JRA/JRC), Notification of Rights under:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA does permit disclosure without a parent's or guardian's written consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including but not limited to paraprofessionals, transportation personnel, health and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contactor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own staff members and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer 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. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school 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

FERPA Notice for Directory Information ([administrative policy JRA/JRC](#)):

FERPA requires that the District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's or guardian's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you may opt out using the Extended Parent Portal. Contact your school if you need access to a computer.

The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Student's photograph
- Student's grade level
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- Participation in officially recognized activities & sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended

Please note that FERPA contains a specific exclusion for records such as investigative reports, risk assessments, and other records created and maintained by school security personnel, which may be disclosed without consent. 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(a)(4)(ii)(B)(II).

Free Association

You are generally free to associate with groups of your own choosing. However, any group, school-sponsored or not, that acts to interfere with the rights of others, or disrupt the educational process, may be subject to disciplinary actions by school officials or appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Free or Reduced Lunch (administrative policy [EF](#))

Students do best in school if they have eaten a nutritious and balanced meal. Academy District 20 participates in the National School Lunch Program, as well as the Healthy School Meals for All Program that provides free meals to all students. The Board of Education agrees to the federal eligibility regulations, and the food service program meets all state and federal requirements relating to meal and menu records, fiscal controls and accountability, free and reduced-price meals, civil rights compliance, sanitation, and safety.

Gangs (administrative policy [JICF](#)):

Gang activities at school impose a threat to the welfare and safety of students and others in the school community and cause substantial disruption to the educational process.

The term "gang" as used in this policy refers to two or more individuals who share a common interest, bond, or activity characterized by criminal, delinquent, or otherwise disruptive conduct engaged in collectively or individually.

The Board of Education and District administration desire to keep District schools and students free from the threats of harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate drug and/or alcohol use, violence, or disruptive behavior. School district personnel shall maintain supervision of school premises, school vehicles, and school-related activities to deter gang intimidation of students and confrontations between

members of different gangs. The superintendent or designee shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement authorities to share information and provide mutual support in this effort. The superintendent or designee shall provide periodic in-service training to help staff members identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities and respond appropriately to gang behavior.

Any apparel or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute denotes membership in or affiliation with any gang is prohibited on school premises, in school vehicles, and at school-related activities. Any gestures, signals, or graffiti which connote gang membership or activities are also prohibited. These prohibitions shall be applied at the principal's discretion after consultation with the superintendent or designee, as the need arises at individual school sites.

Homeless Students Notification

Specific rights and protections are ensured to parents, children and youth experiencing homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information about services for homeless students, refer to administrative policy [JFABD](#) or contact the Homeless Liaison Coordinator Aubrey Ranson at 719-234-1362.

Homework Responsibilities

To function well in the classroom, you must do homework as required by the teacher. Homework is a critical component of the instructional program. Homework provides opportunities for extended learning for students. The District has a homework policy (administrative policy [IKB](#)) which states that each school must develop homework guidelines and communicate them to students and parents.

Identification

For the protection of all, you must identify yourself when requested by school authorities: in the school building, on school grounds, on the bus, at the bus stops or at school activities, including off-campus activities.

Individual Dignity

Every person is entitled to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry need for special education services, or conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth. The dignity of each individual is best served when all concerned, whether staff or students, treat one another respectfully. Academy District 20 is committed to a learning and working environment free from any form of violence or abuse including, but not limited to, actions, words, or insults towards our students, staff, and parents.

The District does not tolerate harassment or bullying in Academy District 20 schools, at school activities or on school buses or at District bus stops. To enhance safety on school

buses, video and audio recording devices have been installed and may be in operation at any time.

Non-Discrimination under Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Age Discrimination ACT, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, Notice of:

In accordance with federal and state law, Academy District 20 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, religion, national origin, immigration/citizenship status, ancestry, age, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, disability, family composition and genetic information in its programs, activities, operations and employment decisions and provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Administrative policy [AC](#) – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity, and procedures [ACR 1](#), [ACR 2](#), and [ACR 3](#) outline the formal complaint process. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

General Counsel
Academy District 20
1110 Chapel Hills Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
719-234-1200

Peaceful Assembly

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution allows students of a school to peacefully assemble on the school grounds, in compliance with attendance rules and procedures as well as building regulations.

(The) Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), Notification of Rights under (policy [JLDAC-E](#)):

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, affords parents certain rights regarding the District's conducting of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) -

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/guardians; and/or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; and
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.

Academy District 20 has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation in the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be

provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

Respect for Property

Students are expected to treat all property with care and respect. This applies to property of the school, private property brought to school by school staff or other students, and to property surrounding the school. Neither the District nor the school is responsible for loss, damage or theft of personal property.

Screening and Testing of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders) [administrative policy [JLDAC](#)] and Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) [[JLDAC-E](#)]

Parents and eligible students have the right to review any survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students. Parents and eligible students have the right to consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more protected areas, and to opt out, as detailed in administrative policy [JLDAC](#) and accompanying notification [JLDAC E](#).

