

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

**KENT ISD 2022-2023** 

This handbook is intended for use by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about the District. The use of the word "parent" in this handbook means a student's natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian. Students and their parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with this handbook, and parents should use the handbook as a resource to assist their children with following its rules and procedures.

Students must comply with all school policies, regulations, rules, and expectations. The use of the word "Policy" in this handbook includes bylaws or policies adopted by the Board of Education. Although the information in this handbook is comprehensive, it is not intended to address every situation that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a contract between the District and parents, students, or staff. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook to ensure the implementation of the school's educational program and well-being of all students. If a situation arises that is not specifically addressed by this handbook, the administration may respond based on applicable law and policy.

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and policy.

Programs that operate in other districts or in other buildings may fall under the policies and procedures of the local district.

# Welcome to Kent ISD Center Programs.

On behalf of the Kent ISD School Board and all our teachers, school leaders, and support staff, we are looking forward to serving and educating your child this school year. This handbook will assist students and parents by identifying our expectations, policies, and support system to ensure a successful school experience. Kent ISD Center Programs provide specialized services to meet the needs of students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) that have complex needs. Kent ISD operates nine Center Programs for students, birth through age of 26, who reside within the boundaries of Kent County and its member districts.

Our goal is to empower and equip students with the strategies and skills needed to maximize their participation and independence and to ensure equitable access in school, community, career, and life. We provide specialized programs and intensive services to meet the unique individual needs of each student. Kent ISD recognizes the importance of relationships and collaborations. We are committed to partnering with families and community agencies to improve outcomes and help students maximize their potential in school and life. For more information concerning our programs, services, and policies please contact us at 616-363-8108.

#### **Foreword**

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building administrator/principal. This handbook summarizes many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior handbook and other written material on the same subjects. This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of the 2022/2023 school year. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after the 2022/2023 school year, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

# **Center Programs Vision and Mission Statements**

# **Kent ISD Center Programs Vision**

Kent ISD Center Programs will empower and equip students with the strategies and skills needed to maximize their participation and independence and to ensure equitable access in school, community, career, and life.

#### **Early Childhood Center Mission**

The Early Childhood Center provides quality specialized instruction specific to the developmental needs of young children in the areas of social/emotional, early language/literacy, and adaptive behavior in order to increase inclusion within their neighborhood schools and in the community.

#### **Kent ISD Oral Deaf Mission**

The Oral Deaf Program provides specialized instruction, in order to develop skills in listening and spoken language, so that every student may fully participate in academic and social opportunities within their school and community.

#### **Lincoln Pines Mission**

We educate students with complex needs by providing specialized instruction specific to the communication, academic, adaptive behavior, mobility, and adult living skills required to develop independence.

# **KEC Oakleigh & KEC Beltline Mission**

We provide specialized instruction and services to students in order to educate and develop socialemotional and behavioral skills necessary to increase inclusion within their neighborhood schools and in the community.

# **Empower U Mission**

Empower U, in partnership with our community, provides specialized instruction and opportunities specific to employment and independent living skills necessary for young adults to live a purposeful and productive life.

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# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

District Website linked here .



Board Policies are available here .



# **ENROLLING IN SCHOOL**

Kent ISD operates nine Center Programs for students, birth through age 26, who reside within the boundaries of Kent County and its member districts. Students are referred to a Center Program by their member district. Placement is decided through the IEP team process when the team concludes highly specialized services are needed to meet the individual needs of that student. When a Center Program is determined to be an appropriate placement, then enrollment information is provided to the family by a Center Program staff member.

# WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Any family who wishes to withdraw their child from a Center Program school should contact the Center Program Principal/Administrator and/or the Director of Special Education from their resident district.

#### HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Homebound services will be offered when an illness or injury restricts a student to come to school. The student will be required to have a doctor's prescription to receive this service. Please contact the Center Program Principal/Administrator for further information.

#### POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION PLANNING

# **Post-Secondary Transition Planning**

This process allows both the parent and student an opportunity to address questions about the future. Such questions as future employment, living and housing arrangements, transportation, living in the community and utilizing public resources are considered a part of transition planning.

Transition planning offers your son/daughter a chance to explore options that will assist him/her in becoming more independent as they begin to leave the educational setting. Development of this plan is based on your son/daughter's individual needs, as well as considering his/her preferences, interest and abilities, and is part of the IEP Team meeting discussion. An IEP Transition Plan is required before the student turns 16 years of age.

#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Kent ISD has always recognized and esteemed the rights of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children. The Board welcomes and encourages parental/legal guardian involvement in the schools and is committed to a partnership to develop each student's intellectual capability and vocational skills in a safe and positive environment.

The following activities are included for parent involvement/communication:

- Regular home-school communication
- Provision of a parent/student handbook
- Parent support activities
- Multiple opportunities for student progress reporting
- Parent volunteer opportunities
- Involvement in decision making about your student's educational needs
- Participation in school functions or events
- Parent/teacher conferences
- IEP team meetings

If a parent with a child currently attending any one of the Kent ISD Center Programs is working as a substitute, the parent cannot have their child stay with them during work.

#### 2023-2024 DISTRICT CALENDAR

For a complete list of program calendars please go here. https://www.kentisd.org/administrative-services/about-kent-isd/meetings--calendar/

For program start times see your program administrator.

There are no provisions for before or after school care. Students should not be on school property before the scheduled building opening.

#### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES**

In the event of an emergency school closure, such as a bad weather day or when school is unexpectedly closed early, the District will notify students, parents, and the general public about the closure in the following manner:

#### **School Messenger Alert System**

Kent ISD utilizes the School Messenger Alert System. This system will send an automated message to parents via a telephone message to home and/or cell phones and e-mail. This system will be utilized in the event that your child's school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, or any other pertinent information that administration feels necessary to broadcast. School closings and delays will also continue to be broadcast on local television and radio stations. Please contact us to add/update your phone number and email address. This will ensure you receive emergency information.

# **School Closing**

If a Kent ISD Center Program will not be in session, the decision to close will be announced over the local radio and television media. Families should listen to major stations, particularly WOOD and WZZM television stations and WLAV and WOOD radio stations.

#### **Determination Guidelines**

- If the student's resident district closes/delays, buses cannot transport from within the resident district to Center Programs
- If the district where the Center Program is located closes/delays, the Center Program will use that information to factor if the Center Program will be closed/delayed
- o Early Childhood Center Comstock Park Public Schools or Godwin Heights Public Schools
- o Lincoln School, Lincoln Developmental Center Forest Hills Public Schools
- o Pine Grove Learning Center Grandville Public Schools
- o Kent ISD D/HH Oral Deaf and Total Communication- Northview Public Schools
- o Community Transition Campus, KEC Oakleigh, KEC Beltline Grand Rapids Public Schools

#### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), disability, age, height, weight, marital or family status, veteran status, ancestry, genetic information, military status, or any other legally protected category (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law.

The District prohibits unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment and retaliation. The District will investigate all allegations of unlawful discrimination and will take appropriate action, including discipline, against any person who, following an investigation, is determined to have engaged in unlawful discrimination.

"Unlawful harassment" is verbal, written, or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a person because of the person's membership in a Protected Class that has the purpose or effect of: (1) creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or (2) unreasonably interfering with the person's ability to benefit from the District's educational programs or activities.

- Race, color, and national origin harassment can take many forms, including, but not limited to, slurs, taunts, stereotypes, or name-calling, as well as racially motivated physical threats, attacks, or other hateful conduct. Harassment based on ethnicity, ancestry, or perceived ancestral, ethnic, or religious characteristics is considered race, color, and national origin harassment.
- Disability harassment can take many forms, including, but not limited to, slurs, taunts, stereotypes, or name-calling, as well as disability-motivated physical threats, attacks, or other hateful conduct.
- **Sex-based harassment** can take many forms. For the definition of sex-based harassment, including sexual harassment under Title IX, see Policies 3118 and 5202. The District's Title IX Policy is attached to this handbook as Appendix A.

Any student who witnesses an act of unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment or retaliation, is encouraged to report it to District personnel. No student will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected discrimination. A student may also anonymously report an incident of unlawful discrimination. The District will investigate anonymous reports pursuant to its investigation procedures described by Policy. Minor students do not need parent permission to file complaints or participate in the formal complaint resolution process described by Policy.

If you or someone you know has been subjected to sex-based discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, you may file a report with any District employee. Formal Complaints of sexual harassment must be filed with the Title IX Coordinator:

> **Dave Rodgers** Kent Intermediate School District 2930 Knapp St., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-365-2214 daverodgers@kentisd.org

> Danielle Hendry Kent Intermediate School District 2930 Knapp St., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-365-2288 daniellehendry@kentisd.org

If you or someone you know has been subjected to disability-based discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, you may file a complaint with:

> **Dave Rodgers** Kent Intermediate School District 2930 Knapp St., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-365-2214 daverodgers@kentisd.org

If you or someone you know has been subjected to any other type of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, including unlawful conduct based on race, color, or national origin, you may file a complaint with:

> **Dave Rodgers** Kent Intermediate School District 2930 Knapp St., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-365-2214 daverodgers@kentisd.org

A report of unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment or retaliation, may be made orally or in writing.

A student found to have engaged in unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment or retaliation, may be subject to discipline, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with Policy 5206.



