



## 1. PURPOSE, BELIEFS, AND PHILOSOPHY

### 1. Purpose

***The purpose of Utah Career Path High School's (the "School") Safe Schools Policy is to help all students develop positive relationships with other students and adults, take responsibility for their actions and learning, and develop the self-discipline necessary to create an environment that is characterized by physical and emotional safety in order to enhance learning for everyone.***

The School will foster a school and community-wide expectation of good citizenship for students and a sense of responsibility in the school community for rules and standards of behavior.

The School will promote and require:

- student responsibility for learning and behavior in all grades;
- student conduct that produces a proper learning environment and respect for the personal, civil, and property rights of all members of the School community;
- parents and guardians of all students to assume proper responsibility for their students' behavior and to cooperate with School authorities in encouraging student self-discipline and discouraging behavior that is disruptive to the School's educational program.

### 1.2 Beliefs and Expectations

The School's beliefs and expectations set a positive and inviting culture for dealing with student behavior issues.

#### **Beliefs:**

- Punishment alone will not change behavior
- Much aggressive behavior is a relationship problem, not a behavior problem
- Adults must model the behaviors they expect from the students
- We expect conflicts, but we expect conflicts to be resolved and relationships mended

#### **Expectations:**

- Students will show respect for other students
- Students will show respect for adults
- Students will show respect for the building
- Adults will show respect for students
- Students will develop self-discipline

### 1.3 Procedural Philosophy

The School recognizes that establishing a procedural philosophy consistent with the desired positive school environment is as important as following legal and due process

procedures. The School's policy sets forth appropriate legal and due process procedures and will be followed within the context of the procedural philosophy outlined below:

### **Procedures:**

#### **When students are involved in conflicts with other students, they will:**

- Work together to resolve the conflict
- Work to repair the relationship and build trust
- Be subject to additional consequences if they exhibit unsafe behaviors during the conflict

#### **When students are involved in a conflict with or feel they have been treated unfairly by a member of the staff or a volunteer, they will :**

- Report their feelings to their parent or to the administrator or counselor, who will work together to set up a conference with the student, the parent, an administrator or counselor, and the adult involved in order to resolve the conflict and mend the relationship

#### **When students flagrantly disregard the safety of others, show blatant disrespect to others, or consistently behave in a disrespectful or unsafe way:**

- The student will be subjected to consequences and positive behavior support to ensure that the student will make better choices in the future. Consequences might include:
  - o In-School Suspension
  - o Out of School Suspension
  - o Expulsion
  - o Restitution
  - o Repayment for damages
- The student will work to earn back the trust of the school community by actions such as:
  - o Genuine apology to injured or affected parties
  - o Demonstration of appropriate behaviors following the incident
  - o Repair or replace any damaged items

#### **Due process to protect the rights of students will include:**

- All students will be treated with dignity and respect as they go through correction procedures. The administration will see to it that their rights are protected through the process. If parents feel their student has not been treated fairly, they may request a hearing with the School's Board of Directors (the "**Board**") in accordance with the School's Grievance Policy.
- Parents will be notified when students are involved in situations that are deemed to be serious.
- Parents and students will be notified of the expectations, possible consequences, and the procedures involved in this policy at the beginning of each school year.

## **2. ENVIRONMENT**

### **2.1 Safe School Environment**

It is the School's policy to promote a safe and orderly school environment for all students and employees. Accordingly, the School holds all students, employees, and other adults to the highest standards of behavior on School grounds and during School-sponsored

activities. Criminal acts or disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated, and any individual who engages in such activity will be subject to disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, or both.

## **2.2 Discrimination Prohibited**

It is the School's policy to provide equal educational and employment opportunity for all individuals. Therefore, the School prohibits all discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination or unfair application of this policy should be submitted pursuant to the School's Grievance Policy.

## **3. DEFINITIONS**

### **1. Suspension**

For purposes of this policy, suspension is a temporary removal of a student from School and School-sponsored activities for a period of up to one (1) year. A student who is suspended may, at the Principal's discretion, have access to homework, tests, and other schoolwork through a home study program but will not be allowed to attend classes or participate in any School activities during the period of suspension.

### **3.2 Expulsion**

For purposes of this policy, expulsion means the formal process of dismissing a student from School. Recognizing that students who commit violent or disruptive acts may pose safety problems, the School will work with parents to provide alternative educational placement and programs for the student where appropriate and feasible. However, the Principal retains the authority to exclude the student from all programs or activities for the period of expulsion.

### **3.3 Change of Placement for Students with Disabilities under IDEA and Section 504**

For purpose of the removal of a student with a disability from the student's current educational placement, a "change of placement" occurs if (a) the removal is for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or (b) the student is subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because they total more than ten (10) school days in a school year or because of factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another. Any "change of placement" requires compliance with the procedures outlined in Section 10 of this policy.

### **3.4 Disruptive Student Behavior**

For purposes of this policy, "disruptive student behavior" means the behavior identified as grounds for suspension or expulsion described in Section 4.1, below.

### **3.5 Parent**

For purposes of this policy, "parent" means (i) a custodial parent of a school-age minor; (ii) a legally appointed guardian of a school-age minor; or (iii) any other person purporting to exercise any authority over the minor which could be exercised by a person described above.

### **3.6 Qualifying Minor**

For purposes of this policy, "qualifying minor" means a school-age minor who: (i) is at least nine years old; or (ii) turns nine years old at any time during the school year.

### **3.7 School Year**

For purposes of this policy, "school year" means the period of time designated as the school year by the Board in the calendar adopted each year.