Seeking Change through the Proper Channels

Students and parents are encouraged to participate in the District in a variety of ways. Building and District committees offer positive ways of influencing the operation of the District. Most positive changes come about through the committee process. The District and the Board of Education also want to maintain open lines of communication. Administrative policy [KE](#) and the associated regulation [KE-R](#) contain information on public concerns and complaints.

Sex Education/Health and Family Life

The District teaches about family life and sex education in regular courses on anatomy, physiology, science, health, consumer and family studies. If a separate program for family life or sex education is developed, it shall not be required. Any curriculum that includes instruction on human sexuality shall comply with applicable law and the District's academic standards. See policy **IMB** – Teaching About Controversial Issues. In accordance with this policy, procedure **IMB R** details how a parent may request an exemption from such curricula.

Sex Offenders, Notification Regarding:

Colorado Revised Statute § 22-1-124 instructs school districts to notify parents of their right to request information concerning registered sex offenders in the community. More information on accessing such information may be obtained online at either of the following:

http://www.sheriffalerts.com/cap_main.php?office=54430

OR

<https://coloradosprings.gov/police-department/page/sex-offender-information>

For additional information parents may also contact the District's Director for Security at 719-234-1300.

Sex-based Harassment (administrative policy **JBB**)

Academy District 20 complies with Title IX and the implementing regulations. In accordance with administrative policy **AC** and its corresponding regulations, no discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, transgender status, or family composition is permitted in the programs or activities District 20 operates. Sex-based harassment is recognized as a form of sex discrimination and thus is a violation of the laws which prohibit sex discrimination. A learning environment that is free from sex-based harassment shall be maintained. It shall be a violation of policy for any staff member to harass students or for students to harass other students through conduct or communications of a sex-based nature.

Pursuant to state law, "sex-based harassment" means any unwelcome physical, verbal, pictorial, or visual conduct or communication directed at a student or group of students based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Acts of verbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature, may also constitute sex-based harassment.

Students are encouraged to report all incidents of sex-based harassment to an adult at school and file a complaint, through the District's complaint process outlined in **JBB E**. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sex-based harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred shall be investigated. See administrative policy **JBB**, Sex-based Harassment of Students, and the reporting form **JBB-E**.

Sharing/Release of Student Information (administrative policy [JRCA](#)):

To the extent required or allowed by state law, the District will facilitate the sharing of relevant student records and information when necessary to protect the safety and welfare of school district staff, visitors, students, and the public and to protect property. School personnel who share disciplinary and attendance information concerning a student pursuant to this policy are immune from civil and criminal liability if they act in good faith compliance with state law. Within the bounds of state law, school district personnel shall seek to obtain such information regarding students as is required to perform their legal duties and responsibilities; such information may be obtained from the judicial department or any state agency that performs duties and functions under the Colorado Children's Code. If such information is shared with another school or school district to which a student may be transferring, it shall only be shared in compliance with the requirements of federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). See policy [JRCA](#), Sharing of Student Records/Information between School District and State Agencies.

Student Code of Conduct:

The descriptions below are summaries of more detailed policies. For complete information, please consult the latest version of each administrative policy at [Board Docs - Academy District 20](#).

Code of Conduct (administrative policy [JICDA](#)):

The principal or designee may suspend or recommend expulsion of a student who engages in one or more of the following activities while in school buildings, on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event and off school property when the conduct has a nexus to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event.

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or stealing or attempting to steal school property of value.
2. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property or stealing or attempting to steal private property.
3. Willful destruction or defacing of District property.
4. Commission of any act which if committed by an adult would be robbery or assault as defined by state law.
5. Committing extortion, coercion or blackmail, i.e., obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
6. Engaging in verbal abuse, i.e., name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, either orally or in writing or derogatory statements addressed publicly to others that precipitate disruption of the District or school program or incite violence.

7. Engaging in “hazing” activities, i.e., forcing prolonged physical activity, forcing excessive consumption of any substance, forcing prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink, or any other behavior which recklessly endangers the health or safety of an individual for purposes of initiation into any student group.
8. Violation of the District's policy on bullying prevention and education.
9. Violation of criminal law which has an effect on the District or on the general safety or welfare of students or staff.
10. Violation of any District policy or regulations, or established school rules.
11. Violation of the District's policy on weapons in the schools. Expulsion shall be mandatory for bringing or possessing a firearm, in accordance with federal law.
12. Violation of the District's policy on student conduct involving drugs and alcohol.
13. Violation of the District’s violent and aggressive behavior policy.
14. Violation of the District's tobacco-free schools policy.
15. Violation of the District's policies prohibiting sexual or other harassment.
16. Violation of the District's policy on nondiscrimination.
17. Violation of the District's dress code policy.
18. Violation of the District’s policy on gangs and gang-like activity.
19. Throwing objects, unless part of a supervised school activity, that can or do cause bodily injury or damage to property.
20. Directing profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures toward other students, school personnel or others.
21. Lying or giving false information, either verbally or in writing, to a District staff member.
22. Engaging in scholastic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.
23. Making a false accusation of criminal activity against a District staff member to law enforcement or to the District.
24. Behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the student exhibiting the behavior or to one or more other students.
25. Repeated interference with the District’s ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
26. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority including deliberate refusal to obey a member of the District staff.

