THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL
3840 Rosin Court #200, Sacramento, California 95834
Phone (916) 568-9959 * Fax (916) 664-3995

Regular Board Meeting
The Cottonwood School
June 8, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
3840 Rosin Court #200
Sacramento, CA 95834

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Appointment of New Board Members and Officer Appointment
4. Acceptance of Resignations
5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of Instructional Funds Policy
7. Approval of Access to the Charter School Documents Policy
8. Approval of Anti-Harassment Policy
9. Approval of FERPA Directory Policy and Opt-out Notice Policy
10. Approval of Homeless Education Policy
11. Approval of Information Technology Policy and Procedures
12. Approval of Identification of Individuals for 504 Policy
13. Approval of Identification of Individuals for Special Education Policy
14. Approval of Individual Education Program Policy
15. Approval of Individual Education Program Administrative Regulation
16. Approval of Parent-Student Technology Use Policy
17. Approval of Procedural Safeguards and Complaint Policy
18. Approval of Procedural Safeguards and Complaint Administrative Regulation
19. Approval of Staff Information Technology Use Policy
20. Approval of Suicide Prevention Policy
21. Approval of Suspension and Expulsion Policy
22. Approval of Teacher Certification Policy
23. Approval of The Charter School Documents Policy
24. Approval of Transportation for Students with Disabilities Policy

25. Approval of Universal Complaint Policy
26. Approval of Universal Complaint Administrative Regulation
27. Approval of Whistleblower Policy
28. Approval of Education Records and Student Information
29. Approval of Immigration Enforcement Policy
30. Approval of Immigration Enforcement Policy Related to the Deportation of Family Members
31. Approval of Anti-Nepotism Policy
32. Approval of Policy Re Inconsistent, Incompatible or Conflicting Employment, Activity or Enterprise by School Personnel
33. Approval of Policy Confirming No Funds or Thing of Value to Students, Parents or Guardians
34. Approval of School Transportation Safety Plan
35. Approval of Child Safety Alert System Policy
36. Approval of Comprehensive School Safety Plan
37. Approval of Conflict of Interest Code
38. Approval of 2019 – 2020 Budgets
39. Approval of Board Resolution to Approve the Principals Salary and Supplemental Benefits
40. Approval of District Office Service Agreements
41. Approval of Board Resolution to Approve Employee Higher Education Scholarships
42. Closed Session - § 54957
43. Report out of Closed Session
44. Adjournment

Public comment rules: Members of the public may address the Board on agenda or non-agenda items. Please fill out a yellow card available at the entrance. Speakers may be called in the order that requests are received, or grouped by subject area. We ask that comments are limited to 2 minutes each, with no more than 15 minutes per single topic so that as many people as possible may be heard. By law, the Board is allowed to take action only on items on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, refer a matter to district staff or calendar the issue for future discussion.

Note: Cottonwood Charter School Governing Board encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public meeting, please contact the Governing Board Office at 818-207-3837 at least 48 hours before the scheduled board meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. (Government Code § 54954.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. § 12132).

Special Board Meeting – The Cottonwood School
April 18, 2019 – 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
3840 Rosin Court #200
Sacramento, CA 95834

Attendance: Jenny Thompson, Christina Mulford, Teresa Lyday Selby
Absent: None
Also Present: Dr. Nick Nichols, Kimmi Buzzard, Bryanna Brossman, Dr. Ed Robillard

Call to Order:

Jenny Thompson motioned to call the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Public Comments:

None

Approval of Board Resolutions to Approve and Adopt:

Articles of Incorporation
Bylaws
Election of Officers
Fiscal Year End
Depository
Authority to Transact Business
Tax-Exempt Status and Charitable Solicitation
Conflict of Interest Policy

Jenny Thompson motioned to approve and adopt the Board Resolutions. Christina Mulford seconded.
-Unanimous

Approval of Certificate of Consent to Self-Insure as a Public Agency:

Jenny Thompson motioned to approve the Certificate of Consent to Self-Insure as a Public Agency. Christina Mulford seconded.
-Unanimous

Approval of SELPA Assurances

Jenny Thompson motioned to approve the SELPA Assurances. Christina Mulford seconded.
-Unanimous

Approval of SELPA Participation Agreement

Jenny Thompson motioned to approve the SELPA Participation Agreement. Christina Mulford seconded.
-Unanimous