## **4. GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, OR CHANGE OF PLACEMENT**

### **4.1 Suspension**

**4.1.1** A student may be suspended from School for any of the following reasons:

[a] frequent, flagrant, or willful disobedience, defiance of proper authority, or disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to: fighting; gang activity; noncompliance with School dress code; harassment, including sexual, racial, or religious harassment; the use of foul, profane, vulgar or abusive language; or other unreasonable and substantial disruption of a class, activity, or other function of the School;

[b] willful destruction or defacing of School property;

[c] behavior that poses an immediate and significant threat to the welfare, safety, or morals of other students or School personnel or to the operation of the School;

[d] possession, distribution, control, use, sale, or arranging for the sale of an alcoholic beverage as defined in Utah Code Ann. § 32A-1-105;

[e] possession, distribution, control, use, sale, or arranging for the sale of cigars, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, or tobacco, as defined by Utah Code Ann. § 76-10-101;

[f] possession, distribution, control, use, sale, or arranging for the sale of contraband, including but not limited to real, look-alike or pretend weapons, fireworks, matches, lighters, alcohol, tobacco, mace, pepper spray, laser pointers, pornography, illegal drugs and controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or any other material or item that has caused or will imminently cause substantial disruption to school operations;

[g] inappropriate use of electronic devices as outlined in the School's Code of Conduct for Online Learning and Safety and the Acceptable Use Policy.

[h] any criminal activity;

[i] any serious violation involving weapons, drugs, or the use of force that threatens harm or causes harm to the School or School property, to a person associated with the School, or property associated with any such person, regardless of where it occurs; or

[j] bullying or hazing as defined in Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11a-102 and/or the School's Bullying and Hazing Policy.

**4.1.2** A student shall be suspended or expelled from School for

[a] any serious violation affecting another student or a staff member, or any serious violation occurring in a School building, in or on School property, or in conjunction with any School-sponsored activity, including:

(i) the possession, control, or actual or threatened use of a real weapon, explosive, or noxious or flammable material;

(ii) the actual or threatened use of a lookalike weapon with intent to intimidate another person or to disrupt normal School activities; or

(iii) the sale, control, or distribution of a drug or controlled substance as defined in Utah Code Ann. § 58-37-2, an imitation controlled substance defined in Utah Code Ann. § 58-37b-2, or drug paraphernalia as defined in Utah Code Ann. § 58-37a-3; or

[b] the commission of an act involving the use of force or the threatened use of force which if committed by an adult would be a felony or class A misdemeanor.

## **4.2 Expulsion**

A student may be expelled from School for any violation listed under Section 4.1 of this policy if the violation is serious or persistent.

## **4.3 Weapons – Mandatory Expulsion for One Year – Utah Code Ann. § 53a-11-904(2)(b); 20 U.S.C. § 7151**

**4.3.1** Any student who commits an act for which mandatory suspension or expulsion is provided under Section 4.1.2, above, using a real or lookalike weapon, explosive, or noxious or flammable material shall be expelled from all School programs and activities for a period of not less than one (1) year, subject to the following:

[a] Within forty-five (45) days after the expulsion, the student shall appear before the Case Management Team (“**CMT**”), which shall be comprised of the Principal, a Board member, and a teacher selected by them, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian; and

[b] The CMT shall determine:

i. what conditions must be met by the student and the student's parent for the student to return to School;

ii. if the student should be placed on probation in a regular school setting consistent with Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-907, and what conditions must be met by the student in order to ensure the safety of students and faculty at the School; and

iii. if it would be in the best interest of both the School and the student to modify the expulsion term to less than a year giving highest priority to providing a safe school environment for all students.

[c] For purposes of this policy, the term "firearm", "explosive", and "noxious or flammable material" include but are not limited to: guns, starter pistols, cap guns, bombs, bullets and ammunition, gasoline or other flammable liquids, mace, pepper spray, matches, and lighters.

## **4.3.2 Students with Disabilities under IDEA and Section 504**

Whenever a student receiving special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is determined to have carried a weapon to School or a School-sponsored activity, the procedures outlined in Section 10 of this policy must be followed.

#### **4.4 Drugs and Controlled Substances – Mandatory Suspension or Expulsion – Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-904(2)(a)**

**4.4.1** A student shall be suspended or expelled from the School for any of the following reasons:

- a. use, control, possession, distribution, sale, or arranging for the sale of an illegal drug or controlled substance (which includes alcohol), an imitation controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia in a school building, in a school vehicle, on School property, or in conjunction with any School-sponsored activity.
- b. misuse or abuse, distribution, sale or arranging for the sale of prescription medication at School or a School-sponsored activity.
- c. misuse or abuse of over-the-counter remedies, or sharing, distribution, sale, or arranging for the sale of over-the-counter remedies. A student may possess and use over-the-counter remedies at School only in amounts not to exceed the recommended daily dose including, but not limited to: aspirin, ibuprofen, Tylenol (acetaminophen), cough drops, allergy medication, cough syrup and mouthwash.

#### **4.4.2 Students with Disabilities under Section 504**

Any student identified as being disabled under either Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act who currently is engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol shall be suspended or expelled to the same extent as non-disabled students for the possession, use, control, distribution, sale, or arrangement of the sale of illegal drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances on School property or in conjunction with any School-sponsored activity.

#### **4.4.3 Drug Testing**

- a. Any student who is reasonably suspected of violating section 4.4 may be subject to a drug test for cause, arranged and paid for by the School.
- b. Any student who has been suspended or expelled for a violation of section 4.4 may be required to provide a clean drug test and evidence of completion of drug assessment and/or drug counseling programs as a condition of readmission to School. Testing and counseling required as a condition of readmission rather than for the purpose of providing justification for the initial suspension or expulsion shall be arranged and paid for by the student's parent or guardian.
- c. Students who refuse to submit to required drug testing and counseling programs or to cooperate with School officials with respect to the sharing of appropriate information, may be expelled from the School.
- d. Any student who is suspended or expelled for violation of section 4.4 may be subject to random drug testing, at any time and for any reason, for a period of one year from

the date of offense. If the student tests positive, he/she may be expelled from all School programs or activities. Any student who refuses consent for random drug testing under these conditions shall be expelled from all School programs or activities.