Dress Code for Students (administrative policy [JICA](#)):

You have a right to dress as you want in accordance with your own taste so long as it is not materially and substantially disruptive to the educational process. The Student Dress Code, administrative policy JICA, defines certain clothing or appearance as disruptive if it advocates drug use, violence, or unlawful activity. If your clothes are inappropriately revealing or tattered and torn, you will be in violation of the dress code as well. A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to a quality educational program.

District-wide standards on student attire are intended to help encourage school pride and thereby help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems, and improve school safety. The District administration is committed to the idea that students have a right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance, and that student dress has an effect on behavior, work quality and school pride. Students are not permitted to wear apparel that is disruptive or potentially disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school.

Subject to approval by the superintendent or designee, school administrators may develop and adopt additional specific dress code standards for their own schools consistent with this policy. Disciplinary actions for violation of the dress code standards will include notification to the student of the violation, the requirement that the clothing be changed before re-entering class, and at the discretion of the building administrator, a parental conference. More severe disciplinary consequences, including suspension or expulsion, may result from repeated or serious violations.

The following shall not be worn in school buildings, on school grounds or at school activities:

1. Any clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, accessories, or body adornments that: are disruptive, or potentially disruptive, to the educational environment as determined by the administrator; including but not limited to items that:
 - refer to drug, tobacco, or alcohol;
 - are obscene, profane, vulgar or defamatory in design or message;
 - advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior;
 - threaten the safety or welfare of any person.
2. Clothing that:
 - reveals all or part of the stomach, buttocks or chest; or
 - is backless; or
 - reveals underwear; or
 - is inappropriately sheer, short, tight or low-cut.

Exceptions:

Appropriate clothing may be worn in physical education classes or when participating in, or attending, school sponsored sports activities. Clothing normally worn when participating in, or attending, other school sponsored extracurricular activities such as prom or homecoming, may be worn when approved by the administrator and sponsor or coach.

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students (administrative policy [JICH](#)):

It shall be a violation of District policy and considered to be behavior that is detrimental to the welfare and safety of other students or school personnel for any student to possess, use or distribute alcohol or drugs, or to possess drug paraphernalia on school property or at school-sponsored events. **Sharing any controlled substance, including**

prescription medication, is also a violation of District policy. In order to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, the school district will take disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion from school and may include referral to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

Students who use or possess alcohol or drugs or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs in violation of policy JICH will be disciplined in the following manner:

- First Offense - The student may be suspended for up to five school days, and the principal may request the superintendent to extend the suspension up to an additional five days. At the discretion of the principal and with the concurrence of the superintendent, this period may hold in abeyance, a portion of the suspension if the student completes an appropriate program, which may include an alcohol and/or drug education/treatment/counseling program and/or community service, details of which shall be agreed to between principal and parent. Costs of the program shall be the responsibility of the student and parent. Failure to provide documentation of completion of the program within the prescribed time limits will result in the reinstatement of the original suspension.

Based on circumstances of individual cases, including but not limited to situations involving particularly pernicious, harmful, or addictive illegal drugs such as felony class- controlled substances, the principal or designee, at his or her discretion, may recommend additional suspension or expulsion. Violations of administrative policy **JLCD** on Administering Medications to Students may result in disciplinary action, at the discretion of the principal or designee.

- Second Offense - The student may be suspended for ten school days and the principal may recommend expulsion.
- Third and Subsequent Offense(s) - The principal or designee may recommend to the superintendent expulsion of the student for up to one calendar year for third offense and all subsequent offenses occurring within three years.

Penalties for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Students who possess drug paraphernalia at school, on the school bus, or at school sponsored events may be disciplined in the following manner:

- First Offense - The student may be suspended for three school days.
- Second Offense - The student may be suspended for five school days.
- Third Offense - The student may be suspended for five school days and the principal may recommend an additional five days' suspension, or expulsion.

Penalties for Distribution, Selling, Purchasing or Exchanging Alcohol or Drugs

Students who distribute, sell, purchase or exchange alcohol or drugs, whether by selling or giving, may be expelled, provided that the purchase or exchange of over-the-counter drugs may be limited to a suspension in appropriate circumstances at the discretion of the principal.