Adjournment:

Jenny Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm. Christina Mulford seconded. -Unanimous

Prepared By:

Bryanna Brossman

Noted By:

Christina Mulford
Board Secretary

Curriculum and Enrichment Funds Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to giving students the same opportunities that are offered at non-charter district schools. District schools often provide opportunities for music, art, sports, field trips, and other ways to extend the learning experience.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this The Cottonwood School Curriculum and Enrichment Funds Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish Assurances & Procedural Safeguards
2. Determine Specific Funding Amount
3. Clarify What Funds Can Be Used For
4. Clarify When Funds Can Be Used
5. Identify Non-Consumable Category Groups
6. Authorize Establishment of Lending Libraries

1. **Establish Assurances & Procedural Safeguards:** The school will use a system with multiple checks and internal controls to ensure all instructional funds are utilized appropriately and lawfully.

   Ordering Process:

   i. Parent requests curriculum, service/class, and or product through the The Cottonwood School Enrichment Centre (in-house, online ordering system).

   ii. Teacher consistent with Alder Grove Academy's policies and procedures reviews and determines whether or not the requested item has appropriate educational value and prior to approval, will ensure the service or product is nonsectarian in nature in accordance with Ed. Code 47605(d)(1), which states, "a charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, and all other operations".

   iii. Enrichment staff member also ensures that the requested item is evaluated for appropriate educational value and prior to approval, ensures that the service or product is nonsectarian in nature in accordance with Ed. Code 47605(d)(1), which states, "a charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, and all other operations".

2. **Determine Specific Funding Amount:** The funding amount for the 2016-2017 school year will be $2,600 for TK-8th students and $2,800 for 9-12th students. The families' chosen curriculum is deducted from the allocated funding amount. Currently, curriculum costs range from $150 to $1,000 per student. This amount may be adjusted at any time at Board discretion or based on budget need.

   - **Clarify What Funds Can Be Used For:** Instructional Funds will first be used toward the student's core subjects, technology items, then other enrichment products and services, and other appropriate items to extend the learning experience like fieldtrips, educational travel and related educational conferences/workshops. Limit on educational travel: A student may only use instructional funds to sign up for one

educational travel experience per school year. Up to $965 of students Instructional Funds can be applied to their educational travel experience. Any deposits required to hold a student's spot on an educational travel tour cannot be paid using instructional funds. Educational content is all that can be covered by instructional funds. Travel costs such as transportation, food and lodging cannot be paid using instructional funds. Parents or guardians planning to travel with their student must pay 100% of their travel and tour costs. Up to $350 a year may be used on parent trainings or workshops that directly support students learning. All use of funds must be approved by the student's credentialed teacher consistent with Alder Grove Academy's policies and procedures.

3. **Clarify When Funds Can Be Used:** Instructional Funds may be used when students are in session or when they are not in session. For example, students may extend their learning by taking a class on an evening or Saturday outside of the regular instructional day. Furthermore, since The Cottonwood School considers the Instructional Funds as encumbered to support the specific student consistent with policies and procedures, students are able to utilize these instructional funds during the traditional "summer months" and throughout their time at The Cottonwood School in order to enhance and expand innovative learning opportunities helping to minimize the effects of learning loss typically seen come fall. Consistent with the practices of many non- charter districts supporting student learning or remediation during times when school is not in session, is an acceptable use of funds for students. Funds can be transferred between siblings enrolled at The Cottonwood School and co-used with administrative approval.

4. **Identify Non-Consumable Category Groups:** All items in the following categories are considered non-consumable and must be returned as school property:
    i. Technology, Electronics, and Media (CDs/DVDs)
    ii. Textbooks and Teacher Manuals
    iii. Science Equipment
    iv. Musical Equipment
    v. Games and Puzzles

5. **Authorize Establishment of Lending Libraries:** As a general benefit to ALL The Cottonwood School families, non-consumables other than technology that are returned will be available for borrowing in our newly established Lending Libraries to be located within our current offices.