#### **4.4.4 Students with Disabilities under IDEA**

Whenever a student receiving special education and related services under IDEA knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at School or a School-sponsored activity, the procedures outlined in Section 9 of this policy must be followed.

### **4.5 Gangs**

For purposes of this policy, "gang" means any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, which has a unique name or identifiable signs, symbols, or marks, and whose members individually or collectively engage in criminal or violent behavior to persons or property, or who create an unreasonable and substantial disruption or risk of disruption of a class, activity, program, or other function of a school.

#### **4.5.1 Gang Activity and Apparel Prohibited**

Students who engage in any form of gang activity on or about School property, or at any School-sponsored activity may be suspended or expelled under the terms of this policy. For the purposes of this policy, "gang activities" include, but are not limited to any of the following.

- a. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, apparel, emblems, badges, tattoos or manner of grooming, accessories, symbols, signs, or other thing which is evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang;
- b. Committing any act or omission or using any speech, either verbal or nonverbal, (flashing signs, gestures, hand shakes, etc.) that demonstrates membership in or a affiliation with a gang;
- c. Soliciting others for membership in a gang;
- d. Requesting any person to pay for "protection", claiming "turf", or otherwise intimidating, bullying, retaliating against, threatening, or harassing any person;
- e. Possessing a weapon, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or other contraband;
- f. Committing any illegal act;
- g. Encouraging or inciting another person to act with physical violence upon any other person or cause damage to property.

#### **4.5.2 Confiscation of Gang Items**

Subject to the search and seizure provisions of this policy, gang paraphernalia, apparel, or weapons may be confiscated by School officials at any time.

#### **4.5.3 Consultation with Law Enforcement Authorities**

School officials shall consult with local law enforcement authorities and gang detectives whenever they have questions regarding gang-related clothing, apparel, or other gang activity.

### **5. AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL**

#### **5.1 Authority to Suspend for Ten (10) School Days or Less for Regular Education Students**

The Principal has the authority to suspend a regular education student for up to ten (10) school days. In considering whether to suspend a student, the Principal shall consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to, the severity of the offense, the student's age, disability, academic status and disciplinary record, parental capabilities, and community resources.

#### **5.2 Authority to Suspend and Duration of Suspension for Students with Disabilities**

The Principal has the authority to suspend a student with disabilities (504 or IDEA) for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, and additional removals of not more than ten (10) total school days in that same school year for separate incidents of misconduct as long as those removals do not constitute a pattern resulting in a change of placement. The School need not provide services during periods of removal of ten (10) days cumulative or less if services are not provided to a student without disabilities who has been similarly suspended.

#### **5.3 Authority to Suspend for Longer than Ten (10) Days or Expel for Regular Education Students**

Subject to the requirements for due process set forth in Section 9, below, the Principal may suspend a regular education student for longer than ten (10) days or expel a regular education student.

Expulsions shall be reviewed by the CMT and the conclusions reported to the Board at least once each year if the parent/guardian of the expelled student has expressed a desire for the student to return to the School.

##### **5.3.1 Parental Responsibility**

If a student is suspended for a period longer than ten (10) days or expelled, the student's parent or legal guardian is responsible for undertaking an alternative education plan that will ensure that the student's education continues during the period of expulsion. The parent or guardian shall work with designated School officials to determine how the student's education will continue through private education paid for by the parents, an alternative program offered by the local school district, or other alternatives which will reasonably meet the educational needs of the student. Costs of educational services which are not provided by the School are the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

**5.3.2** The parent or guardian and designated School officials may enlist the cooperation of the Division of Child and Family Services, the juvenile court, law enforcement, or other



appropriate government agencies in determining how to meet the educational needs of the student.

**5.3.3** The School shall contact the parent or guardian of each student under age 16 who has been expelled from all School programs and services at least once a month to determine the student's progress if the parent/guardian of the expelled student has expressed a desire for the student to return to the School.

#### **5.4 Authority to Institute Change of Placement for Student with Disabilities**

Where the student is receiving special education services or accommodations on the basis of disability under IDEA, 504, or ADA, procedures outlined in the State of Utah Special Education Rules shall be followed, including prior written notice to parents or guardians regarding their procedural due process rights, before any long-term disciplinary action or change of placement takes place.

### **6. PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING DISRUPTIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR – Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-910**

#### **6.1 Efforts to Resolve Disruptive Student Behavior Problems**

**6.1.1 Information About Resources.** The School will provide to a parent of a student who engages in disruptive student behavior a list of resources available to assist the parent in resolving the student's disruptive behavior problem.

**6.1.2 Procedures for Resolving Problems.** The Principal or a teacher or counselor designated by the Principal will work with students who engage in disruptive student behavior according to the procedures identified in Section 7, below, in an attempt to help the student's behavior to improve and to prevent problems from escalating.

#### **6.2 Notice of Disruptive Student Behavior**

**6.2.1 Authorization.** The Principal is authorized to issue notices of disruptive student behavior to students who are qualifying minors.

**6.2.2 Criteria for Issuing Notice.** The Principal will issue a "notice of disruptive student behavior" to a qualifying minor who:

[a] engages in "disruptive student behavior" that does not result in suspension or expulsion three times during the school year; or

[b] engages in disruptive student behavior that results in suspension or expulsion once during the school year.