Electronic Communication Devices, including Cell Phones (administrative policy [JICJ](#)):

Electronic communication devices can play a vital communication role. However, unless expressly permitted by a teacher for instructional purposes, the use of electronic communication devices within the classroom is not permitted. For purposes of this policy, an "electronic communication device" is any device which records, replays, transmits, receives or otherwise conveys information electronically between the student and another person or entity.

Students may carry electronic communication devices approved by the building principal, but these devices must be turned off and put away during instructional time, unless they are being used for instructional purposes and with approval of the teacher. Regarding non-instructional time, school staff members have the authority to restrict students' use of such devices in school buildings, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities and on field trips, if in the judgment of the staff member, the use of the device interferes with the educational environment. Use of a device to record all or part of any classroom instruction is permissible only with the prior approval of the teacher.

Use of electronic communication devices with cameras is prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times.

Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other District policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated.

The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school property.

Screening and Testing of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders) (administrative policy [JLDAC](#))

Parents/guardians and eligible students have the right to review any survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students whether created by the District or a third party. "Eligible student" means a student 18 years of age or older

or an emancipated minor. Any survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students shall be subject to applicable state and federal laws protecting the confidentiality of student records.

Parents/guardians and eligible students shall receive notice and have the opportunity to opt a student out of activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from the student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose.

School personnel is prohibited under state law from recommending or requiring the use of psychotropic drugs for students. School personnel is also prohibited from testing or requiring testing for a student's behavior without giving notice to the parent/guardian describing the recommended testing and how any test results will be used. Prior to conducting any such testing, school personnel shall obtain written permission from the parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with applicable law.

Licensed school personnel is encouraged to be knowledgeable about psychiatric or psychological methods and procedures but shall not be involved in any diagnosis, assessment or treatment of any type of mental disorder or disability unless appropriately certified.

Student Expression

Students have a limited right to free expression based on the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The right to speak (including written expression), however, must not create a material and substantial disruption to the educational process, be obscene, lead to unlawful action, harm someone's reputation, or create a clear and present danger to others.

These legal requirements also apply to how students dress when they come to school or school activities. If students cross the line from protected speech, where they are expressing their point of view/opinion, to speech which creates a material and substantial disruption, they may be disciplined. See policies on Student Publications, [JICE](#); Suspension, Expulsion and Denial of Admission, [JKD/JKE](#); and the Student Dress Code, [JICA](#).

Student Conduct (administrative policy [JIC](#)):

It is the intention of the Board of Education and District administration that the District's schools help students achieve maximum development of individual knowledge, skills and competence and that they learn behavior patterns which will enable them to be responsible, contributing members of society.

The District, in accordance with state law, has adopted a written student conduct and discipline code based upon the principle that every student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct and to show respect for and to obey persons in authority. The code shall emphasize that certain behavior, especially behavior that disrupts the classroom, is

unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. The code shall emphasize proportionate disciplinary interventions and consequences and keeping students engaged in learning. The code shall be enforced uniformly, fairly and consistently for all students.

All administrative policies and regulations containing the letters "JIC" in the file name shall be considered as constituting the conduct section of the legally required code.

The rules shall not infringe upon constitutionally protected rights, shall be clearly and specifically described, shall be printed in a handbook or some other publication made available to students and parents/guardians, and shall have an effective date subsequent to the dissemination of the published handbook.

The superintendent shall arrange to have the conduct and discipline code distributed once to each student in elementary, middle, junior high and high school and once to each new student in the District. The superintendent shall ensure reasonable measures are taken to ensure each student is familiar with the code. Copies shall be posted or kept on file in each school of the District.

The code shall apply to behavior in the classroom, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school activities and events, and in certain circumstances, to off-campus behavior. In all instances, students shall be expected to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, acting with due regard for the supervisory authority vested by the board in all District staff members, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, the widely shared use of school property, and the rights and welfare of other students. All staff members of the District shall be expected to share the responsibility for supervising the behavior of students and for seeing that they abide by the established rules of conduct.

[Student Discipline \(administrative policy JK\)](#)

The District, in accordance with state law, has adopted a written student Conduct and Discipline Code based upon the principle that every student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct and to show respect for and to obey persons in authority. The Code also emphasizes that certain behavior, especially behavior that disrupts the classroom, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Additionally, the District has adopted policies and procedures for handling general and major discipline problems for all students of the District which are designed to achieve these broad objectives. All administrative policies and regulations containing the letters "JK" in the file name constitute the discipline section of the legally required code.

[Student Fees and Fines \(administrative policy JQ\)](#)

Families that are eligible for the **Free and Reduced Program** should provide their household income information by completing the Free and Reduced Application. While meals are provided for free to all Academy District 20 students through Healthy School

Meals for All, it's important for us to gather this information in order to receive federal funding.

By providing this information, families support the district in accessing additional federal funds that go directly to schools to help cover the cost of meals, as well as after school programs and other nutritional programs for students.

Families who qualify may receive discounted school fees, athletics, bus passes, device fees and more.