#### **SECTION I: DISTRICT-WIDE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

#### Attendance

Students are expected to attend school every day school is in session. Students are to arrive before the first class and stay until the scheduled end of their school day. If a student is unable to attend school, the student or parent must report that absence to the program office.

If a student arrives late, the parent must sign the student in at the office. A student may only leave school early if the student's parent notifies the office.

A student who is more than one hour late may be considered absent.

A student who violates attendance expectations may be subject to discipline and any other applicable consequences.

#### Absences due to illness

The school will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school and may ask that the parent pick up the student

#### Planned absences

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must contact the school at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence unless alternative arrangements are approved by the teacher in advance. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments outside of school hours.

# When applicable students are expected to:

- Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated or make alternative arrangements with their teacher in advance of the absence.
- Sign out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
- Make up all work that is assigned by teachers for the instructional time that has been missed.

For more information, see Policy 5301.

#### **Books and Supplies**

The District will provide free instruction to all students and will not charge a fee for materials necessary to complete required or elective courses. Students and parents may purchase additional supplies at their own expense. The District may charge a reasonable and refundable deposit to cover damage to textbooks and supplies. A teacher may provide a list of suggested

materials that students and parents may purchase. Purchasing materials is voluntary and not required for curricular activities.

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the District. The District may assess fees to repair or replace District property that is lost, damaged, stolen, returned in a different condition, or not returned on time.

# **Bullying**

All types of student-on-student bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivation, are prohibited. The District's Anti-Bullying Policy is attached to this handbook as Appendix B.

#### **Cell Phone Use**

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, so long as they do so safely, responsibly, and respectfully, and comply with all other school rules while using the devices.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The District is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of any cell phone or other electronic device.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms, restrooms, or any other area in which others may have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal photographs, video, audio, or other similar data, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (including via cell phone or other electronic device), may constitute a crime under state or federal law. A student engaged in any of these activities at school, at a school event, or on school-provided transportation, may be subject to discipline. A student engaged in any of these activities outside of school may be disciplined if the student's activities substantially disrupt or negatively affect the school environment.

Oakleigh and KEC Beltline: No cell phones used in the school building or grounds. Student may bring cellphones but they must stay in their backpack, locker, or be turned in to the front office to be locked in a secure location. Cell phones may be used on the school bus in certain circumstances with prior building principal approval.

DHH: Follow building rules.

Lincoln Pines: Cell phones are discouraged

Empower U: Cell phones may be used during break times, emergencies or as an instructional tool with permission.



Teachers may also develop classroom rules for use of cell phones and other electronic devices when approved by administration.

School administrators and teachers may confiscate a student's cell phone or other electronic device if the student's use or possession of a cell phone or electronic device violates Board Policy, the student code of conduct, or any applicable building or classroom rule. The building principal or designee may require a meeting with the student's parent to discuss the rule violation before returning the cell phone or electronic device.

# Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in academic dishonesty in any form. Unless specifically authorized by a teacher, prohibited behavior may include, but is not limited to:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person in obtaining credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing with other students the answers or questions on a test or assignment before the test or assignment has been submitted for a grade.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Using artificial intelligence to assist or complete an assignment or test.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty may receive no credit on that assignment or class and will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

# **Children's Protective Services Investigations**

The District will cooperate with Children's Protective Services (CPS) during an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. Cooperation may include allowing CPS access to a student without parent consent if CPS determines access is necessary to complete the investigation or prevent abuse or neglect. As a matter of law, the identity of an individual who makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is confidential and will not be disclosed.

#### Classroom Behavior

Teachers may establish classroom expectations that students must follow.

#### **Communicable Diseases**

The District, in conjunction with local health department officials, may exclude students who:

- Are suspected of having a communicable disease until a physician or local health department official determines the student is no longer a risk; or
- Lack documentation of immunity or are otherwise considered susceptible to a communicable disease until the local health department officials determine the risk of spreading the disease has passed.

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, COVID-19, and other conditions indicated by the local and state health departments. Any removal will only be for the contagious period or as directed by the local health department.

# **Damage to School Property**

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be subject to discipline and required to pay to replace or restore the property.

#### **Dress and Grooming**

In general, clothing should be clean and appropriate for the climate and the situation. Student dress, hair style, make up, cleanliness, or personal appearance that is a threat to the safety, health, or welfare of others; violates any statute, Policy 5101, or the Dress Code; or substantially disrupts the educational environment or that school officials reasonably forecast will substantially disrupt the educational environment, is grounds for remedial or disciplinary action.

The final decision in any situation involving inappropriate attire rests with building administrators.

Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change clothing immediately. If necessary, parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing, students can use extra clothing provided by the District, or the student may be sent home to change. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

#### **Dress Code**

Tops must have straps or sleeves and must cover the student's entire torso from armpit to armpit. Pants, shorts, and skirts must have an inseam at least 4 inches in length. Clothing may not display material that:

- Is materially and substantially disruptive or that school officials can reasonably forecast will create a substantial disruption;
- Is obscene, sexually explicit, indecent, or lewd;
- Promotes the use of or advertises illegal substances, including but not limited to substances illegal for minors;
- Incites violence;
- Contains "fighting words";
- Constitutes a true threat of violence;
- Demonstrates hate group association/affiliation or uses hate speech targeting groups based on their membership in a protected class; or
- Displays nipples, genitals, or buttocks.
- Promote gang activity.
- Costumes or face paint
- Headscarves can be worn for religions purposes only

Students who represent the District at an official or school-sponsored function or public event (e.g., athletic teams, bands, choirs, and other groups) may be required to follow specific dress requirements as a condition of participation or attendance.

# **Emergency Contact Information**

Parents must provide emergency information for each student enrolled in the District. The information should include the family physician's name, contact information for parents or a responsible adult, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes.

#### **Food Services**

Kent ISD proves meals for Center Program students by contracting through the food service programs of Grand Rapids Public Schools, Northview Public School, and Godwin Heights Public Schools. If applicable, lunch accounts will be maintained through the local district system. A new Free and Reduced Lunch Form must be completed annually and will be provided as a part of a student's annual enrollment forms packet. Breakfast and lunch are available to all students.\*

\*DHH students follow Northview food service policies.

# **Field Trips**

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. Each student must submit a completed permission form signed by the student's parent before being allowed to attend a field trip.

A student's failure to comply with Board Policy, the Student Code of Conduct, or any other applicable rules or behavioral expectations while on a field trip may result in disciplinary action and removal or exclusion from the trip or future field trips.

Students who have not met academic or behavioral expectations may not be allowed to attend field trips.

# **Community Based Educational Experiences**

Community based educational experiences are provided in many of our programs. Contact your program for more information for this school year.

# First Aid, Illness, or Injury at School

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher, nurse, or the nearest staff member.

When the building principal or designee determines that a student is too ill or injured to remain at school, school staff will contact the student's parent or other designated responsible adult to pick up the student from school. If the student requires immediate medical attention, the District will first attempt to contact a parent or other designated responsible adult when reasonably possible. If contact cannot be made, the building principal or designee will take any reasonable action necessary on the student's behalf, consistent with state law.

Students showing symptoms of a communicable disease may be sent home. The District may require a statement from a licensed physician or local health official before allowing the student to return to school.

#### **Student Illness Procedure**

In order to maintain the health and well-being of students and staff, please keep your son or daughter home when they are showing signs of illness. Your family physician is most qualified to diagnose and treat your son or daughter. It is not within our nurses' responsibility to make medical diagnosis.

# Students who have the following symptoms will be sent home from school:

- Fever (at or above 100.0 F)
- Vomiting two (2) or more times in the last 24 hours
- Sores on the skin with pus or drainage
- Unexplained rashes or blisters
- Diarrhea—more than 3 stools in 24 hours



- Tiredness that prevents normal activity
- Complaint of sore throat
- Complaint of shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Chills
- Stiff back or neck
- Abdominal cramps or pain

## Students with these symptoms cannot be kept in school or transported home on a bus:

If it is determined that the student needs to be sent home, he/she will be cared for in a place where he/she is comfortable and able to be observed by someone who knows the child well. If indicated, the student shall be cared for in a separate environment to prevent disease transmission. Nurse/staff will contact the student's parent/guardian and inform them that their student needs to be picked up from school as soon as possible. It is expected that the parent will make all necessary arrangements to pick up the child in a timely manner.

#### Student return to school:

Determination as to when a student may return to school will follow the most current guidelines available from CDC, MDHHS, and the Kent County Health Department.

Students may be required to present a statement from his/her health care provider stating that he/she is no longer contagious and may return to school, if requested by nursing staff. In this way we hope to protect our high-risk students from infection and contagious diseases, and to ensure that our students remain healthy.

#### **Student Injury Procedure**

In the event of an accident or injury, the parent/guardian will be immediately notified for any required medical attention. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, and the injury is such that immediate care is required, the school will arrange for the student to be taken to the doctor or a hospital for treatment by ambulance. This action will not obligate the district to assume financial responsibility of treatment.

#### **DNR/End-of-Life Procedure**

Students may have a Do Not Resuscitate order honored at school in accordance with board policy 5708 provided the following conditions are met:

- DNR form is completed in full and signed by student's guardian and physician, and appropriately witnessed.
- Form is on file with school.
- A new form must be completed and filed every year.
- End-of-life arrangements for students will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

In order to promote continuity of communication regarding plan of care and end of life, the following guidelines exist for discussing DNR implementation with a student's family:



- Existing DNR orders will be discussed with parents/guardians on a yearly basis
- When a new DNR order is implemented, a meeting will be called with all necessary parties. and student's parents/guardians to discuss wishes for care at the end of life.