**6.2.3 Contents of Notice.** The notice of disruptive student behavior will:

[a] require the qualifying minor and a parent of the qualifying minor to whom the notice is issued to (i) meet with School authorities to discuss the qualifying minor's disruptive student behavior; and (ii) cooperate with the Principal and the Board in correcting the student's disruptive student behavior;

[b] contain a statement indicating:

(i) the number of additional times that, if the qualifying minor engages in disruptive student behavior that does not result in suspension or expulsion, will result in the qualifying minor receiving a habitual disruptive student behavior citation; and

(ii) that the qualifying minor will receive a habitual disruptive student behavior citation if the qualifying minor engages in disruptive student behavior that results in suspension or expulsion; and

[c] be mailed by certified mail to, or served in person on, a parent of the qualifying minor.

**6.2.4 Contesting Notice.** A qualifying minor, or a qualifying minor's parent, may contest a notice of disruptive student behavior by requesting in writing, within ten (10) business days after receipt of the notice, a meeting with the CMT at which the parent and the CMT will discuss the facts related to the student's behavior, the basis of the parent's concerns with or objections to the issuance of the notice, and efforts that have been made to address the behavior problems.

### **6.3 Habitual Disruptive Student Behavior Citation**

**6.3.1 Criteria for Issuing Notice.** The Principal may issue a "habitual disruptive student behavior citation" to a qualifying minor who:

[a] engages in disruptive student behavior that does not result in suspension or expulsion at least six times during the school year;

[b] (i) engages in disruptive student behavior that does not result in suspension or expulsion at least three times during the school year; and (ii) engages in disruptive student behavior that results in suspension or expulsion at least once during the school year; or

[c] engages in disruptive student behavior that results in suspension or expulsion at least twice during the school year.

**6.3.2 Referral to Juvenile Court.** A qualifying minor to whom a habitual disruptive student behavior citation is issued shall be referred to the juvenile court.

**6.3.3 Notice to Parents.** Within five (5) days after the day on which a habitual disruptive student behavior citation is issued, the Principal shall provide documentation to a parent of the qualifying minor who receives the citation of the efforts made by a School representative under Section 7, below.

## **7. ALTERNATIVES TO EXPULSION, OR CHANGE OR PLACEMENT FOR FREQUENT OR FLAGRANT DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR – Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-906**

A continuum of intervention strategies shall be available to help students whose behavior in School repeatedly falls short of reasonable expectations. Prior to suspending a student for more than ten (10) days or expelling a student for repeated acts of willful disobedience, defiance of authority, or disruptive behavior which are not so extreme or violent that immediate removal is warranted, good faith efforts shall be made to implement a remedial discipline plan to allow the student to remain in the School.

**7.1** Before referring the student for long term suspension, expulsion or change of placement under this section, School staff should demonstrate that they have attempted some or all of the following interventions:

- 7.1.1 Talking with the student;
- 7.1.2 Class schedule adjustment;
- 7.1.3 Phone contact with the parent or legal guardian;
- 7.1.4 Informal parent/student conferences;
- 7.1.5 Behavioral contracts;
- 7.1.6 After-school make-up time;
- 7.1.7 Appropriate evaluation;
- 7.1.8 Alternative programs;
- 7.1.9 Law enforcement assistance as appropriate.

## **8. DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS OF TEN (10) DAYS OR LESS**

The following procedure shall apply to all students facing suspension of ten (10) school days or less:

**8.1** The Principal shall notify the student's custodial parent or guardian of the following without delay: that the student has been suspended, the grounds for the suspension, the period of time for which the student is suspended, and the time and place for the parent or guardian to meet with the Principal to review the suspension.

**8.2** The Principal shall also notify the non-custodial parent, if requested in writing, of the suspension.

**8.2.1** Section 8.2 does not apply to the portion of School records which would disclose any information protected under a court order.

**8.2.2** The custodial parent is responsible to provide the School a certified copy of any court order under subsection 8.2.1.

**8.3** The Principal shall document the charges, evidence, and action taken.

**8.4** The student shall be requested to present his/her version of the incident in writing. Students with disabilities or young students who are unable to write their own statements shall be accommodated through the use of tape recorder, scribe, etc.

**8.5** If the student denies the charges, the student shall be provided with an explanation of the evidence and an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident to the Principal.

**8.6** In general, the notice and informal conference shall precede the student's removal from the School.

**8.7** If, in the judgment of the Principal, notice is not possible because the student poses a danger to a person or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, he/she may be removed immediately. However, in such cases, the necessary notice and

hearing shall follow as soon as possible.

## **9. DUE PROCESS FOR SUSPENSIONS OF MORE THAN TEN (10) DAYS AND EXPULSIONS**

**9.1** If the Principal believes that a student should be suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled, the Principal may make the initial decision and shall meet with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the charges against the student and the proposed discipline within five (5) school days after the suspension or expulsion began. If requested in writing, the Principal shall also notify the non-custodial parent of the suspension or expulsion as outlined in section 8.2 of this policy.

### **9.2 Notice to Student and Parent/Guardian**

During the meeting required in section 9.1, the Principal shall provide the student's parent or guardian with written notice that includes all of the following elements (or, if the student's parent or guardian refuses to meet, the Principal shall send the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the student's parent or legal guardian within ten (10) school days after the suspension or expulsion began):

**9.2.1** a description of the alleged violation(s) or reason(s) giving rise to disciplinary action;

**9.2.2** the penalty being imposed (duration of suspension or expulsion);

**9.2.3** a statement that a due process hearing may be requested by providing the Principal with written notice within ten (10) school days of the parent or guardian's receipt of the notice;

**9.2.4** a statement that, if a due process hearing is requested, the Board, even though less than a quorum, will conduct the hearing;

**9.2.5** a statement that the suspension or expulsion is taking effect immediately and will continue for the stated period unless a due process hearing is requested in a timely manner and the Board determines otherwise;

**9.2.6** the mailing date of the notice;

**9.2.7** a statement that, if a hearing is not requested within ten (10) school days after receipt of the notice, the Principal's decision to suspend or expel the student will be final, and the parent's right to oppose the decision will be waived.