Applications and information regarding the free and reduced-price lunch program can be obtained by contacting the free and reduced lunch registrar at 234-1416 or free-and-reduced@asd20.org.

Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests (administrative policy [JIH](#)):

The Board of Education and District administration seek to maintain a climate in the schools which is conducive to learning and protective of the safety and welfare of staff and students. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary for school personnel to search the person and/or the personal property of the student and to seize any property deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students and staff.

Interviews by school administrators

When a violation of District policy or school rules occurs, the principal or designee may question potential student victims and witnesses without prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. If a school official is investigating a report of child abuse and the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, no contact with the student's family will be made.

Searches conducted by school personnel

Searches may be conducted by a school official who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the student has violated either the law or policy. When reasonable grounds for a search exists, school personnel may search a student and/or the student's personal property while on school premises or during a school activity in accordance with this policy and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials.

Whenever possible, the student shall be informed of the reason(s) for conducting the search and the student's permission to perform the search shall be requested. A student's failure to cooperate with school officials conducting a search shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Search of school property

School lockers, desks and other storage areas are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. All such lockers, desks and other storage areas, as well as their contents, are subject to inspection at any time, with or without notice.

Students shall assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers and/or other storage areas in the manner approved by the administration. Students shall be responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers assigned to them by the school, as well as for any loss or damage relating to the contents of such desks and lockers.

Search of the student's person or personal effects

The principal or designee may search the person of a student or a student's personal effects such as a purse, backpack, book bag, or briefcase on school property or at school-sponsored events or activities if the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will uncover:

- Evidence of a violation of District policies, school rules, or federal, state, or local laws.
- Anything which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person.

Search of the person shall be limited to the student's pockets, any object in the student's possession such as a purse, backpack, book bag, or briefcase, and a "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing. The extent of the search of a student's person or personal effects, as well as the means to conduct the search, must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and the nature of the suspected violation. Additionally, school officials conducting the search shall be respectful of privacy considerations, in light of the sex and age of the student.

Searches of the person shall be conducted out of the presence of other students and as privately as possible by a person of the same sex as the student being searched. At least one person of the same sex as the student being searched shall witness but not participate in the search.

Searches of a student's person and/or personal effects may be conducted without the prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. However, the parent/guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.

Searches of the person which may require removal of clothing other than a coat or jacket shall be referred to a law enforcement officer. School personnel shall not participate in such searches.

Detection canines

Searches of school facilities, lockers, personal property, cars, and parking lots may be conducted by authorized persons using trained detection canines under the direction of the school principal or designee.

Law enforcement officers' involvement--Interrogations and interviews

When law enforcement officials request permission to question students when students are in school or participating in school activities, the principal or designee shall ascertain that the law enforcement officer has proper identification and shall be present unless a court order provides otherwise. Except when law enforcement officers have a warrant or other court order, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist, such interrogations and interviews are discouraged during students' class time.

It is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer interviewing student witnesses or interrogating student suspects to assure compliance with all applicable procedural safeguards. Upon request by law enforcement to interview a student witness or interrogate a student suspect, school officials shall make an effort to notify the student's parent/guardian, except in cases involving investigation of reported child abuse where the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, when law enforcement has a court order directing that the student's parent/guardian not be notified, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist. However, whether or not to postpone the interview or interrogation until the parent/guardian arrives is the law enforcement officer's decision.

Seizure of items

Anything found in the course of a search conducted by school officials which is evidence of a violation of law or District policy or school rules or which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm may be:

- Seized and offered as evidence in any expulsion proceeding. Such material shall be kept in a secure place by the principal until it is presented at the hearing.
- Returned to the student or the parent/guardian.
- Turned over to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.

Search and seizure

The principal or designee may request a search on school premises be conducted by a law enforcement officer. When law enforcement officers respond to such a request, no school staff member shall assist or otherwise participate in the search. It is expected that searches by law enforcement will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

Custody and/or arrest

Students will be released to law enforcement officers if the student has been placed under arrest or if the student's parent/guardian and the student consent to such release. When a student is removed from school by law enforcement officers for any reason, school officials will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent/guardian.

It is expected that all procedural safeguards prescribed by law are followed by law enforcement officers conducting student arrests. However, District staff is not responsible for an officer's legal compliance when arresting a student.

Parking Lot/Vehicle Searches (administrative policy [JIHB](#))

The privilege of bringing a student-operated vehicle on to school premises is conditioned on consent by the student driver to allow for search of the vehicle when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of contraband.

Refusal by a student, parent/guardian, or owner of the vehicle to allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of request to search the vehicle shall be cause for termination without further hearing of the privilege of bringing the vehicle on to school premises. If a student refuses to consent to search, a parent or guardian will be contacted to obtain their consent to search. If the consent to search is denied by parent, then the vehicle shall be removed immediately from District property and forever banned from all District property. In such cases, there will be no refund of the parking fees paid, and the student will not be permitted to purchase a future parking pass. Should the vehicle be subsequently found on District property, it is subject to being towed at the owner's expense immediately without notice. Refusal to submit to search also may result in disciplinary action and notification of law enforcement officials.