Access to The Charter School Documents Policy

The Cottonwood School recognizes the right of citizens to have access to public records of the Charter School. The Board intends the Charter School to provide any person reasonable access to the public records of the Charter School during normal business hours and within the requirements of law. Public access shall not be given to records listed as exempt from public disclosure in the California Public Records Act and other state or federal law.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Access to the Charter School Documents Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Procedures for Responding to a Public Records Act
2. Establish the Ability to Charge for the Cost of Copies
3. Identify How to Maintain Security of the Charter School's Documents

1. **Public Records Act:** In response to a public records request, the Executive Director or designee shall make reasonable efforts to locate the requested records, including, but not limited to, any electronic communication substantively related to the records, such as email, text messages, instant messages, and other electronic communications, regardless of whether they are transmitted through the Charter School's-provided device or account or through an employee's or Board member's personal device or account.

2. **Charging for the Cost of Copies:** The Charter School may charge for copies of public records or other materials requested by individuals or groups. The charge shall be based on actual costs of duplication, as determined by the Executive Director or designee and as specified in administrative regulation.

3. **Security of The Charter School's Documents:** In order to help maintain the security of the Charter School's records, members of the public granted access shall examine records in the presence of a charter school staff member.

Anti–Harassment / Discrimination / Intimidation / Bullying / Retaliation

The Cottonwood School is committed to ensuring a professional work and learning environment without discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of race, religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (including language use restrictions), immigration status, citizenship status, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, military and veteran status, or association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned characteristics or any other legally protected category. The Cottonwood School prohibits any such discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

The purpose of the The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Anti–Harassment/Discrimination/Intimidation/Bullying/ Retaliation Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Harassment, Discrimination, Intimidation, and Bullying
2. Identify Who the Policy Applies to
3. Identify Where the Policy Applies
4. Establish the Responsibility of Reporting
5. Identify Reporting Procedures
6. Identify Investigation/Complaint Procedures
7. Identify the Consequences of Retaliation
8. Outline the Protection of Individuals with Immigration Status
9. Outline the Procedures for Notifying Parents of Their Children's Right to a Free Public Education, Regardless of Immigration Status or Religious Beliefs

1. Definitions:

- **Harassment:** Harassment is unwelcome verbal or physical conduct prohibited by law directed toward, or differential treatment of, a student or staff member because of his/her membership (or perceived membership) in any protected group or on any other prohibited basis. The harasser can be a student, a School official or employee, or someone who is not an employee of the School, such as a vendor or parent. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
    - Offensive or degrading remarks, verbal abuse, or other hostile behavior such as insulting, teasing, mocking, name calling, degrading, or ridiculing another person or group

- Racial slurs, derogatory remarks about a person's accent, or display of racially offensive symbols
- Unwelcome or inappropriate physical contact, comments, questions, advances, jokes epithets or demands
- Physical assault or stalking
- Displays or electronic transmission of derogatory, demeaning or hostile materials or statements
- Graphic and written offensive or derogatory statements, which may include use of cell phones or the Internet

Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or opportunities offered by the School.

- **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment is a form of harassment based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender harassment and harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. It generally involves unwanted sexual advances, or visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This definition includes many forms of offensive behavior and includes gender–based harassment of a person of the same sex as the harasser. The following is a partial list of violations:

  - Unwanted sexual advances
  - Offering educational benefits in exchange for sexual favors
  - Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances
  - Visual conduct: Leering, making sexual gestures, displaying of suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons or posters
  - Verbal conduct: Making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs and jokes
  - Verbal sexual advances or propositions
  - Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations
  - Physical conduct: Touching, assault, impeding or blocking movements

- **Intimidation:** Intimidation includes adverse actions intended to fill another with fear, to overawe or cow, as through force of personality or by superior display of wealth, talent, etc., or to force another into or deter from some action by inducing fear.

- **Bullying:** Bullying may take place in a variety of hostile acts that are carried out repeatedly over time. The acts involve a real or perceived imbalance of power, with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. It may be physical (hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing), verbal (taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, threatening), or psychological (spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, or promoting social

exclusion, extortion or intimidation). Bullying is any severe or pervasive action or conduct directed toward one or more students that have the effect of one or more of the following: 1) places a reasonable student in fear of harm to that student's person or property; 2) causes a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health; 3) causes a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance; 4) causes a reasonable student to experience interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by the School.