### **9.3 Hearing Procedures**

If a Due Process Hearing is requested in response to the notice sent pursuant to section 9.2 of this policy, the following procedures shall apply:

**9.3.1** After receipt of the request, the School shall schedule a hearing as soon as possible but not later than ten (10) school days following receipt of the request unless the student's parent or guardian agrees otherwise.

**9.3.2** A written Hearing Notice shall be sent to the parent or guardian informing the parent or guardian that the Due Process Hearing will be conducted before the Board and of the following information:

- a. the date, place, and time of the hearing;
- b. the circumstances, evidence, and issues to be discussed at the hearing;
- c. the right of all parties to cross-examine witnesses subject to the Board chairman's determination that this right should be limited to protect student witnesses from retaliation, ostracism or reprisal; and
- d. the right of all parties to examine all relevant records.

**9.3.3** The Board shall conduct the Due Process Hearing on the record and shall:

- a. ensure that a written record of the Hearing is made, a copy of which shall be provided to all parties upon request, with the cost borne by the School;
- b. consider all relevant evidence presented at the Hearing;
- c. allow the right to cross-examination of witnesses, unless the Board chairman determines that this right should be limited to protect student witnesses from ostracism, retaliation or reprisal;
- d. allow all parties a fair opportunity to present relevant evidence; and
- e. issue a written decision including findings of fact and conclusions.

**9.3.4 Hearing Rules**

Formal Rules of Evidence do not apply to the Due Process Hearing, and no discovery is permitted. However, the following rules will apply:

- a. parties may have access to information contained in the School's files to the extent permitted by law;
- b. hearings shall be closed to the press and the public;
- c. documents, testimony, or other evidence submitted by the parties after the hearing will not be considered by the Board; and
- d. the Board may excuse witnesses or parties or suspend or terminate a hearing if persons involved in the hearing are abusive, disorderly, disruptive, or if they refuse to abide by the rules and orders of the Board.

**10. DUE PROCESS FOR CHANGE OF PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Where the student is receiving special education services or accommodations on the basis of disability under IDEA, 504 or ADA, procedures outlined in the Utah State Board of Education Special Education Rules shall be followed, including prior written notice to parents or guardians regarding their procedural due process rights, before any long-term disciplinary action or change of placement takes place.

## **10.1 Required Services**

### **10.1.1 504 and ADA Students**

When a determination is made that the conduct of a 504 or ADA student (but not a student who is disabled under IDEA) is not a manifestation of the student's disability pursuant to Section 10.5, the student shall be subject to the same disciplinary consequences as regular education students, up to and including expulsion from School without educational services. (See OSEP memorandum of April 26, 1995.)

### **10.1.2 IDEA**

A school need not provide services during periods of removal to a student with a disability under IDEA who has been removed from his or her current placement for ten (10) school days or less in that school year if services are not provided to a student without disabilities who has been similarly removed.

If a student with a disability under IDEA has been removed from his or her current placement for more than ten (10) school days in the same school year, for the remainder of the removals, the School shall provide services to the extent necessary to enable the student to progress in the general curriculum and appropriately advance toward achieving the goals set out in the student's IEP. School personnel, in consultation with the student's special education teacher, determine the extent to which services are necessary to enable the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and advance toward achieving the goals set out in the student's IEP.

## **10.2 Change of Placement for Weapons or Drugs**

A student's IEP team may order a change in placement of a student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for the same amount of time that a student without a disability would be subject to discipline, but for not more than forty-five (45) days, if:

**10.2.1** The student carries a weapon to School or to a School-sponsored activity; or

**10.2.2** The student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at School or a School-sponsored activity.

## **10.3 Change of Placement Due to Student's Serious Misconduct**

School officials may request an expedited due process hearing in order to change the placement of a student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, recommended by the student's IEP team, for not more than forty-five (45) days. A hearing officer may order such a change, if he/she:

**10.3.1** Determines that School officials have demonstrated by substantial evidence that maintaining the current placement of a student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others;

**10.3.2** Considers the appropriateness of the student's current placement;

**10.3.3** Considers whether School officials have made reasonable efforts to minimize the risk of harm in the student's current placement, including the use of supplementary aids

and services; and

**10.3.4** Determines that the interim alternative educational setting being recommended by School officials (1) has been selected so as to enable the student to continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to continue to receive those services and modifications, including those described in the student's current IEP, that will enable the student to meet the goals set out in that IEP: and (2) includes services and modifications designed to address the behavior at issue so that it does not recur.

#### **10.4 Parental Notice**

As soon as a decision is made by School officials to remove a student with a disability from his/her current placement for more than ten (10) school days, the student's parents must be notified of that decision and of all procedural safeguards outlined by law and School policy.

#### **10.5 IEP Meetings for Manifestation Determination**

**10.5.1** Immediately, if possible, but in no case later than ten (10) school days after the date on which the decision is made to remove the student from the current placement, a review must be conducted of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action.

**10.5.2** The manifestation review must be conducted by the student's IEP team and other qualified School personnel.

**10.5.3** In conducting the manifestation review, the IEP team may determine that the behavior of the student was not a manifestation of student's disability only if the IEP team:

[a] First considers, in terms of behavior subject to disciplinary action, all relevant information, including:

(i) Evaluation and diagnostic results, including the results or other relevant information supplied by the parents of the student;

ii. Observations of the student; and

iii. The student's IEP and placement; and

[b] Then determines whether:

i. The conduct in question was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or

ii. The conduct in question was the direct result of the School's failure to implement the student's IEP.

**10.5.4** If the IEP team determines that either of the standards above was met, the behavior must be considered a manifestation of the student's disability.

#### **10.5.5 Determination that Behavior was not Manifestation of Disability**

If the result of the manifestation review is a determination that the behavior of a student

with a disability was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to students without disabilities may be applied to the student in the same manner in which they would be applied to students without disabilities, except that a free appropriate public education must still be made available to the student if the student is suspended or expelled from School.