Student Organizations (administrative policy [JJA](#))

Students in middle and high schools in this District shall be permitted to conduct meetings of student clubs or student organizations to meet on school premises during noninstructional time, in accordance with administrative policy [JJA](#). Curriculum-related student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum and bear a direct relationship to and alignment with Colorado Academic Standards. The function of curriculum-related student organizations is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. Curriculum-related student organizations must articulate how the content and activities of the proposed student organization will extend the regular school curriculum and how they align with the Colorado Academic Standards. Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school-sponsored student organizations. All proposed student organizations shall use the common District-wide application that can be found in [JJA.E](#). The principal, or designee, will communicate a final decision to all proposals using the submitted District-wide application.

Secondary school students are also permitted to organize and conduct meetings to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed, and persons not attending school in this District, parents, school personnel or non-school persons are prohibited from directing, conducting, controlling, or regularly attending the activities of a noncurricular student group. Noncurricular student groups shall not be deemed to be school-sponsored or endorsed. Students seeking approval for a student organization to meet at school during noninstructional time should seek approval from the principal or his or her designee in accordance with administrative procedure [JJA R](#).

Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications, and Digital Media (administrative policy [JS](#))

The utilization of the Internet, electronic communications, and digital media is integral to supporting educational curricula and substantially enriching the learning environment. Engagement with these resources necessitates students to exercise critical thinking, information analysis, effective communication, proficient writing skills, problem-solving abilities, and the cultivation of digital competencies essential for current employment demands. While it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate or come into contact with, the District shall take reasonable steps to safeguard students from accessing material and information deemed obscene, pornographic, or otherwise detrimental to minors, in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Students shall take responsibility and use good judgment when using District digital resources to avoid exposure to inappropriate material.

Blocking or filtering obscene, pornographic, or harmful information

Recognizing the dynamic nature of the digital landscape, wherein students may encounter materials of varying content, including potentially harmful content, the District will make reasonable measures to safeguard students from accessing material deemed obscene, pornographic, or otherwise detrimental to minors, in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Students shall take responsibility and use good judgment when using District digital resources to avoid exposure to inappropriate material. Each student shall comply with federal and state law, District policy and the school’s code of conduct and the provisions of this responsible use agreement. It is important for students to make sure that all electronic communications are respectful at all times, and do not violate the District bullying policy (JICDE). Students should report any inappropriate content or contact, including harassment, threats, or hate speech to a responsible adult.

No expectation of privacy

District-owned digital resources are intended for educational purposes and are subject to monitoring and oversight by the District. Students should be aware that there is no expectation of privacy when accessing or using District digital resources or within the District network. Students’ devices will be filtered at home using the same filtering

settings as those applied within the District. All material and information accessed/received through the District network shall remain the property of Academy District 20 and subject to disclosure under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

Unauthorized and unacceptable uses

Students shall use digital resources in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Because technology and ways of using technology are constantly evolving, every unacceptable use of digital resources cannot be specifically described in policy. Therefore, examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following.

No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit, or forward material or information:

- that promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons
- that is not related to District education objectives
- that contains pornographic, obscene, or other sexually oriented materials, either as pictures or writings, that are intended to stimulate erotic feelings or appeal to prurient interests in nudity, sex or excretion
- that harasses, threatens, demeans, or promotes violence or hatred against another person or group of persons in violation of the District's nondiscrimination policies
- for personal profit, financial gain, advertising, commercial transaction, or political purposes
- that plagiarizes the work of another
- that uses inappropriate or profane language likely to be offensive to others in the school community
- that is knowingly false or could be construed as intending to purposely damage another person's reputation
- in violation of any federal or state law or District policy, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret
- that contains personal information about themselves or others, including information protected by confidentiality laws
- that impersonates another or transmits through an anonymous remailer
- that accesses fee services without specific permission from the system administrator
- that uses Artificial Intelligence in an inappropriate manner
- that engages in cyberbullying

Security and safety

Ensuring the security and safety of digital resources is of paramount importance. Students must promptly report any security concerns they encounter while using digital resources to designated District personnel.

Students are prohibited from engaging in activities that compromise the integrity or functionality of District networks or digital resources, including acts of vandalism, hacking attempts or unauthorized access attempts which includes using another person's password or any other identifier.

Failure to adhere to established usage guidelines may result in the loss of access privileges, restitution for damages incurred, and disciplinary action in accordance with District policy.

District Provided Devices

Students must handle and maintain District-provided devices carefully to avoid fines for damages. They are responsible for the safekeeping, proper use, and accountability of these devices, including refraining from putting stickers or other modifications on the device. Damage or loss of devices must be reported within 24 hours, and if a student leaves the District, the device must be returned at the time of disenrollment. Student DPDs must not be taken out of the country.