Should a student pass away at school, the following procedure will be implemented:

- Staff will notify the student's family immediately.
- The classroom will be cleared of classmates and the student will be prepared for family arrival.
- Kent ISD will call EMS to come and pronounce/transport the student.
- o DNR will be presented to EMS upon arrival.

o If a student is an active hospice patient, EMS will not be called. The hospice case manager will be notified instead. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to ensure that the RN has appropriate contact number.

See board policy 5708 for additional information

## **Homeless Children and Youth**

The District will provide a free public education to homeless children and youth who are in the District and will afford them the educational rights and legal protections provided by federal and state law. Homeless children and youth will not be stigmatized or segregated based on their homeless status and will have the same access to services offered to students who are not homeless.

A student or parent in a homeless situation who requires assistance should contact the District's homeless liaison:

Amy Slagboom amyslagboom@kentisd.org 616-447-5677

For detailed information about Homeless Children and Youth, see Policy 5307.

#### **Immunizations**

For a student entering the District for the first time or entering 7th grade, a parent must provide the building principal or designee with a certificate stating that the student has received at least 1 dose of an immunizing agent against each disease specified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or other responsible agency or documentation of an applicable approved exemption.

The student's parent must provide the certificate or documentation at the time of registration, or no later than the first day of school. A parent of a student who has not received all doses of any required immunizing agent must provide the District an updated immunization certificate

demonstrating that the immunizations have been completed as required by the MDHHS. The updated certificate must be provided within 4 months of the student entering the District for the first time or upon entering 7th grade. The District will not permit a student to attend school unless the parent provides evidence of immunizations or exemptions consistent with Policy 5713 and state law.

#### Law Enforcement Interviews

Law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration. Students may be questioned by law enforcement consistent with Policy 5201. Students may be questioned by school officials at any time, without parent notice or consent, consistent with the District's obligation to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

# **Limited English Proficiency**

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to a student's equal participation in the District's instructional or extracurricular programs. Those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular programs offered by the District.

#### Locker Use

Pursuant to Policy 5102, lockers are District property and may be made available for student use. Lockers are assigned to students on a temporary basis, and District administration may revoke a student's locker assignment at any time. The District retains ownership of lockers notwithstanding student use.

Students have no expectation of privacy in their lockers. The building principal or designee may inspect lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause and without advance notice. Upon the request of the building principal or designee, law enforcement may assist with searching lockers.

During a locker search, student privacy rights will be respected for any items that are not illegal or violate Board Policy or building rules.

Additionally, as noted in the Search and Seizure section of this Handbook, any personal property, such as backpacks, purses, clothing, and electronic devices, may be searched as permitted by law to protect the safety and welfare of the school community.

#### **Threat Assessment**

Student safety is a top priority for Kent ISD. To ensure this, the administration has implemented a threat assessment process that will be utilized when students demonstrate behavior that threatens the safety of themselves and/or others. The threat assessment process may include interviews with the student who expressed the threat, school staff, and classmates as well as a

public source social media review to determine if the student in question is a threat to themselves or others. When threats occur, portions of the threat assessment process are entrusted to Kent ISD staff, in communication and collaboration with the student's local district.

#### Lost and Found

All lost and found items are to be taken to the main office or a designated lost and found area. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed items may be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

#### **Media Center**

Students must check out materials from the media specialist or designee on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all materials checked out in the borrower's name. A fine of [five] cents per day per item may be charged for overdue materials. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulates on materials charged to the student. If materials are lost and not returned by the end of the semester, the student must pay for the replacement cost. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to materials.

#### Medication

Whenever possible, parents should arrange student medication schedules to eliminate the need for administration of medication at school. When a student requires prescription or over-the-counter medication at school, the following procedures apply:

- The student's parent must annually submit a written request and consent form as required by the District.
- A building principal or designee must request that the parent supply medications in the exact dosage required whenever feasible.
- The building principal or designee will notify the student's parent of any observed adverse reaction to medication.
- All medications must be in the original container.

For additional information and requirements, see Policy 5703.

# Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors/Inhalers

A student may possess and use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector or inhaler with written approval from the student's healthcare provider and consistent with Policy 5703. A minor student must also have written permission from the student's parent. The required documentation must be submitted to the building principal or designee. If a student is authorized to self-possess or self-administer an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector or inhaler, the building principal or designee will notify the student's teachers and other staff as appropriate.

Additionally, the school must maintain a written emergency care plan drafted by a physician in collaboration with the student's parent. The emergency care plan will contain specific instructions related to the student's needs. The physician and parent should update the emergency care plan as necessary to address any changes in the student's medical circumstances.

#### **Parties**

Classes may have seasonal or curriculum-related parties during the year. Students must follow all expectations and rules established by the teacher or other relevant staff during the party. Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed in the classroom.

# Playground/Recess Rules

Students must follow these rules during recess or while using the playground:

Please see your building PBIS behavior matrix for additional expectations.

Students who violate these rules may be disciplined.

Staff will supervise students when the students use the playground or recess area during the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and circumstances, the District does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, or surrounding areas.

# **Protection of Pupil Rights**

The District respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy as required by law. The policy is available on the District's website or upon request from the District's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the Superintendent. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the Superintendent. A copy of the District's annual notice to parents regarding the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment is attached as Appendix C.

# **Public Display of Affection**

Students may not engage in public display of affection that are disruptive to the school environment including transportation or distracting to others.

# **Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents**

Unless a parent has provided the building principal or designee with a court order that provides otherwise, District personnel will treat each parent, regardless of custody or visitation rights, the same as to accessing student records, meeting and conferring with District personnel, visiting a



child at school, and transporting a child to or from school. District personnel are not responsible for enforcing visitation or parenting time orders.

Parents, regardless of custodial status, will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The District is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

#### Search and Seizure

To maintain order and discipline in school and protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student or the student's personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, athletic bag, pockets) as permitted by law and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. As noted in "Locker Use," student lockers and desks are school property and remain at all times under the District's control. Student lockers and desks are subject to search at any time for any reason and without notice or consent.

School officials may use canines, metal detectors, wands, or other tools to conduct searches.

A student's failure to permit a search and seizure may be grounds for disciplinary action. A student's person and personal effects may be searched whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student possesses illegal or unauthorized materials. If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, these items may be turned over to law enforcement.

#### **Student Education Records**

The District may collect, retain, use, and disclose student education records consistent with state and federal law. See Policy 5309 for an overview of the District's collection, retention, use, and disclosure of student records.

Parents may inspect and review their minor child's education records, regardless of custody status, unless a court order specifies otherwise. An eligible student (i.e., a student who is 18 years or older or an emancipated minor) may also inspect and review their education records.

# Right to Request Explanation or Interpretation

A parent or eligible student may request, in writing, an explanation or interpretation of a student's education records. School officials will respond to any reasonable request.

# **Right to Request Amendment of Education Records**

A parent or eligible student may request that a student's education record be amended if the parent or eligible student believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights as explained in Policy 5309.

# **Directory Information**

The District designates the following information as directory information:

- "Directory information" is the information contained in a student's education record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The Board designates the following as directory information:
  - a. student names, addresses, and telephone numbers;
  - b. photographs, including photographs and videos depicting a student's participation in school-related activities and classes;
  - c. date and place of birth;
  - d. major field of study;
  - e. grade level;
  - f. enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time);
  - g. dates of attendance (e.g., 2013-2017);
  - h. degrees, honors, and awards received; and
  - i. the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

The Board further designates District-assigned student email addresses as directory information for the limited purposes of: (1) facilitating the student's participation in and access to online learning platforms and applications; and (2) inclusion in internal school and District email address books.

School officials may disclose "directory information" without the prior written consent of a parent or eligible student unless the parent or eligible student specifically notifies the District that the parent or eligible student does not consent to the disclosure of the student's directory information for 1 or more of the uses for which the District would commonly disclose the information.

A Directory Information Opt Out Form is attached to this handbook as Appendix D. This form allows the parent or eligible student to elect not to have the student's directory information disclosed for 1 or more of the listed uses. Upon receipt of a completed Directory Information Opt

Out Form, school officials may not release the student's directory information for any of the uses selected on the form.

# Technology

Use of District technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to use computers, the Internet, and other District technology resources for school-related educational purposes only. Students and their parents are required to sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement attached as Appendix E before they may use or access District technology resources. Students who violate the District's Acceptable Use Agreement may have technology privileges terminated or suspended and may be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

## **Transportation Services**

#### **School Vehicle Rules**

Riding in school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must comply with the Student Code of Conduct while in school vehicles.

When in school vehicles, the following rules apply:

- 1. Students must promptly comply with any directive given by the driver.
- 2. Students must wait in a safe place for the vehicle to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3. Students may not fight or engage in bullying, harassment, or horseplay while riding or waiting for school vehicles.
- 4. Students must enter the vehicle without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to a seat.
- 5. Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6. Students may not throw or pass objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- 7. Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- 8. Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9. Students may converse in ordinary tones and volumes but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is moving. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.