Other types of bullying:

- Sexual bullying includes many of the actions typical of bullying behavior with the added actions of exhibitionism, voyeurism, sexual propositioning, sexual harassment and sexual abuse (touching, physical contact, sexual assault).
- Bias or hate–motivated bullying is a basic bias against or hate for a person or group. Examples include taunting one's race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disabilities. The bullying behavior may also be aggressive, antagonistic, and assaultive.
- Hazing is a form of aggressive behavior that usually involves intimidation and humiliation during an initiation for a student organization or body, club, group or sports team. It may involve conduct that is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current or prospective pupil. Hazing does not include athletic events or school–sanctioned events.
- Cyberbullying involves bullying conduct that is created or transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer or pager communicating any of the following: 1) a message, text, sound or image; 2) a post on a social network Internet Web site, including a "Burn Page," an impersonation of another student, and a false profile.

- **Retaliation:** Retaliation is any adverse action taken against a student because he or she filed a charge of harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying complaint to the School or another agency or participated in an investigation about the same (such as an internal investigation or lawsuit), including as a witness. Retaliation also includes adverse action taken against someone who is associated with the individual opposing the perceived harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying.

2. **Who the Policy Applies to:** It shall be a violation of this policy for any student, teacher, administrator or other employee of The Cottonwood School to discriminate against, harass, intimidate or bully another student, teacher, administrator, other employee or anyone associated with The Cottonwood School through conduct or communication. This policy applies to all applicants and employees, whether related to conduct engaged in by fellow employees or someone not directly connected to The Cottonwood School (e.g. an outside vendor, consultant or customer).

3. **Where the Policy Applies:** Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work–related setting outside the workplace, such as during business or field trips, meetings and business or school–related social events.

4. **Responsibility:** All The Cottonwood School employees have a responsibility for keeping our work environment free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

5. **Reporting:** The Cottonwood School encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victims of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor, the Executive Director, or the Deputy Executive Director. In addition, The Cottonwood School encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. The Cottonwood School recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through formal complaint procedures. Every effort will be made to keep such reports as confidential as possible, although it is understood that an investigation will normally require the involvement of third parties. The Cottonwood School is serious about enforcing its policy against harassment; however, The Cottonwood School cannot resolve a harassment problem that it does not know about. Therefore, employees are responsible for bringing any such problems to The Cottonwood School's attention so it can take whatever steps are necessary to correct the problems.

6. **Investigation/Complaint Procedure:** All complaints of harassment or discrimination will be promptly investigated. If the investigation substantiates the accusations, the appropriate corrective action will be taken. This may include, but not be limited to, reprimand, suspension or dismissal, depending on the nature and severity of the offense. Appropriate action will also be taken in the event the accusations are intentionally false or malicious in intent.

   Individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy statement or believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor, the Executive Director, or the Deputy Executive Director. The Cottonwood School encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and appropriate remedial action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained. Therefore, while no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment.

   Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge. Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigatory process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation methods and appropriate corrective actions. Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. Responsive action may include, for example, training, referral to counseling and/or disciplinary action such as warning, reprimand, withholding of a promotion or pay

increase, reassignment, temporary suspension without pay or termination, as The Cottonwood School believes appropriate under the circumstances. Willful false and malicious complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

7. **Consequences for Retaliation:** Retaliation against an individual who has a complaint or has formally reported discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or has participated in an investigation of such a complaint is a serious violation of this policy and, like discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or retaliation itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

8. **Immigration Status:** If the Charter School possesses information that could indicate immigration status, citizenship status or national origin information, the School shall not use the acquired information to discriminate against any students or families or bar children from enrolling in or attending school. If parents or guardians choose not to provide information that could indicate their or their children's immigration status, citizenship status or national origin information, the School shall not use such actions as a basis to discriminate against any students or families or bar children from enrolling or attending school.

   Each year, the School shall educate students about the negative impact of bullying other students based on their actual or perceived immigration status or their religious beliefs or customs. The School shall also train teachers, staff and personnel to ensure that they are aware of their legal duty to take reasonable steps to eliminate a hostile environment and respond to any incidents of harassment based on the actual or perceived characteristics noted above. Such training shall provide School personnel with the skills to do the following:

   - Discuss the varying immigration experiences among members of the student body and school community;
   - Discuss bullying–prevention strategies with students, and teach students to recognize the behavior and characteristics of bullying perpetrators and victims;
   - Identify the signs of bullying or harassing behavior;
   - Take immediate corrective action when bullying is observed; and
   - Report incidents to the appropriate authorities, including law enforcement in instances of criminal behavior.