Student use is a privilege

The District emphasizes that the use of digital resources, including access to the Internet, electronic communications, and digital media services, is a privilege contingent upon responsible and ethical conduct. Failure to adhere to established usage guidelines may result in the loss of access privileges, restitution for damages incurred, and disciplinary action in accordance with District policy.

School district makes no warranties

Students and parents/guardians are required to annually review the District's Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications, and Digital Media (JS E 1) before accessing Internet, electronic communications, or digital media accounts. It is important to note that the District assumes no liability for the content accessed or the quality of information received via digital resources, and students utilize such resources at their own risk.

Students with Life-Threatening Allergies ([administrative policy JLCDA](#))

The District recognizes that many students are being diagnosed with potentially life-threatening food allergies. To best protect students and to meet state law requirements concerning the management of food allergies and anaphylaxis among students, the District requires the following:

Health care plan

The school nurse, or a school administrator in consultation with the school nurse and parent, shall develop and implement a health care plan (plan) for each student with a diagnosis of a potentially life-threatening food allergy. The plan shall address communication between the school and emergency medical services, including instructions for emergency medical responders.

Reasonable accommodations

Reasonable accommodations shall be made to reduce the student's exposure to agents that may cause anaphylaxis within the school environment. If a student

qualifies as a student with a disability in accordance with federal law, the student's Section 504 plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), and/or other plan developed in accordance with applicable federal law shall meet this requirement.

Access to emergency medications

Emergency medications for treatment of the student's food allergies or anaphylaxis shall be kept in a secure location accessible to designated school staff. The student's parent/legal guardian shall supply the school with the medication needed for treatment of the student's food allergies or anaphylaxis, unless the student is authorized to self-carry such medication in accordance with administrative policy [JLCD](#), Administering Medications to Students. Even if the student is authorized to self-carry, the parent is strongly encouraged to provide self-injectable epinephrine to the school.

Staff training

The principal or designee, in consultation with the school nurse, shall determine the appropriate recipients of emergency anaphylaxis treatment training, which shall include those staff directly involved with a student who has a known food allergy during the school day.

Suspension and Expulsion (administrative policy [JKD/JKE](#)):

Academy District 20 shall provide due process of law to students, parents/guardians and school personnel through written procedures consistent with law for the suspension or expulsion of students and the denial of admission.

The Board and its designee(s) may consider the following factors in determining whether to suspend or expel a student:

1. the student's age;
2. the student's disciplinary history;
3. the student's eligibility as a student with a disability;
4. the seriousness of the violation committed by the student;
5. the threat posed to any student or staff; and
6. the likelihood that a lesser intervention would properly address the violation.

The following are grounds for suspension or expulsion under state law and/or District policy:

1. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority.
2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
3. Behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the child or to other children. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the school district's authority to suspend a student with a disability for a length of time consistent with federal law.

4. Declaration of the student as a habitually disruptive student, pursuant to administrative policy [JK](#) and its accompanying administrative procedure.
 - a. For purposes of this paragraph, "habitually disruptive student" means a child who has caused a material and substantial disruption three times during the course of the school year on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at school activities.
 - b. The student and the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing of each disruption counted toward declaring the student as habitually disruptive and the student and parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing and by telephone or other means at the home or the place of employment of the parent or legal guardian of the definition of "habitually disruptive student."
5. Committing one of the following offenses on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event:
 - a. Possession of a dangerous weapon without the authorization of the school or the school district;
 - b. The use, possession, or sale of a drug or controlled substance as defined in C.R.S. §18-18-102(5); or
 - c. The commission of an act that, if committed by an adult, would be robbery or assault other than third degree assault.
6. Repeated interference with a school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
7. Carrying, bringing, using, actively displaying, or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property without the authorization of the principal or designee.
8. Violation of the District's substance abuse policy, [JICH](#), as outlined in that policy and accompanying administrative procedure.
9. Failure to comply with the immunization requirements as specified in Colorado law and administrative policy [JLCB](#) unless a bona fide medical or religious exception applies. Any exclusion for such failure to comply shall not be recorded as a disciplinary action but may be noted in the student's permanent record with an appropriate explanation.

Grounds for denial of admission

Admission to Academy District 20 may be denied a student for the following reasons:

1. Graduation from the 12th grade of any school or receipt of any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum;
2. Failure to meet the requirements of age, by a child who has reached the age of 6 at a time after the beginning of the school year, as fixed by the Board of Education;
3. Having been expelled from any school district during the preceding 12 months;
4. Not being a resident of the District, unless otherwise entitled to attend under Colorado law;

5. Behavior in another school district during the preceding twelve months that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel; or
6. Failure to comply with the immunization requirements of Colorado law and administrative policy [JLCB](#) unless a bona fide medical or religious exception applies.