- 10. Students may not open windows without the driver's permission. Students may not dangle body parts or other items (e.g., legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- 11. Students must secure any item(s) that could break or cause injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident.
- 12. Students must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
- 13. Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
- 14. Students may not vandalize or intentionally cause damage to the vehicle.
- 15. Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.]

Video cameras may be placed on vehicles and buses to monitor student behavior on the vehicle/bus. Exceptions or modifications to these rules may be made as necessary to accommodate a student with a disability.

# **School Vehicle Misconduct Consequences**

Students who violate the school vehicle rules will be referred to the building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include parent notification, suspension of vehicle/bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, and suspension or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive and school officials have discretion to impose any listed consequence they deem appropriate in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be reported to law enforcement.

# **Video Surveillance and Photographs**

The District may monitor any District building, facility, property, bus, or vehicle with video recording equipment other than areas where a person has a legally recognized and reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., restrooms and locker rooms). Except in those school areas, a person has no expectation of privacy.

The District may use video recordings for any lawful purpose, including student discipline, assisting law enforcement, or investigations.

Students may not make recordings: on school property; when on a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the District; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event unless otherwise authorized by Policies 5210 or 5805, applicable law, or a District employee.

#### Withdrawal From School

Students who are transferring from the District must submit written notice to the building principal at least 1 week before the withdrawal.

#### **SECTION II: ACADEMICS**

To encourage students and parents to stay apprised of student academic information, grades, attendance, and other information can be accessed via Powerschool where applicable.

#### Commencement

The District may conduct a commencement or completion ceremony for eligible students at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right. Students may be prohibited from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for misconduct. A student's disqualification from participating in the commencement ceremony does not impact the issuance of a diploma or certificate of completion to the student, provided that all graduation requirements have been satisfied.

# **Credits and Graduation Requirements**

A student must successfully complete all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma.

## **Dual Enrollment**

Students in grades 9 and above may be eligible to dually enroll in college classes to obtain high school and college credit. Please contact your assigned counselor for information about enrollment eligibility, charges paid by the District, eligible institutions, and other matters related to dual enrollment.

## Homework

Classroom teachers may assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact their student's teacher.

Each student is expected to spend time preparing for classes outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student and each class.

#### **Personal Curriculum**

For some students, it may be appropriate to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum through implementation of a personal curriculum. All students who have completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade are entitled to a personal curriculum, and the District will implement a personal curriculum for a student if requested by a parent or by the student if the student is age 18 or older. Any modification to the Michigan Merit Curriculum must be consistent with Michigan law and must incorporate as much of the Michigan Merit Curriculum content standards as practicable for the student. The District retains discretion to determine what modifications to the Michigan Merit Curriculum are

appropriate for a particular student through a personal curriculum. A student who successfully completes an approved personal curriculum will earn a regular high school diploma.

To request a personal curriculum, please contact your program administrator.

For additional information about the Michigan Merit Curriculum and Personal Curriculum, see Policy 5409.

#### **Placement**

The District has the sole discretion to make promotion, retention, and placement decisions for its students, consistent with state and federal law. The District may consider parent requests that a student be placed in a particular classroom, building, educational program, or grade. The District's placement decision is final.

#### Students with Disabilities

Eligible students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are entitled to a free appropriate public education. The District will follow state and federal law and applicable rules and regulations in identifying, locating, evaluating, and educating students with disabilities.

A parent who believes their student is eligible for special education or accommodations due to a disability or suspected disability should contact Paul Dymowski.

#### **Summer School**

Some programs may offer summer school. All rules and policies apply during summer school. For more information contact your building principal or program administrator.

#### **Testing Out**

A student may test out of high school classes and earn credit. Students interested in testing out of a class should review Policy 5409 and make arrangements with their assigned counselor.

#### **Work Permits**

Information about work permits is available at the main office.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Students may be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in local district, please contact local district. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Participation is open to students who meet the eligibility requirements established by the District and any applicable governing body.

The District has exclusive control over extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance.

Student athletes are also subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct at their local district.

For more information, see Policy 5507.

#### Student-Initiated Non-Curricular Clubs

Students may voluntarily form clubs that are not directly related to the school curriculum to promote activities unrelated to curriculum. Membership in a student-initiated, non-curricular club must be open to all interested and eligible District students, and the club may not refuse membership to a student based on any protected classification under state or federal law.

For more information about student-initiated non-curricular clubs, including how to form a club, see Policy 5510.

#### **SECTION IV: DISCIPLINE AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

# **Discipline Generally**

The District may discipline students who engage in misconduct, up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.

The District will take steps to effectively discipline students in a manner that appropriately minimizes out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. The District will comply with applicable laws related to student discipline, including the consideration of specific factors and possible use of restorative practices.

If an administrator determines that an emergency requires the immediate removal of a student from school, the administrator may contact the student's parent or local law enforcement or take other measures to have the student safely removed from school.

Students who are involved in extracurricular activities and engage in misconduct may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences provided in this handbook.

The District reserves the right to refer to an appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct which may constitute a crime. The District will cooperate with those agencies in their investigations as permitted by law.

The District's rules and policies apply to any student who is on school property or school-affiliated transportation, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity or function, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operation, discipline, or general welfare of the school, regardless of location, date, or time.

# Forms of School Discipline & Applicable Due Process

# **In-School Suspension**

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension, during which students follow strict rules and must work on assignments the entire time, except for short breaks. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

# Snap Suspension - Suspension from Class, Subject, or Activity by Teacher

A teacher may suspend a student from any class, subject, or activity for up to 1 full school day if the teacher has good reason to believe that the student:

- intentionally disrupted the class, subject, or activity;
- jeopardized the health or safety of any of the other participants in the class, subject, or activity; or
- was insubordinate during the class, subject, or activity.

Any teacher who suspends a student from a class, subject, or activity must immediately report the suspension and its reason to the building principal or designee. If a student is suspended from a class, subject, or activity, but will otherwise remain at school, the building principal or designee must ensure that the student is appropriately supervised during the suspension and, if the student is a student with a disability, that all procedures applicable to students with disabilities are followed.

Any teacher who suspends a student from a class, subject, or activity must, as soon as possible following the suspension, request that the student's parent attend a parent/teacher conference to discuss the suspension. The building principal or designee must attend the conference if either the teacher or the parent requests the building principal's attendance. The building principal or designee must make reasonable efforts to invite a school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker to attend the conference.

## Removal for 10 or Fewer School Days

Before a student is suspended for 10 or fewer school days, an administrator will: (1) provide the student verbal notice of the offense the student is alleged to have committed, and (2) provide the student an informal opportunity to respond and explain what happened. Except in emergency circumstances, an administrator will not suspend the student unless, after providing the student notice and an opportunity to explain, the administrator is reasonably certain that the student committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that suspension is the appropriate consequence. The building administrator will consider the 7 factors provided in the Student Code of Conduct before suspending a student.

# Removal for More than 10 and Fewer than 60 School Days

Before a student is suspended for more than 10 school days but less than 60 school days, the Superintendent or designee will provide the parent or student with: (1) written notice of the offense the student is suspected to have committed; (2) an explanation of the evidence relied upon by the District in arriving at the conclusion that disciplinary action may be warranted; and (3) an opportunity for a hearing at which the student may present evidence and witnesses to show that the student did not commit the alleged offense or that suspension is not an appropriate consequence. A manifestation meeting will be held.

The Superintendent or designee will provide the parent or student at least 3 calendar days' notice before the hearing. The parent and student may be represented, at their cost, by an attorney or another adult advocate at the hearing.

The Superintendent or designee will not suspend the student unless, following the hearing, he or she is convinced by a preponderance of the evidence that the student committed a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that suspension is the appropriate consequence. The Superintendent or designee will consider the 7 factors noted in the Student Code of Conduct before suspending a student.

A parent or student may appeal the Superintendent's or designee's decision to the Board. The appeal must be submitted to the Board within 3 calendar days of the decision. The Board will hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board's decision is final. The student's suspension will run while the appeal is pending.

#### Removal for 60 or More School Days

Before the Board suspends or expels a student, the Superintendent or designee must provide the parent or student with: (1) written notice of the offense the student is suspected to have committed; (2) an explanation of the evidence relied upon by the District in arriving at the conclusion that disciplinary action may be warranted; and (3) an opportunity for a Board hearing at which the student may present evidence and witnesses to show that the student did not commit the suspected offense or that suspension or expulsion is not an appropriate consequence.

The Superintendent or designee will provide the parent or student at least 3 calendar days' notice before the hearing. The parent and student may be represented, at their cost, by an attorney or another adult advocate at the hearing.

The Board will not suspend or expel the student unless, following the hearing, a majority of the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the student committed misconduct that should result in suspension or expulsion under either the Student Code of Conduct or Board Policy and that suspension or expulsion is the appropriate consequence. The Board will consider the 7 factors noted in the Student Code of Conduct before suspending or expelling a student. The Board's decision is final.

#### **Student Code of Conduct**

This Student Code of Conduct is meant to be a guide and is subject to the discretion of administration and the Board.

Administration will, as required or permitted by state law, always consider the use of restorative practices as an alternative to, or in addition to suspension or expulsion. Nothing in the following table limits the District's ability to impose more or less severe disciplinary consequences depending on the situation's unique circumstances and the following factors:

- 1. the student's age;
- 2. the student's disciplinary history;
- 3. whether the student has a disability;
- 4. the seriousness of the behavior;
- 5. whether the behavior posed a safety risk;
- 6. whether restorative practices will be used to address the behavior; and
- 7. whether a lesser intervention would properly address the behavior.