#### **10.5.6 Determination that Behavior was Manifestation of Disability**

If the result of the manifestation review is a determination that the behavior of a student with a disability was a manifestation of the student's disability, the student must remain in or be returned to the prior placement.

### **10.6 IEP Meetings for Functional Behavioral Assessments**

#### **10.6.1 Post-Discipline Functional Behavioral Assessments**

If School officials have not conducted a functional behavioral assessment and implemented a behavioral intervention plan for the student before the behavior that results in a removal from School for longer than ten (10) school days or a change of placement to an interim alternative educational setting, School officials shall convene an IEP meeting to develop an assessment plan and appropriate behavioral interventions to address that behavior.

#### **10.6.2 Pre-Discipline Behavioral Intervention Plans**

If the student already has a behavioral intervention plan, the IEP team shall review the plan and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior.

### **10.7 Placement During Appeals and Stay Put**

**10.7.1** If a parent requests a due process hearing to challenge the interim alternative educational setting or the manifestation determination, the student must remain subject to the disciplinary action pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day period, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and School officials agree otherwise.

**10.7.2** If a student is placed in an interim alternative educational setting and School personnel propose to change the student's placement after expiration of the interim alternative placement, during the pendency of any proceeding to challenge the proposed change in placement the student must remain in the current placement (the student's placement prior to the interim alternative education setting), unless School officials succeed in getting an order through an expedited hearing as described in Section 10.3.

## **11. SITE-BASED SAFE SCHOOLS MEASURES**

### **11.1 Physical Restraint**

A School employee may, when acting within the scope of employment, use and apply physical restraint or force as may be reasonable and necessary under the following circumstances:

**11.1.1** To protect any person from physical injury;

**11.1.2** To take possession of a weapon, other dangerous objects or controlled substances



in the possession of a student;

**11.1.3** To restrain or remove a student from a situation when that student is violent or disruptive, or is a danger to him/herself or others, or

**11.1.4** To protect property from serious damage.

**11.1.5** When an employee exercises physical restraint on a student, the employee shall write a report outlining the incident and the reasons for the use of physical restraint within three (3) days following the incident. This report shall be filed with the Principal, who then is responsible for sending a copy of the report to the Board. The original of the report shall be kept in the employee's file.

## **11.2 Corporal Punishment**

School employees may not inflict or cause the infliction of corporal punishment upon a student.

## **12. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation in interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities is not a constitutionally protected civil right. Therefore, students who are suspended or expelled may lose the privilege of participation during the period of suspension/expulsion and may not be allowed to invoke due process procedures to challenge the denial of extracurricular participation.

## **13. RE-ADMISSION OF EXPELLED STUDENTS AND DENIAL OF ADMISSION BASED ON PRIOR EXPULSION – Utah Code Ann. §53A-11-904(3)**

A student who is expelled from the School can only be re-admitted to the School through the School's standard lottery procedures.

A student may be denied admission to the School if he or she was expelled from the School or any other school during the preceding 12 months.

## **14. INVESTIGATIONS**

Whenever the Principal has reason to believe that School rules or policies have been broken, he or she shall proceed with an investigation. However, if the Principal believes that laws have been broken or child abuse has occurred, he/she shall request appropriate authorities to conduct the investigation.

### **14.1 General Investigation Guidelines for Principal**

The Principal has the authority and duty to conduct investigations and to question students pertaining to infractions of school rules, whether or not the alleged conduct is a violation of criminal law. The Principal shall conduct investigations according to the following general guidelines:

**14.1.1** The Principal shall conduct investigations in a way that does not unduly interfere with School activities.

**14.1.2** The Principal shall separate witnesses and offenders in an attempt to keep

witnesses from collaborating their statements and have all parties provide separate statements concerning the incident under investigation; written statements are preferable, if possible.

**14.1.3** The Principal shall advise students suspected of wrongdoing orally or in writing of the nature of the alleged offense.

**14.1.4** Students must be provided an opportunity to give their version of the incident under investigation; however, refusals to respond or provide information should be respected.

**14.1.5** When questioning students as part of an investigation, School staff should have another adult present whenever possible.

**14.1.6** The Principal shall accommodate students with disabilities and young children unable to write their own statements through use of tape recorders, scribes, etc.

**14.1.7** All students involved in the investigation shall be instructed that retaliation is prohibited. Any act of reprisal against any person who has testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

**14.1.8** When the investigation is completed and if it is determined that disciplinary action may be in order, due process requirements must be met. Specifically, the student must be given proper notice of the charges against him/her and the disciplinary action being recommended, as well as a fair opportunity to present his or her version of the facts.

## **14.2 Coordination with Law Enforcement**

The Principal has the responsibility and the authority to determine when the help of law enforcement officers is necessary, as outlined in this policy and Utah State law.

**14.2.1** The School administration may invite law enforcement officials to the School to:

- a. conduct an investigation of alleged criminal conduct on the School premises or during a School-sponsored activity;
- b. maintain a safe and orderly educational environment; or
- c. maintain or restore order when the presence of such officers is necessary to prevent injury to persons or property.

### **14.2.2 Investigation of Criminal Conduct**

During an investigation for violation of School rules, it may become evident that the incident under investigation may also be a violation of criminal law. If the School official has reason to suspect that a criminal act has been committed and, in the opinion of the Principal, law enforcement should be notified, the following procedure should be followed:

- a. The Principal shall request that law enforcement officers conduct an investigation during school hours and question students who are potential witnesses to the alleged criminal behavior.
- b. The School official shall inform the student's parent or legal guardian as soon as

possible that the student may have committed a criminal act and that law enforcement authorities will be involved in the investigation.