Expulsion or Denial of Admission for unlawful sexual behavior or crime of violence

When a petition is filed in juvenile court or district court that alleges a student between the ages of 12 to 18 years has committed an offense that would constitute unlawful sexual behavior or a crime of violence if committed by an adult, basic identification information, as defined in state law, along with the details of the alleged delinquent act or offense, is required by law to be provided immediately to the school district in which the juvenile is enrolled.

The information shall be used by the superintendent to determine whether the student has exhibited behavior that is detrimental to the safety, welfare, and morals of the other students or school personnel and whether educating the student in the school may disrupt the learning environment in the school, provide a negative example for other students, or create a dangerous and unsafe environment for students, teachers, and other school personnel. The District shall take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with the student code of conduct and related policies.

The Board of Education may determine to wait until the conclusion of court proceedings to consider expulsion, in which case it shall be the responsibility of the District to provide an alternative educational program for the student as specified in state law.

Tobacco Free Schools (administrative policy [ADC](#)):

To promote the general health, welfare and well-being of students and staff, smoking, chewing, vaping or any other use of any tobacco product by staff, students and members of the public is prohibited on all school property.

Possession of any tobacco product by students is also prohibited on school property.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. "School property" means all property owned, leased, rented, or otherwise used or contracted for by a school including but not limited to the following:
 - a. All indoor facilities and interior portions of any building or other structure used for children for instruction, educational or library services, routine health care, daycare, or early childhood development services, as well as for administration, support services, maintenance, or storage.

- b. All school grounds over which the school exercises control including areas surrounding any building, playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation areas and parking areas.
 - c. All vehicles used by the District for transporting students, staff, visitors or other persons.
 - d. At a school sanctioned activity or event.
2. "Tobacco product" means:
- a. Any product that contains nicotine or tobacco or is derived from tobacco and is intended to be ingested or inhaled by or applied to the skin of an individual, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco; and
 - b. Any electronic or other device that can be used to deliver nicotine to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, hookah, vape pen or vape MODS (mechanical modified delivery systems) which produce vapor from an electronic cigarette or other similar device.
 - c. "Tobacco product" does not include any product that has been approved by the appropriate federal agency as a tobacco use cessation product.
3. "Use" means lighting, chewing, smoking, ingesting or application of any tobacco product.

Signs will be posted in prominent places on all school property to notify the public that smoking or other use of tobacco products is prohibited in accordance with state law and District policy. This policy will be published in all staff member and student handbooks, posted on bulletin boards and announced in staff meetings.

Any member of the general public considered by the superintendent or designee to be in violation of this policy will be instructed to leave school district property.

Disciplinary measures for students who violate this policy will include in-house detention, revocation of privileges and exclusion from extracurricular activities. Repeated violations may result in suspension from school. In accordance with state law, no student will be expelled solely for tobacco use.

[Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint \(administrative policy \[JKA\]\(#\) and \[JKA R\]\(#\)\)](#)

To maintain a safe learning environment, District staff members may, within the scope of their employment duties and consistent with state law, use physical intervention and restraint with students in accordance with District policy and accompanying regulation. [JKA E 2](#) represents the process that must be followed when a student or the student's parent/guardian wishes to file a complaint about the use of restraint or seclusion by a District staff member.

Weapons in School (administrative policy [JICI](#)):

Possession, use, and/or threatened use of a dangerous weapon by students is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the District. Using, possessing or threatening to use a dangerous weapon on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or school district is prohibited.

As used in this policy, "dangerous weapon" means:

- A firearm
 - A firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
 - The frame or receiver of any weapon described above;
 - Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
 - Any destructive device.
 - A "destructive device" is defined as any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including a bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to the devices described above.
- Any pellet gun, BB gun, or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air;
- A fixed-blade knife with a blade that exceeds three inches in length;
- A spring-loaded knife or a pocket knife with a blade exceeding three and one-half inches in length;
- Any knife or cutting instrument possessed without authorization of school officials;
- Any device capable of temporarily immobilizing a person by the infliction of an electrical charge, including stun guns or taser guns; or
- Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, that is used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury including, but not limited to, a slingshot, a bludgeon, nun chucks, brass knuckles, or artificial knuckles of any kind.
- Students who use, possess, or threaten to use a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions, and other disciplinary interventions.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 7151, a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to a school, or to have possessed a firearm at a school, shall be expelled for not less than one year, except that the superintendent may modify this requirement in writing for a student on a case-by-case basis.

School administrators shall consider violations of this policy on a case-by-case basis to determine whether suspension, expulsion or any other disciplinary action is appropriate based upon the individual facts and circumstances involved.

Wellness, School (administrative policy [ADF](#)):

Academy District 20 promotes healthy schools by supporting student wellness, including good nutrition, regular physical activity, and social-emotional well-being as part of the total learning environment and encourages school health teams in every building. If you are sending food to school for any school function, please consider sending in healthy choices.