Nothing in this handbook limits the District's authority to discipline a student for conduct that is inappropriate in school, but that is not specifically provided in this table. Depending on the circumstances of a particular situation, separate athletic or extracurricular sanctions may be imposed, in accordance with the applicable handbook or rules.

Prohibited Conduct	Potential Consequence(s)
Illegal Substances or Paraphernalia, including Alcohol: possession, sale, attempted sale, distribution, attempted distribution, use, or attempted use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, illegal steroids, illegal inhalants, or look-alike drugs	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
<b>Tobacco/Nicotine:</b> possession, sale, attempted sale, distribution, attempted distribution, use, or attempted use of any form of tobacco, including vaping devices or supplies.	<ul><li>Restorative Practices</li><li>Parent Notification</li><li>Suspension or Expulsion</li><li>Police Referral</li></ul>
<b>Disruptive Behavior or Insubordination:</b> disrupting the learning environment or school activity or violating a school rule or directive.	<ul><li>Restorative Practices</li><li>Parent Notification</li><li>Suspension or Expulsion</li></ul>

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Dangerous Weapon Possession: firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over 3 inches in length, pocketknife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles.  Other Weapons and Look-Alike Weapons Possession: an object that is not a "dangerous weapon," including but not limited to a pellet or air-soft gun, a knife with a blade of 3 inches or less, items intended to look like a dangerous	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> </ul>
weapon, or similar items.  Use of an Object as a Weapon: any object used to threaten or harm another, regardless of whether injury results.	<ul> <li>Police Referral</li> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
<b>Arson:</b> purposefully, intentionally, or maliciously setting a fire on school property.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Assault (Student to Student):</b> causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through intentional use of force or violence.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Expulsion up to 180 school days</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
Physical Assault (Student to Employee, Volunteer, or Contractor): causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through intentional use of force or violence.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
Verbal or Written Threat, including Bomb or Similar Threat: statement that constitutes a threat against a student, employee, other person, or school property.	<ul><li>Restorative Practices</li><li>Parent Notification</li><li>Suspension or Expulsion</li><li>Police Referral</li></ul>

Plagiarism, Cheating, or other Falsification of Schoolwork: submitting work that is not your own, including copying from others' work.  Discrimination, Harassment (including Sexual	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Credit Loss or Grade Reduction</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Expulsion</li> <li>Restorative Practices</li> </ul>
Harassment), and Bullying: violating Board Policy addressing anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-bullying.	<ul><li>Parent Notification</li><li>Suspension or Expulsion</li></ul>
Criminal Sexual Conduct: commits criminal sexual conduct in a school building or on school grounds; or pleads to, is convicted of, or is adjudicated for criminal sexual conduct against another student enrolled in the same school district; or commits criminal sexual conduct against another student enrolled in the same school district.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
Fighting, Inciting Violence, Filming a Fight or Assault, Distributing or Publishing a Fight or Assault Video	<ul><li>Restorative Practices</li><li>Parent Notification</li><li>Suspension or Expulsion</li></ul>
<b>Sexting:</b> distribution or publication of lewd, pornographic, or sexually suggestive videos or photographs of students or staff.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
Misuse of District Technology: violating the District's acceptable use policies and agreement.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>
Vandalism: action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property.	<ul> <li>Restorative Practices</li> <li>Parent Notification</li> <li>Suspension or Permanent Expulsion</li> <li>Police Referral</li> </ul>

#### APPENDIX A: TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT

#### 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment

Consistent with Policy 3115, the District prohibits unlawful sex discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, in any of its education programs or activities in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and corresponding implementing regulations.

This Policy addresses allegations of Title IX sexual harassment that occurred on or after August 14, 2020. Allegations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation not covered by this Policy should be addressed under the District's applicable non-discrimination or anti-harassment policies. Allegations alleging both Title IX sexual harassment and other forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment (e.g., race, age, disability) that cannot be reasonably separated into two distinct complaints should be investigated under this Policy. Investigating other forms of discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, through this Policy will fulfill the District's investigation requirements under Policies 4104 or 5202, but nothing in this paragraph limits the District's right to determine at any time that a non-Title IX allegation should be addressed under Policies 4104 or 5202 or any other applicable Policy.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to designate one or more employees who meet the training requirements in Section M of this Policy to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator(s). The Title IX Coordinator will designate an Investigator, Decision-Maker, and Appeals Officer, if applicable, for each Formal Complaint made under this Policy. If a Formal Complaint is made under this Policy against the Title IX Coordinator, the Board President will designate the persons who will serve as the Investigator, Decision-Maker, and Appeals Officer and will work with District administrators to ensure that all other requirements of this Policy are met.

The Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, and any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process cannot be the same person on a specific matter, and the persons designated to serve in those roles may or may not be District employees. Any person serving as the Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process must meet the training requirements in Section M of this Policy.

Inquiries about Title IX's application to a particular situation may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

# B. Definitions

For purposes of this Policy, the below terms are defined as follows:

- 1. "Sexual Harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
  - a. A District employee conditioning the provision of a District aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;

- Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would determine to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
- c. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined by the Violence Against Women Act, 34 USC § 12291 et. seq., and the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 20 USC 1092(f)(6)(A)(v).
  - "Sexual assault" means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
  - ii. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the Complainant. The existence of such a relationship is based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
  - iii. "Domestic violence" means felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Complainant, person with whom the Complainant shares a child, person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner, person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant under the domestic or family violence laws of Michigan; or any other person against an adult or youth Complainant who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of Michigan.
  - iv. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.
- 2. "Actual Knowledge" means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator or any District employee. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only District employee with actual knowledge is the Respondent.
- 3. "Appeals Officer" is the person designated by the District to handle appeals of a dismissal or determination of responsibility for matters investigated under this Policy. The Appeals Officer may not be the same person as the Investigator, Title IX Coordinator, Decision-Maker, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a specific matter.
- 4. "Complainant" is a person who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Title IX sexual harassment.

- 5. "Consent" means a voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity by a person legally capable of consenting. Someone who is incapacitated cannot consent. Past consent does not imply future consent. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Coercion, force, or threat of either invalidates consent. Sexual conduct or relationships between District employees, volunteers, or contractors and students, regardless of age or consent, are prohibited.
- 6. "Day," unless otherwise indicated, means a day that the District's central office is open for business.
- 7. "Decision-Maker" is the person designated by the District to review the investigation report and provide a written determination of responsibility that provides the evidentiary basis for the Decision-Maker's conclusions. The Decision-Maker may not be the same person as the Investigator, Title IX Coordinator, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a specific matter.
- 8. "Education Program or Activity" means any location, event, or circumstance over which the District exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the harassment occurred.
- 9. "Formal Complaint" means a written document or electronic submission signed and filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the sexual harassment allegation.
- 10. "Grievance Process" is the process by which the District handles Formal Complaints.
- 11. "Investigator" is the person designated by the District to investigate a Title IX Formal Complaint. The Investigator cannot be the same person as the Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a specific matter. The Title IX Coordinator may serve as the Investigator on a particular investigation, unless the Title IX Coordinator signed the Formal Complaint.
- 12. "Report" means an account of alleged Title IX sexual harassment made by any person (regardless of whether the reporting party is the alleged victim).
- 13. "Respondent" is a person who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Title IX sexual harassment.
- 14. "Supportive Measures" are non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized services offered and implemented by the Title IX Coordinator as appropriate, as reasonably available, and at no-cost to the Complainant and the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or when no Formal Complaint has been filed. Supportive measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including

measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

15. "Title IX Coordinator" is the person(s) designated by the District to coordinate the District's Title IX compliance. The Title IX Coordinator may not be the same person as the Appeals Officer or Decision-Maker on a specific matter. A person not serving as a Title IX Coordinator in a particular matter is not disqualified from serving in another role in that matter. The Title IX Coordinator may also serve as the Investigator or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on a particular investigation, unless the Title IX Coordinator signed the Formal Complaint.

## C. Posting Requirement

The Title IX Coordinator's contact information (name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number), along with the District's Title IX nondiscrimination statement, must be prominently posted on the District's website and in any catalogs or handbooks provided to applicants for admission or employment, students, parents/guardians, and unions or professional organizations with a collective bargaining or professional agreement with the District.

The District will provide notice of this Policy to all applicants, students, parents/guardians, employees, and unions or professional organizations with a collective bargaining or professional agreement with the District by prominently posting this Policy on its website and referencing this Policy in its handbooks, which will include the Title IX Coordinator's name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number.

#### D. Designation of Title IX Coordinator

The District designates the following person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator(s):

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Legal Services Kent Intermediate School District 2930 Knapp St., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-365-2220

daverodgers@kentisd.org

## E. Reporting Title IX Sexual Harassment:

A person may make a report of sexual harassment or retaliation at any time. Reports may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that result in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report.

Any District employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator by the end of the next day.

Any other person who witnesses an act of sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to a District employee and may do so anonymously. No person will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected sexual harassment or retaliation.

## F. General Response to Sexual Harassment

## 1. District's Obligation to Respond without Deliberate Indifference

Upon actual knowledge of Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. The District will be deemed to be deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

If the Title IX Coordinator receives a report of sexual harassment and the Complainant does not file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must evaluate the information and determine whether to sign and file a Formal Complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator determines not to sign and file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator must address the allegations in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

## 2. Response to Report of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Upon receipt of a report of sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint.