9. **Parental Notification:** Each year, the School shall notify parents and guardians of their children's right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs. This information shall include information related to the "Know Your Rights" immigration enforcement established by the California Attorney General. The School shall also inform students who are the victims of hate crimes of their right to report such crimes.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Directory Information Policy and "Opt-Out" Notice

The Cottonwood School is committed ensuring that the Charter School complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the disclosure of directory information.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Directory Information Policy and "Opt-Out" Notice is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Release of Directory Information
2. Define Directory Information
3. Identify the "Opt-Out" Notice Procedure

1. **Release of Directory Information:** "Directory information," which is defined as set forth below, may be released to requestors in limited circumstances by the Charter School without additional notice to parents/guardians unless the parent/guardian "opts out" of such disclosures, in writing.

   State and federal law allow directory information to be disclosed to any requestors, except those who intend to use the information for commercial purposes. However, the Charter School 's policy is to not release directory information to any requestor, for any purpose, without specific prior parent/guardian consent in each situation, EXCEPT the Charter School will release such information to requestors that engage in political advocacy, lobbying, or information dissemination related to California charter schools.

2. **Definition of Directory Information:** The Cottonwood School has designated the following information as directory information:

   - Parents'/guardians' names
   - Address
   - Electronic mail address
   - Dates of attendance
   - Degrees, honors, and awards received; and
   - The most recent educational agency or institution attended

3. **"Opt-Out" Notice:** If a parent/guardian does not want the Charter School to disclose the parent/guardian's contact and other directory information from his/her child's records to such persons or entities without the parent/guardian's prior written consent, the parent/guardian must notify the Charter School in writing within two weeks of receipt of this policy.

Homeless Education Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to ensuring that homeless students are provided equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children and youth. Homeless students will be given access to the education and other services that such students need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated in a separate school or program based on the student's status as homeless.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Homeless Education Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Homeless Children and Youth
2. Identify the Homeless Liaison's Responsibilities
3. Explain the Requirements for Enrollment of Homeless Children and Youth
4. Identify Enrollment Disputes and the Dispute Resolution Process
5. Define Comparable Education Services for Homeless Children and Youth

1. Definitions:

- ***Homeless children and youths*** means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youths:
    - Who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (not including mobile home parks), or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
    - Who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
    - Who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
    - Who are migratory children who qualify as homeless for purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described above.
- ***Unaccompanied youth*** includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- ***The Charter School is the school of origin*** when the student attended the Charter School when permanently housed or was last enrolled when the student became homeless. The Charter School will not be considered the school of origin when it is contrary to the wishes of a student's parent(s) or guardian(s), or is not in the best interest of the student.

  In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the School shall:

  - Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the best interest of the child or youth, less it is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or unaccompanied youth;

  - Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth;

  - If, after conducting the best interest determination based on consideration of the presumption identified above and the student-centered factors identified above, the School determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the School, the School shall provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal; and

  - In the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the School liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

A child or youth or unaccompanied youth shall be considered homeless for as long as he/she is in a living situation described above.

2. **Homeless Liaison Responsibilities:** The Charter School's homeless liaison is required to do all of the following:

   - Ensure that homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;

   - Ensure that homeless children and youth enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in the School;

   - Ensure that homeless children and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youth are eligible, including referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services and other appropriate services;

   - Ensure that the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of

the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

- Ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the dispute resolution process outlined below;

- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians, including schools, shelters, public libraries and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;

- Ensure that school personnel providing services participate in professional development and other technical support as determined appropriate by the State Coordinator;

- Ensure that unaccompanied youths 1) are enrolled in school; 2) have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth, including implementation of procedures to identify and remove barriers that prevent youths from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school; and 3) are informed of their status as independent students and that the youths may obtain assistance from the liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

3. **Enrollment:** All homeless students are required to follow the school's process for enrolling students, including filling out and submitting the school's enrollment packet on time. As with all students, enrollment depends upon availability. In the event of an oversubscription in a grade, homeless students will participate in the lottery as with any other student.

   If the homeless student seeking to enroll is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other documentation, this will not serve as a basis for non-enrollment. Provided that the enrollment process has been followed in all other respects, a homeless student will be enrolled in the School despite the missing paperwork. Upon enrollment, the School will contact the school last attended by the students to obtain relevant academic and other records.