- c. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, questioning of the student by School officials shall not begin or continue until the law enforcement officers arrive.
- d. Reasonable attempts shall be made to contact the student's parents or legal guardian who, unless an emergency exists, shall be given the opportunity to meet with the student and to be present with the student during questioning by law enforcement authorities.
- e. The Principal shall document the contact or attempted contact with the student's parents or legal guardian. If the Principal cannot contact the student's parent or guardian, or if the parent or guardian is unable to be present with the student for questioning, the Principal shall be present and document generally what occurs during the interview.
- f. The student shall not be questioned by law enforcement unless or until he/she has received Miranda warnings from the officer.
- g. If the parent or student refuses to consent to questioning by law enforcement authorities, the law enforcement authorities shall determine the course of action to be pursued.

#### **14.2.3 Investigation Initiated by Law Enforcement Authorities**

School officials shall cooperate with law enforcement authorities who are carrying out official duties such as investigating crimes, serving subpoenas, etc.

- a. When law enforcement officers can show a need to do so, they shall be permitted to conduct an investigation on School grounds during School hours.
- b. Such a need will ordinarily be shown if delay in police investigation might result in danger to a person, flight from jurisdiction by a person reasonably suspected of a crime, or destruction of evidence. In such cases:
  - i. The officers shall be required to get prior approval of the Principal or other designated person before beginning an investigation on School premises.
  - ii. The Principal shall document the circumstances warranting the investigation as soon as practical.
  - iii. Alleged criminal behavior related to the School environment brought to the Principal's attention by law enforcement officers shall be dealt with under the provisions of Section 14.1.
  - iv. Law enforcement officials (investigating School-related or student-related crimes) may not have access to student education records, aside from directory information, unless they have a subpoena or court order or permission from parent or guardian.
  - v. Directory information is limited to a student's name, home address, date of birth, phone number, class schedules and parents' address and phone numbers for use in case

of emergency.

#### **14.2.4 Release of Student to Law Enforcement Official**

- a. Students may not be released to law enforcement authorities voluntarily by School officials unless the student has been placed under arrest or unless the parent or legal guardian and the student agree to the release.
- b. When students are removed from School for any reason by law enforcement authorities, every reasonable effort shall be made to contact the student's parent or legal guardian immediately except in cases of child abuse and neglect. Such effort shall be documented.
- c. The Principal shall immediately notify the Board of the removal of a student from School by law enforcement authorities.
- d. Where it is necessary to take a student into custody on School premises, the law enforcement officer shall contact the Principal and relate the circumstances necessitating such action.
- e. Whenever the need arises to make arrests or take students into custody on School premises, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to consult and confer with the law enforcement officers as to how an arrest is to be made.
- f. When possible, the Principal shall have the student summoned to the Principal's office before the student is taken into custody.
- g. When a student has been taken into custody or arrested on School premises without prior notification to the Principal, the School staff present shall encourage the law enforcement officers to tell the Principal of the circumstances as quickly as possible. If the officers decline to tell the Principal, the School staff members present shall immediately notify the Principal.

#### **14.2.5 Quelling Disturbances of School Environment**

Law enforcement officers may be requested to assist in controlling disturbances of the School environment that a Principal has found to be unmanageable by School personnel and that has the potential of causing harm to students and other persons or to property. Such circumstances include situations where a parent or member of the public exhibits undesirable or illegal conduct on or near School grounds or at a School-sponsored activity and who refuse to abide by a Principal's directive to leave the premises.

### **15. INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Utah law requires that whenever any person, including any School employee, has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to incest, molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect, or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in such, he/she shall immediately notify the nearest peace officer, law enforcement agency, or office of the Division of Child and Family Services.

**15.1** The School shall distribute annually to all School employees copies of the School's procedures for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

**15.2** If there is reason to believe that a child may have been subjected to abuse or neglect, an oral report shall be made immediately by the School employee reporting the abuse/neglect with a written report to follow within twenty-four (24) hours.

**15.2.1** When making the oral report, always have the person you notify identify himself/herself. The notified person's name shall be entered on the written report.

**15.2.2** A copy of the written report shall be put in a child abuse-neglect file to be maintained by the Principal, for all reported cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

**15.2.3** The child abuse-neglect reporting form shall not be placed in the student's personal file.

**15.3** It is not the responsibility of the Principal or other School employees to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection.

**15.3.1** Investigation by staff prior to submitting a report shall not go beyond that necessary to support a reasonable belief that a reportable problem exists.

**15.3.2** To determine whether or not there is reason to believe that abuse or neglect has occurred, professional School employees may (but are not required to) gather information only to the extent necessary to determine whether a reportable circumstance exists.

**15.3.3** Interviews with the child or suspected abuser shall not be conducted by the Principal or School employees.

**15.3.4** Notes of voluntary or spontaneous statements by the child shall be made and given to the investigating agency.

**15.3.5** The Principal, School employees, Division of Child and Family Services and law enforcement personnel are required to preserve the anonymity of those making the initial report and any others involved in the subsequent investigation.

**15.3.6** Investigations are the responsibility of the Division of Child and Family Services.

- a. The Principal or other School employees shall not contact the parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. for the purpose of determining the cause of the injury and/or apparent neglect.
- b. School officials shall cooperate with social service and law enforcement agency employees authorized to investigate reports of alleged child abuse and neglect, assisting as asked as members of interdisciplinary child protection teams in providing protective diagnostic, assessment, treatment, and coordination services.

**15.3.7** Persons making reports or participating in good faith in an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect are immune, in accordance with state law, from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might arise from those actions.