## 3. Formal Complaint Filed

Upon the receipt of a Formal Complaint, the District must follow the Grievance Process in Section F of this Policy. A Formal Complaint may be submitted using the Title IX Sexual Harassment Formal Complaint Form.

## 4. Equitable Treatment

The District will treat the Complainant and Respondent equitably throughout the Grievance Process, which may include offering supportive measures as described in Subsection E(6) of this Policy.

## 5. Documentation and Recordkeeping

The Title IX Coordinator will document all sexual harassment reports and all incidents of sexual harassment that the Title IX Coordinator receives or personally observes.

The District will retain this documentation in accordance with applicable record retention requirements in Section N of this Policy.

## 6. Supportive Measures

After receiving a report of Title IX sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint. If the District does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the Title IX Coordinator must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

The District may provide, as appropriate, non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services to the Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or when no Formal Complaint has been filed.

Supportive measures should be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party.

Supportive measures are offered without charge to all parties and are designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment.

Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. District-provided counseling;
- b. Course-related adjustments, such as deadline extensions;
- c. Modifications to class or work schedules;
- d. Provision of an escort to ensure that the Complainant and Respondent can safely attend classes and school activities; and
- e. No-contact orders.

All supportive measures must be kept confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the District's ability to provide the supportive measures.

## 7. Respondent Removal

## a. Emergency Removal (Student)

The District may only remove a student Respondent from a District program or activity if, following an individualized safety and risk analysis, the District determines that there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other person arising from the sexual harassment allegations. The District must provide the Respondent with notice and an opportunity to immediately challenge the removal decision. This provision may not be construed

to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## b. Administrative Leave (Employee)

The District may place an employee Respondent on non-disciplinary administrative leave during the pendency of the Grievance Process. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### 8. Law Enforcement

In appropriate circumstances, a District employee will notify law enforcement or Child Protective Services, consistent with Policies 4202, 5201, and 5701.

The District will attempt to comply with all law enforcement requests for cooperation with related law enforcement activity. In some circumstances, compliance with law enforcement requests may require the District to briefly suspend or delay its investigation. If an investigation is delayed, the District will notify the parties in writing of the delay and the reasons for the delay.

If the District's investigation is suspended or delayed, supportive measures will continue during the suspension or delay. If the law enforcement agency does not notify the District within 10 days that the District's investigation may resume, the District will notify the law enforcement agency that the District intends to promptly resume its investigation.

#### G. Grievance Process

## 1. Generally

The Grievance Process begins when a Formal Complaint is filed or when the Title IX Coordinator signs a Formal Complaint and concludes the date the parties receive the Appeals Officer's written decision or the date on which an appeal is no longer timely. The District will endeavor to complete the Grievance Process within 90-120 days, absent extenuating circumstances or delays as described below. The District will treat both the Complainant and the Respondent equitably throughout the Grievance Process.

Neither the Title IX Coordinator, the Decision-Maker, the Investigator, Appeals Officer, nor any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process will have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or for or against an individual Complainant or Respondent.

The Grievance Process requires an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

Throughout the Grievance Process, there is a presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct unless, in the determination of responsibility, the Decision-Maker finds the Respondent responsible for the alleged conduct.

At any point, the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, or Appeals Officer may temporarily delay the Grievance Process or permit a limited extension of time frames for good cause. Good cause may include absence of a party, party's advisor, or witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for accommodations (e.g., language assistance or accommodation of disabilities). If there is a delay or extension, the parties will receive written notice of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action.

Any disciplinary action resulting from the Grievance Process will be issued in accordance with District Policy, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, and individual employee contracts.

After the investigation portion of the Grievance Process has concluded, the Decision-Maker will endeavor to issue a determination of responsibility within 30 days, absent extenuating circumstances.

## 2. Notice of Allegations

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the District must provide written notice to the parties who are known at the time that includes:

- a. A copy of this Policy, which includes the District's Grievance Process, and any informal resolution process;
- b. The sexual harassment allegations, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time so that parties may prepare a response before the initial interview. Sufficient details include parties involved in the incident, if known; the alleged conduct constituting sexual harassment; and the date and time of the alleged incident;
- c. A statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct;
- d. A statement that a determination of responsibility is made at the Grievance Process's conclusion;
- e. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, although any attorney or advisor who is not a District employee will be at the party's own cost;
- f. A statement that the parties will be provided an opportunity to inspect and review any evidence before the investigation report is finalized; and

g. If the Complainant or Respondent is a student, and the District's Student Code of Conduct addresses false statements by students during the disciplinary process, a citation to that portion of the Code of Conduct. If the Code of Conduct does not address false statements by students, the notice is not required to include any reference.

If, during the course of an investigation, the Investigator decides to investigate allegations that are not included in this notice, the District will provide notice of the additional allegations to the Complainant and Respondent.

#### 3. Informal Resolution

During the Grievance Process, *after* a Formal Complaint has been filed but before a determination of responsibility has been made, the District may offer to facilitate an informal resolution process, or either party may request the informal resolution process. A Formal Complaint must be filed to initiate the informal resolution process.

Informal resolution does not require a full investigation and may encompass a broad range of conflict resolution strategies, including, but not limited to, arbitration, mediation, or restorative justice. The Title IX Coordinator will determine the informal resolution process that will be used, including the person who will facilitate that process.

Informal resolution is not available for a Formal Complaint alleging that an employee sexually harassed a student.

A party is not required to participate in an informal resolution process.

When offering informal resolution, the Title IX Coordinator must (1) provide both parties written notice of their rights in an informal resolution; and (2) obtain written, voluntary consent from both parties to enter into the informal resolution process. The written notice must contain the:

- a. Allegations;
- Informal resolution requirements, including the circumstances under which the informal resolution precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations;
- c. Right to withdraw from informal resolution and resume the Grievance Process at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution; and
- d. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared

## 4. Investigation

The District has the burden of proof and the burden to gather evidence sufficient to reach a determination of responsibility.

#### a. Investigation Process

The District will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege in writing.

The District may not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's medical records, including mental health records, which are made and maintained by a healthcare provider in connection with the party's treatment unless the District obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for the Grievance Process.

The Investigator must provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory or exculpatory evidence. The Investigator cannot restrict parties from discussing the allegations under investigation, nor can the Investigator restrict parties from gathering or presenting relevant evidence.

Parties may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, including an attorney, in any meeting or Grievance Process proceeding. If a party chooses an advisor who is not a District employee, the District is not responsible for any associated costs. The Superintendent or designee may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties (e.g., abusive, disruptive behavior or language will not be tolerated; advisor will not interrupt the investigator to ask questions of witnesses).

The Investigator must provide the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings (if any), investigative interviews, and meetings, to a party whose participation is invited or expected. Written notice must be provided a sufficient time in advance so that a party may prepare to participate.

As described in Section L of this Policy, retaliation against a person for making a complaint or participating in an investigation is prohibited.

The Investigator must ensure that the Complainant and Respondent have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation so that each party has the opportunity to meaningfully respond to the evidence before the investigation's conclusion. This evidence includes (1) evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility, and (2) inculpatory or exculpatory evidence obtained from any source.

Before the investigation's completion, the Investigator must send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 calendar days to submit a written response to the Investigator. The party's response must be considered by the Investigator before completing the final investigation report.

## b. Investigation Report

The Investigator must create an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and submit the investigation report to the Decision-Maker.

At least 10 calendar days before a determination of responsibility is issued, the Investigator must send the investigation report to each party for review and written response. Written responses to the investigation report must be submitted directly to the Decision-Maker.

The Investigator will endeavor to complete the investigation and finalize the report within 60 days.

## 5. Determination of Responsibility

The Decision-Maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Appeals Officer, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process.

Before the Decision-Maker reaches a determination of responsibility, and after the Investigator has sent the investigation report to the parties, the Decision-Maker must:

- a. Afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness; and
- b. Provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant unless offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the alleged misconduct, or the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.

If the Decision-Maker decides to exclude questions from either party as not relevant, the Decision-Maker must explain the decision to the party proposing the questions.

The Decision-Maker must issue a written determination of responsibility based on a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not) simultaneously to both parties. The written determination of responsibility must include:

a. Identification of the sexual harassment allegations;

- b. Description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination of responsibility, including any:
  - i. Notification to the parties;
  - ii. Party and witness interviews;
  - iii. Site visits;
  - iv. Methods used to collect evidence; and
  - v. Hearings held.
- c. Factual findings that support the determination;
- d. Conclusions about the application of any relevant code of conduct, policy, law, or rule to the facts;
- e. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including:
  - i. A determination of responsibility;
  - ii. Any disciplinary action taken against the Respondent (consistent with Policies 4309, 4407, 4506, 4606, or 5206, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, or individual employee contracts); and
  - iii. Whether remedies designed to restore and preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided to the Complainant.
- f. Appeal rights

#### 6. Appeals

Notice of the determination of responsibility or dismissal decision must include notice of the parties' appeal rights.

Both parties may appeal a determination of responsibility or the decision to dismiss a Formal Complaint in whole or in part for the following reasons only:

- a. A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome.
- b. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination of responsibility or dismissal decision was made that could affect the outcome.
- c. The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, or Decision-Maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against the Complainant or Respondent, generally or individually, that affected the outcome.