   If the student needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the School will immediately refer the parent or guardian of the student, or the unaccompanied youth, to the Homeless Liaison, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

4. **Enrollment Disputes and the Dispute Resolution Process:** If a dispute arises over enrollment in the Charter School of a homeless student, the student will be immediately enrolled to the Charter School in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.

"Enrolled" means attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

The Charter School will refer the student and/or his/her parents or guardians to the Homeless Liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution in accordance with the process set forth below, as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison will ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

Parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth may provide written or oral documentation to support their positions about enrollment and may seek assistance of social services, advocates, and/or service providers in the dispute process.

The Charter School will provide the parent or guardian of the student with a written explanation of the Charter School's decision regarding enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth's appeal the decision. The written explanation will be complete, as brief as possible, simply stated and provided in a language that the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth can understand.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the Charter School level or is appealed, then the Charter School Homeless Liaison will forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the homeless liaison at the county office of education (COE). The COE's homeless liaison will review these materials and determine the school selection or enrollment decision within five (5) working days of receipt of the materials. The COE homeless liaison will notify the Charter School and parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth of the decision.

If the dispute remains unresolved at the COE level or is appealed to the State, then the COE homeless liaison will forward all written documentation and related paperwork to the State Homeless Coordinator. Upon review, the CDE will notify the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth of the decision relating enrollment in the Charter School within ten working days of receipt of the materials.

5. **Comparable Education Services:** Each homeless student will be provided access to services comparable to services offered to other students in the Charter School, including but not limited to the following:
    - Educational services for which the homeless student meets federal, state and local program eligibility criteria
    - Programs in career and technical education

*This policy was adapted from the Charter School Development Center- Homeless Youth Policy.

Information Technology Department

Policies and Procedures

Overview

This document serves as a rulebook and roadmap for successfully and properly utilizing the technology resources at Inspire Charter Schools (ICS). You, the employee, should always take careful consideration to verify that all actions fall within the authorized parameters for access, utilization, distribution, and modification of ICS's technology resources set forth within this document.

Any misuse, misappropriation, negligence, or deliberate disobedience concerning these policies and procedures will not be tolerated. It is up to each individual employee and affiliate of ICS to familiarize him/herself with the policies and procedures set forth prior to signing the agreement form associated to these policies and procedures.

It is the purpose of the ICS Information Technology Department (ITD) to provide these policies and procedures in order to address potential situations and to provide steps to take during these situations. However, not all situations can ever be addressed so it is up to each individual employee and affiliate to use these policies and procedures as an example of what action to take.

The ICS Information Technology Department does encourage all ICS employees and associates to err on the side of caution should a difficult or questionable situation present itself. Please contact the ITD if you require assistance or have any questions.

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Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources

Overview

Inspire Charter Schools Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources policy (AUP) provides for access to information technology (IT) resources and communications networks within a culture of openness, trust, and integrity. In addition, Inspire Charter School (ICS) is committed to protecting itself and its students, faculty, and staff from unethical, illegal, or damaging actions by individuals using these systems.

ICS is committed to upholding important security, privacy, and safety regulations, protocols, and standards. Users of ICS devices, networks, accounts, and other resources must adhere to ICS policies. Users are expected to fully comply with local, state, and federal regulations. Failure to adhere to these policies or regulations may result in discipline, legal action, or other remedies determined to be within the rights of ICS. Relevant regulations include (but are not limited to):

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

DEFINITIONS:

1. **ICS** or **School** or **Organization** or **We** - Inspire Charter Schools and its subsidiaries, programs, and divisions
2. **ITD** - Inspire Charter Schools Information Technology Department
3. **You** or **Your** or **I** - employee of ICS and or signer of this Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
4. **Resources** - devices, systems, services or networks owned, operated or issued by ICS
5. **User** - any person(s) accessing or utilizing ICS resources that is not a resource operator
6. **AUP** - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the ethical and acceptable use of information systems at Inspire Charter Schools. These rules are in place to protect students, faculty, and staff; i.e., to ensure that members of the Inspire Charter Schools community have access to reliable, current IT resources that are safe from unauthorized or malicious use.