## **16. SEARCHES OF PERSON OR PROPERTY**

Given the School's custodial and tutelary responsibility for children, and the Board's intent

to preserve a safe environment for all students and staff, the Board recognizes that School officials must have the authority to conduct reasonable searches of students and student property. School officials engaging in searches of students and property shall abide by the following guidelines:

## **16.1 General Guidelines for Searches of Person or Property**

### **16.1.1 Student Computers**

Computers issued to students are school property and as such are subject to the provisions in the Acceptable Use Policy; wherein all activity using the School's electronic resources is monitored and students have no expectation of privacy in connection with the use of School electronic resources

### **16.1.2 Searches of Students and Student Property**

Searches of a student's person, personal property (coats, hats, backpacks, bookbags, purses, wallets, notebooks, gym bags, etc.) may be conducted whenever the student's conduct creates a reasonable suspicion that a particular School rule or law has been violated and that the search is reasonably related to the suspicion and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and nature of the infraction. Circumstances warranting a search include those in which School officials have a reasonable suspicion that the student or student property is concealing items including but not limited to weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, unsafe contraband, pornography, pagers or lost/stolen/misplaced items.

## **16.2 Searches of Personal Belongings**

**16.2.1** Personal belongings may be searched by School officials whenever School officials have a reasonable suspicion to believe a student is concealing evidence of a policy violation or criminal activity and the items being searched are capable of concealing such evidence. The student may be asked to open personal belongings and to turn over personal property for search by a School official. All searches of student property by School officials shall be witnessed by an objective third party (such as another teacher, or police officer) to observe that the search is not excessively intrusive.

**16.2.2** All contraband discovered in a search by School officials shall be immediately confiscated and turned over to law enforcement officers if School officials have reason to believe the contraband is related to the commission of a criminal act.

## **16.3 Searches of Person**

**16.3.1** School officials shall make sure the search meets the following guidelines:

- a. The search shall be conducted in a private area of the School by a School official of the same sex as the student being searched;
- b. The search shall be observed by an objective third party of the same sex as the student being searched (i.e., Principal, teacher, police officer);
- c. School officials may ask the student to remove his/her hat, coat, shoes and socks, turn pockets inside out, and roll up sleeves to see if the student is hiding contraband;

- d. Under no circumstances may School officials require students to remove any other items of clothing or touch students in any way during the search.
- e. If this limited search does not turn up suspected contraband and School officials have reasonable suspicion that the student is concealing contraband in his/her inner clothing (i.e., hiding drugs, weapons or other contraband underneath shirts, pants or underwear), law enforcement officers shall be summoned immediately to conduct further search and investigation.
- f. In general, all questioning and searching of students conducted by law enforcement officers shall proceed according to the investigation guidelines in Section 14 of this policy.

#### **16.4 Documentation of Searches**

School officials shall thoroughly document the details of any search conducted of a student's property or person. Documentation shall be made at the time of the search, or as soon as possible thereafter, and shall include the following:

**16.4.1** The time, place and date of the search;

**16.4.2** The reasonable suspicion giving rise to the search (what did School officials suspect to find during the search);

**16.4.3** The name and title of individuals conducting and observing the search;

**16.4.4** A statement about evidence that was found or not found as a result of the search;

**16.4.5** A statement about who took possession of contraband (i.e., police, school, etc.);

**16.4.6** Information regarding the attempts of School officials to notify parents about the search.

### **17. RECORDS—INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION – 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(h)(i)-(2); Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-1001-1004**

#### **17.1 Board and Principal Notification by Juvenile Court and Law Enforcement Agencies.**

**17.1.1** Within three (3) days of being notified by the juvenile court that a juvenile has been adjudicated or of being notified by a law enforcement agency that a juvenile has been taken into custody or detention for a violent felony, defined in Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-203.5, or an offense in violation of Title 76, Chapter 10, Part 5 Weapons, the President of the Board shall notify the Principal.

**17.1.2** Upon receipt of the information, the Principal shall make a notation in a secure file other than the student's permanent file; and, if the student is still enrolled in the School, the Principal shall notify staff members who should know of the adjudication, arrest or detention.

**17.1.3** Staff members receiving information about a juvenile's adjudication, arrest or detention may only disclose the information to other persons having both a right and a

current need to know.

## **17.2 Student Discipline Records/Education Records**

School officials may include appropriate information in the education record of any student concerning disciplinary action taken against the student for conduct that posed a significant risk to the safety or well-being of that student, other students, or other members of the school community.

### **17.2.1 Disclosure of Discipline Records to Other Educators**

School officials may disclose student discipline information described above to teachers and other School officials, including teachers and school officials in other schools, who have legitimate educational interests in the behavior of the student.

### **17.2.2 Disclosure of Discipline Records to Other Agencies**

School officials shall not release personally identifiable student discipline records to other government agencies, including law enforcement agencies, unless the agency produces a subpoena or court order (need for standing court order from juvenile court), or unless the student's parent or guardian has authorized disclosure.

## **18. TRAINING**

**18.1** All new employees shall receive information about this policy at new employee orientation. All other employees shall be provided information on a regular basis regarding this policy and the School's commitment to a safe and orderly school environment.

**18.2** Employees who have specific responsibilities for investigating and resolving safe schools violations shall receive yearly training on this policy and related legal developments.

**18.3** The Principal shall be responsible for informing students, parents, and staff of the terms of this policy including the procedures outlined for investigation and resolution of violations.

## **19. POLICY DISSEMINATION AND REVIEW**

**19.1** The School shall compile an annual report of all out-of-school suspensions and expulsions and submit it to the Board. For each suspension or expulsion, the report shall indicate the student's race, gender, disability status, and age/grade, as well as the reason for the discipline, the length of the discipline, and a statement as to whether the student was referred to the Board.

**19.2** A summary of this policy shall be posted in the School, and the policy will be posted on the School's website. The policy or a summary of the policy shall also be published in student registration materials, student and employee handbooks, and other appropriate school publications as directed by the Board.

**19.3** This policy shall be reviewed as necessary with appropriate revisions recommended to the Board.

Signature:



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Robyn Bagley, Board President

Date