An appeal must be filed with the Title IX Coordinator within 5 calendar days of the date of the determination of responsibility or dismissal decision.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will assign an Appeals Officer who will provide both parties written notice of the appeal and an equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the determination or dismissal decision.

The Appeals Officer must provide a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result to both parties simultaneously. The Appeals Officer will endeavor to decide an appeal within 30 days.

The Appeals Officer cannot be the same person who acts as the Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, or person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process on the same matter. The Appeals Officer also cannot have a conflict of interest or bias against Complainants and Respondents generally or individually.

The determination of responsibility is final upon the date the parties receive the Appeals Officer's written decision or on the date on which an appeal is no longer timely.

#### H. Dismissal

## 1. Mandatory Dismissals

The Title IX Coordinator must dismiss a Formal Complaint if:

- a. The Formal Complaint's allegations, even if proven, would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in this Policy;
- b. The Formal Complaint's allegations did not occur in the District's programs or activities; or
- c. The Formal Complaint's allegations did not occur in the United States.

#### 2. Discretionary Dismissals

The Title IX Coordinator may dismiss a Formal Complaint if:

- a. The Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant wishes to withdraw the Formal Complaint in whole or in part;
- b. The Respondent's enrollment or employment ends; or
- c. Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination (e.g., several years have passed between alleged misconduct and Formal Complaint filing, Complainant refuses or ceases to cooperate with Grievance Process).

The Title IX Coordinator will promptly and simultaneously notify both parties when a Formal Complaint is dismissed. The notice must include the reasons for mandatory or discretionary dismissal and the right to appeal. Appeal rights are discussed above in Subsection F(6) of this Policy.

Dismissal of a Formal Complaint under this Policy does not excuse or preclude the District from investigating alleged violations of other policy, rule, or law, or from issuing appropriate discipline based on the results of the investigation.

## I. Consolidation of Complaints

The Title IX Coordinator or Investigator may consolidate Formal Complaints where the allegations arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a Grievance Process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this Policy to the singular "party," "Complainant," or "Respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

## J. Remedies and Disciplinary Sanctions

The District will take appropriate and effective measures to promptly remedy the effects of sexual harassment. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for the effective implementation of any remedies.

Appropriate remedies will be based on the circumstances and may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Providing an escort to ensure that the Complainant and Respondent can safely attend classes and school activities;
- 2. Offering the parties school-based counseling services, as necessary;
- 3. Providing the parties with academic support services, such as tutoring, as necessary;
- 4. Rearranging course or work schedules, to the extent practicable, to minimize contact between the Complainant and Respondent;
- 5. Moving the Complainant's or the Respondent's locker or work space;
- 6. Issuing a "no contact" directive between the Complainant and Respondent;
- 7. Providing counseling memoranda with directives or recommendations;

These remedies may also be available to any other student or person who is or was affected by the sexual harassment.

The District will impose disciplinary sanctions consistent with District Policy, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, or

individual employee contracts. Discipline may range from warning or reprimand to termination of employment, or student suspension or expulsion.

After a determination of responsibility, the Title IX Coordinator should consider whether broader remedies are required, which may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Assemblies reminding students and staff of their obligations under this Policy and applicable handbooks;
- 2. Additional staff training;
- 3. A climate survey; or
- 4. Letters to students, staff, and parents/guardians reminding persons of their obligations under this Policy and applicable handbooks.

If the Complainant or Respondent is a student with a disability, the District will convene an IEP or Section 504 Team meeting to determine if additional or different programs, services, accommodations, or supports are required to ensure that the Complainant or Respondent continues to receive a free appropriate public education. Any disciplinary action taken against a Respondent who is a student with a disability must be made in accordance with Policy 5206B and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

## K. False Statements

Any person who knowingly makes a materially false statement in bad faith in a Title IX investigation will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge or permanent expulsion. A dismissal or determination that the Respondent did not violate this Policy is not sufficient, on its own, to conclude that a person made a materially false statement in bad faith.

## L. Confidentiality

The District will keep confidential the identity of a person who reports sexual harassment or files a Formal Complaint, including parties and witnesses, except as permitted or required by law or to carry out any provision of this Policy, applicable regulations, or laws.

#### M. Retaliation

Retaliation (e.g., intimidation, threats, coercion) for the purpose of interfering with a person's rights under Title IX is prohibited. This prohibition applies to retaliation against any person who makes a report, files a Formal Complaint, or participates in, or refuses to participate in a Title IX proceeding. Complaints alleging retaliation may be pursued in accordance with District Policy.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited by this Section.

When processing a report or Formal Complaint of sexual harassment, pursuing discipline for other conduct arising out of the same facts or circumstances constitutes retaliation if done for the purpose of interfering with that person's rights under Title IX.

Any person who engages in retaliation will be disciplined in accordance with District Policy, as applicable, and any applicable codes of conduct, handbooks, collective bargaining agreements, and individual employee contracts.

#### N. Training

All District employees must be trained on how to identify and report sexual harassment.

Any person designated as a Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appeals Officer, or any person who facilitates an informal resolution process must be trained on the following:

- 1. The definition of sexual harassment;
- 2. The scope of the District's education programs or activities;
- 3. How to conduct an investigation and the District's grievance process, including, as applicable, hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes; and
- 4. How to serve impartially, including avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.

Investigators must receive training on how to prepare an investigation report as outlined in Subsection F(4)(b) above, including, but not limited to, issues of relevance.

Decision-Makers and Appeals Officers must receive training on issues of evidence and questioning, including, but not limited to, when questions about a Complainant's prior sexual history or disposition are not relevant.

Any materials used to train District employees who act as Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-Makers, Appeals Officers, or who facilitate an informal resolution process must not rely on sex stereotypes and must promote impartial investigations and adjudications of Formal Complaints. These training materials must be posted on the District's website.

## O. Record Keeping

The District will maintain records related to reports of alleged Title IX sexual harassment for a minimum of seven years. This retention requirement applies to investigation records, disciplinary sanctions, remedies, appeals, and records of any action taken, such as supportive measures.

The District will also retain any materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-Makers, Appeals Officers, and any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process.

## P. Office for Civil Rights

Any person who believes that he or she was the victim of sexual harassment may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at any time:

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 325 Cleveland, Ohio 44115 Phone: (216) 522-4970

E-mail: OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

An OCR complaint may be filed before, during, or after filing a Formal Complaint with the District. A person may forego filing a Formal Complaint with the District and instead file a complaint directly with OCR. The District recommends that a person who has been subjected to sexual harassment also file a Formal Complaint with the District to ensure that the District is able to take steps to prevent any further harassment and to discipline the alleged perpetrator, if necessary. OCR does not serve as an appellate body for District decisions under this Policy. An investigation by OCR will occur separately from any District investigation.

Legal authority: Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 USC §§1681 - 1688; 34 CFR Part 106

Date adopted: August 15, 2022

#### **APPENDIX B: ANTI-BULLYING**

## **5207 Anti-Bullying Policy**

All types of bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivating animus, are prohibited.

## A. Prohibited Conduct

- 1. Bullying, including cyberbullying, a student at school is prohibited. Bullying is any written, verbal, or physical act, or electronic communication that is intended to or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more students directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:
  - a. substantially interfering with a student's educational opportunities, benefits, or programs;
  - b. adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
  - c. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; or
  - d. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the District's orderly operations.
- 2. Retaliation or false accusations against the target of bullying, anyone reporting bullying, a witness, or another person with reliable information about an act of bullying, are prohibited.

## B. Reporting an Incident

If a student, staff member, or other person suspects there has been a bullying incident, the person must promptly report the incident to the building principal or designee, or to the Responsible School Official(s), as defined below.

A report may be made in person, by telephone, or in writing (including electronic transmissions). If a bullying incident is reported to a staff member who is not the building principal, designee, or a Responsible School Official, the staff member must promptly report the incident to the building principal, designee, or a Responsible School Official.

To encourage reporting of suspected bullying or related activities, each building principal, after consulting the Responsible School Official(s), will create, publicize, and implement a system for anonymous reports. The system must emphasize that the District's ability to investigate anonymous reports may be limited.

Complaints that the building principal has bullied a student must be reported to the Superintendent. Complaints that the Superintendent has bullied a student must be reported to the Board President.

## C. Investigation

All bullying complaints will be promptly investigated. The building principal or designee will conduct the investigation, unless the building principal or Superintendent is the subject of the investigation. If the building principal is the subject of the investigation, the Superintendent or designee will conduct the investigation. If the Superintendent is the subject of the investigation, the Board President will designate a neutral party to conduct the investigation.

A description of each reported incident, along with all investigation materials and conclusions reached, will be documented and retained.

## D. Notice to Parent/Guardian

If the investigator determines that a bullying incident has occurred, the District will promptly notify the victim's and perpetrator's parent/guardian in writing.

#### E. Annual Reports

At least annually, the building principal or designee, or the Responsible School Official, must report all verified bullying incidents and the resulting consequences, including any disciplinary action or referrals, to the Board.

The District will annually report incidents of bullying to MDE in the form and manner prescribed by MDE.

## F. Responsible School Official

The Superintendent is the "Responsible School Official" for this Policy and is responsible for ensuring that this Policy is properly implemented. This appointment does not reduce or eliminate the duties and responsibilities of the building principal or designee as described in this Policy.