Insecure practices and malicious acts expose Inspire Charter Schools and individual students, faculty, and staff to risks including virus attacks, compromise of network systems and services, and loss of data or confidential information. Security breaches could result in legal action for individuals or the school. In addition, security breaches damage the schools reputation and could result in loss of services. Other misuses, such as excessive use by an individual, can substantially diminish resources available for other users.

Scope

This outline is an integral part of IT security policies and applies to faculty, staff, and students as well as any other individuals or entities who use information and IT resources at Inspire Charter Schools. This policy applies to all IT resources owned or leased by Inspire Charter Schools and to any privately owned equipment connected to the schools network and includes, but is not limited to, computer equipment, software, operating systems, storage media, and the Internet.

Securing and protecting these significant and costly resources from misuse or malicious activity is the responsibility of those who manage systems as well as those who use them. Effective security is a team effort involving the participation and support of every member of the ICS community who accesses and uses IT resources. Therefore, every user of Inspire Charter School IT resources is required to know the policies and to conduct their activities within the scope of the AUP, and the **Policies, Standards, and Guidelines for IT Security** (see Resources below). Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Acceptable Use Policy

Unless otherwise specified in this policy or other ICS policies, use of school information technology resources is restricted to purposes related to the school's mission. Eligible individuals are provided access in order to support their job duties as employees, official business with the school, and other school-sanctioned activities. Individuals may not share with or transfer to others their user accounts including passwords, or other access codes that allow them to gain access to ICS Information Technology resources. The protection and privacy of our students and staff information is the highest priority and each staff member is expected to enact safe privacy measures according to current state and federal laws. Violation of this could result in disciplinary action or termination.

Other administrative units have considerable latitude in developing complementary technology use policies and procedures, as long as they are consistent with this policy and any other applicable technology use policies of the school. For more information about developing technology policies and procedures, please contact the Information Technology Department (ITD).

Incidental personal use of information technology resources must adhere to all applicable school policies. Under no circumstances may incidental personal use involve violations of the law, interfere with the fulfillment of an employee's school responsibilities, or adversely impact or conflict with activities supporting the mission of the school.

Users are prohibited from engaging in any activity that is illegal under local, state, federal, or international law or in violation of school policy. The categories and lists below are by no means exhaustive, but attempt to provide a framework for activities that fall into the category of acceptable/unacceptable use.

IT Resources include but are not limited to:

- Computers
    - Desktop Computers (if applicable), Mobile Devices, Laptops, etc.
- Network Equipment
    - Routers, Network and Communication Cabling, VoIP Phones, HotSpots, Cradlepoints, etc.
- Audio/Video Equipment
    - Projectors, Cameras, Copiers/Printers, Fax Machines, Security Cameras, TVs, etc
- Software
    - Operating Systems, Application Software

- Resources
    - Group Drive File Storage, Website File Storage, Email Accounts, Social Networking Accounts, etc.

The following activities provide a general roadmap to use ICS's technology resources in an acceptable manner:

1. You agree to, learn about and comply with all information outlined in this AUP document
2. Persons to whom items are assigned are expected to exercise reasonable care to protect those items against damage, loss and theft. "Reasonable care" is defined as:
    - Never leaving items unattended
    - Never lending, giving or releasing items to a person other than an employee of the ITD
    - Never removing protective accessories or features (e.g. cases, bumpers)
    - Keeping items away from dangerous conditions (e.g. liquids, heat sources, unstable surfaces or items) and preventing actions which promote damage beyond normal wear and tear
3. You must immediately report damaged, lost or stolen items/resources. Items reported stolen or missing will require a police report.
4. You are expected to make a reasonable effort to protect your passwords, private information and data.
5. Employees must use extreme caution when opening email attachments received from unknown senders
6. All users should lock the workstation when unattended
7. Upon termination of employment, all technology must be returned on your final day of employment. If any attempt to collect the items have failed, all matters will be handled by local law enforcement. ***For more information, please contact the ICS Information Technology Department.***

Unacceptable Use

Excessive Non-Priority Use of Computing Resources

Priority for the use of IT resources is given to activities related to the school's missions of teaching, learning, research, and outreach. ICS computer and resources are limited in capacity and are in high demand. To conserve IT resource capacity for all users, individuals should exercise restraint when utilizing computing and system resources. Individual users may be required to stop non-priority use of IT resources, such as recreational activities and non-academic, non-business services.