## G. Posting/Publication of Policy

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that this Policy is available on the District's website and incorporated into student handbooks and other relevant school publications.

The Superintendent or designee will submit this Policy to the MDE within 30 days after its adoption.

#### H. Definitions



 "At school" means in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether it is held on school premises. "At school" also includes any conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if the device or provider is owned by or under the control of the District.

## 2. "Telecommunications access device" means any of the following:

- a. any instrument, device, card, plate, code, telephone number, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, counterfeit number, or financial transaction device defined in MCL 750.157m (e.g., an electronic funds transfer card, a credit card, a debit card, a point-of-sale card, or any other instrument or means of access to a credit, deposit, or proprietary account) that alone or with another device can acquire, transmit, intercept, provide, receive, use, or otherwise facilitate the use, acquisition, interception, provision, reception, and transmission of any telecommunications service; or
- b. any type of instrument, device, machine, equipment, technology, or software that facilitates telecommunications or which is capable of transmitting, acquiring, intercepting, decrypting, or receiving any telephonic, electronic, data, internet video, microwave, audio, or radio transmissions, telecommunications, or services, including the receipt, acquisition, interception, transmission, retransmission, or decryption of all telecommunications, transmissions, signals, or services provided by or through any cable television, fiber optic, telephone, satellite, microwave, data transmission, radio, internet based or wireless distribution network, system, or facility, or any part, accessory, or component, including any computer circuit, security module, smart card, software, computer chip, pager, cellular telephone, personal communications device, transponder, receiver, modem, electronic mechanism or other component, accessory, or part of any other device that is capable of facilitating the interception, transmission, retransmission, decryption, acquisition, or reception of any telecommunications, transmissions, signals, or services.

## 3. "Telecommunications service provider" means any of the following:

- a. a person or entity providing a telecommunications service, whether directly or indirectly as a reseller, including, but not limited to, a cellular, paging, or other wireless communications company or other person or entity which, for a fee, supplies the facility, cell site, mobile telephone switching office, or other equipment or telecommunications service;
- a person or entity owning or operating any fiber optic, cable television, satellite, internet based, telephone, wireless, microwave, data transmission, or radio distribution system, network, or facility; or

c. a person or entity providing any telecommunications service directly or indirectly by or through any distribution systems, networks, or facilities.

Legal authority: MCL 380.1310b; MCL 750.157m, 750.219a

Date adopted: August 2022

#### **APPENDIX C: PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS**

## 5308 Protection of Pupil Rights

## I. Surveys, Analyses, and Evaluations

Parents/guardians may inspect any survey created by a third party before that survey is administered or distributed to their student. All survey inspection requests must be made in writing to the building principal before the survey's scheduled administration date.

The District must obtain written consent from a student's parent/guardian before the student is required to participate in a survey, analysis, or evaluation funded, in whole or in part, by the U.S. Department of Education that would reveal sensitive information. For all other surveys, analyses, or evaluations that would reveal sensitive information about a student, the District will provide prior notice to the student's parent/guardian and an opportunity for the parent/guardian to opt their student out.

Employees may not request or disclose the identity of a student who completes a survey, evaluation, or analysis containing sensitive information.

#### "Sensitive information" includes:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sexual behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other persons with whom the student has close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileges or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian; or
- income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participating in a program or for receiving financial assistance under that program).

## J. Invasive Physical Examinations

Parents/guardians may refuse to allow their students to participate in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: (1) required as a condition of attendance, (2) administered and scheduled by the District, and (3) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student.

"Invasive physical examination" means:

- 1. any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts; or
- 2. any act during an examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body that does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.
- K. Collection of Student Personal Information for Marketing

No employee will administer or distribute to students a survey or other instrument for the purpose of collecting personal information for marketing or selling that information.

"Personal information" means individually identifiable information that includes:

- 1. student's and parents'/guardians' first and last name;
- 2. home or other physical address;
- 3. telephone number; or
- 4. Social Security Number.

This Policy does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for the purpose of providing educational services to students, such as:

- 5. post-secondary education recruitment;
- 6. military recruitment;
- 7. tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, or achievement information about students; or
- 8. student recognition programs.
- L. Inspection of Instructional Material

Parents/guardians may inspect instructional material consistent with Policy 5401.

M. Notification of Rights and Procedures

The Superintendent or designee will notify parents/guardians of:

- 1. this Policy and its availability upon request;
- 2. how to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided for in this Policy;
- 3. the approximate date(s) when a survey, evaluation, or analysis that would reveal sensitive information is scheduled or expected to be scheduled;

- 4. the approximate date(s) when the District or its agents intend to administer a nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance (except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings); and
- 5. how to inspect any survey or other material described in this Policy.

This notification will be given to parents/guardians at least annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change to this Policy.

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

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

Legal authority: 20 USC 1232h

Date adopted: August 15, 2022

#### **APPENDIX D: DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND OPT OUT**

Student's Nam	e:
School:	Grade:
consent prior t records, unles personally ide disclose appro	icational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that Kent ISD obtain your written to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education is certain conditions specified by FERPA are met. FERPA distinguishes between intifiable information and directory information, however, and the District may priately designated "directory information" without your written consent, unless and the District to the contrary.
	rant your student's directory information released for one or more of the purposes lease complete this form and return it to your student's school office by [Insert  .
•	emplete and return this form, the District will presume that you give permission to sudent's directory information for all the uses listed below.
=	request will be recorded in the student information system and kept on file in the for 1 school year.
generally	ry information" is the information contained in a student's education record that would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The Board designates the following ory information:
a.	student names, addresses, and telephone numbers;
	photographs, including photographs and videos depicting a student's participation in school-related activities and classes;
C.	date and place of birth;

- d. major field of study;
- e. grade level;
- f. enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time);
- g. dates of attendance (e.g., 2013-2017);
- h. degrees, honors, and awards received; and
- i. the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

The Board further designates District-assigned student email addresses as directory information for the limited purposes of: (1) facilitating the student's participation in and access to online learning platforms and applications; and (2) inclusion in internal school and District email address books.

# Please check the boxes next to the purpose(s) for which you *do not grant* the District permission to disclose your student's directory information, below.

Kent ISD may not disclose my student's directory information for the following purposes:

[Insert District's chosen list of uses of directory information. See examples of common uses o directory information below]
For School or District publications, including but not limited to, a yearbook, graduation program, theater playbill, athletic team or band roster, newsletter, and other school and district publications.
$\hfill\Box$ For School or District auto-dialer system to communicate School or District information.
<ul><li>□ To news media outside the School or District.</li><li>□ To the School PTO or District parent organization.</li></ul>
☐ To other groups and entities outside of the School or District, including community advocacy, and/or parent organizations.
☐ On official school-related websites or social media accounts.
$\hfill\square$ On school employees' personal classroom websites or social media accounts.
Information to U.S. Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education Recruiters
Federal law requires the District to release a secondary school student's name, address, and telephone number to U.S. Military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon thei request. If you do not want your student's information released for one or both of those purposes, please check one or both of the boxes below:
☐ Do not release my student's name, address, or telephone number to U.S. Military recruiters without my prior written consent.
☐ Do not release my student's name, address, or telephone number to institutions of highe education recruiters without my prior written consent.
Parent/Guardian/Eligible Student Signature Date

#### APPENDIX E: ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

## KENT ISD STUDENT NETWORK & INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE & SAFETY AGREEMENT

To access email and/or the Internet at school, students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parent permission and must sign and return the Student Network & Internet Acceptable Use & Safety Agreement to Kent Transition Center. Students eighteen (18) and over may sign their own forms.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The School Board's Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized or inappropriate use will result in cancellation of this privilege.

The School Board has implemented technology protection measures which block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The School Board also monitors online activity of staff members in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parent/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication and/or services on the Internet which the School Board has not authorized for educational purposes and/or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Students accessing the Internet through the school's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The School Board has the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the School Board's computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a web site hosted on the School Board's servers would vest in a staff member upon creation, the staff member agrees to license the use of the web site by the School Board without further compensation.

## ACCEPTABLE NETWORK/INTERNET USE GUIDELINES

- 1. Student will not obtain a Network/Internet login until a signed Computer Network/Internet Agreement form is on file at Kent Transition Center.
- 2. Any use of the system must conform to state and federal laws, network provider policies, licenses, and the Kent Intermediate School District policy.
- 3. Use of the system for commercial solicitation is prohibited.
- 4. Access to chat rooms and email on the internet is prohibited.

- 5. No use of the system shall disrupt the operation of the system by others. System components, including hardware and software, shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
- 6. Malicious use of the system to develop programs that harass other users or gain unauthorized access to any computer or computing system (hacking), and/or damage the components of a computer or computing system, is prohibited.
- 7. The user is responsible for the appropriateness and intent of materials he/she stores/downloads, transmits, or publishes on the system. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, pornographic materials, use of obscene or defamatory language, or other anti-social behaviors are expressly prohibited.
- 8. Use of the system to access, store, distribute, or print obscene or pornographic material is prohibited.
- 9. The unauthorized installation, use, storage, and/or distribution of copyrighted software/materials on district computers is prohibited.
- 10. System accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner/user of the account for the authorized purpose. Users may not share their log-in names or passwords with another person or leave KTC without logging out of the Network. The account owner is ultimately responsible for all activity under his or her account.