Unacceptable system and network activities include:

Engaging in or effecting security breaches or malicious use of system communication including, but not limited to:

1. Obtaining configuration information about a network or system for which the user does not have administrative responsibility.

Unauthorized Use of ICS Property

Users are responsible for complying with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the dissemination and protection of data and information that is confidential, particularly with regards to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) , and any other applicable state and federal legislation dealing with information privacy. Violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Except as provided by fair use principles, engaging in unauthorized copying, distribution, display, or publication of copyrighted material including, but not limited to, digitization and distribution of photographs from magazines, books, or other copyrighted sources; copyrighted music or video; and the installation of any copyrighted software without an appropriate license.
2. Using, displaying, or publishing licensed trademarks, including Inspire Charter School's trademarks, without license or authorization or using them in a manner inconsistent with any terms of authorization.
3. Exporting software, technical information, encryption software, or technology in violation of international or regional export control laws.

Inappropriate or malicious use of IT systems includes:

1. Setting up file sharing in which protected intellectual property is illegally shared.
2. Intentionally introducing malicious programs into the system or server (e.g., viruses, worms, Trojan horses, email bombs, etc.).
3. Inappropriate use or sharing of school-authorized IT privileges or resources.
4. Changing another user's password, access, or authorizations.
5. Using an Inspire Charter Schools computing asset to actively engage in displaying, or transmitting material that is in violation of sexual harassment policy or laws, hostile workplace laws, or other illegal activity.
6. Using an Inspire Charter Schools computing asset for any private purpose or for personal gain.

Misuse of Electronic Communications

Electronic communications are essential in carrying out the activities of the school and for individual communication among staff, faculty, students, and their correspondents. Individuals are required to know and comply with the school's policy on **Mass Email and Effective Electronic Communication** (see Resources below).

Key **prohibitions** include:

1. Sending unsolicited messages, including "junk mail" or other advertising material, to individuals who did not specifically request such material, except as approved under the policy on Mass Email and Effective Electronic Communication.
2. Engaging in harassment via electronic communications whether through language, frequency, or size of messages.
3. Masquerading as someone else by using their email or internet address or electronic signature.
4. Soliciting email from any other email address, other than that of the poster's account, with the intent to harass or to collect replies.
5. Creating or forwarding "chain letters" or solicitations for business schemes.
6. Using email originating from Inspire Charter School's provided accounts for commercial use or personal gain.

Enforcement

The Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources policy is enforced through the following mechanisms. Any user who discovers unauthorized access attempts or other improper usage of Inspire Charter School technology should report the infraction to the Information Technology Department, or other appropriate administrators. Management personnel are responsible for ensuring employees are aware of and trained in the provisions of this policy.

Interim Measures

The school may temporarily disable service to an individual or a computing device, when an apparent misuse of school computing facilities or systems has occurred, and the misuse:

1. Is a violation of criminal law
2. Has the potential to cause significant damage to or interference with school facilities or services
3. May cause significant damage to another person
4. May result in liability to the school

An attempt will be made to contact the person responsible for the account or equipment prior to disabling service unless law enforcement authorities forbid it or Information Technology staff determine that immediate action is necessary to preserve the integrity of the school network. In any case, the user shall be informed as soon as possible so that they may present reasons in writing why their use is not a violation or that they have authorization for the use.

Suspension of Services and Other Action

Users may be issued warnings, may be required to agree to conditions of continued service, or may have their privileges suspended or denied if:

- After hearing the user's explanation of the alleged violation, an IT administrator or school administrator has made a determination that the user has engaged in a violation of this code, or
- An employee disciplinary body has determined that the user has engaged in a violation of the code.

Password Policies and Procedures

Overview

Passwords are an important aspect of computer security. They are the front line of protection for user accounts. A poorly chosen password may result in the compromise of Inspire Charter School's entire network. As such, all employees (including contractors and vendors with access to Inspire Charter Schools network) are responsible for taking the appropriate steps, as outlined below, to select and secure their passwords. The scope of this policy includes all personnel who have or are responsible for an account (or any form of access that supports or requires a password) on any system that resides at any ICS facility, has access to the ICS database, or stores any non-public information pertaining to ICS. **The Password Protection Standards** below also apply to the use of family accounts and should always be handled with care and common sense.

Standards

A. General Password Construction Guidelines

Passwords are used for various purposes at Inspire Charter Schools. Some of the more common uses include: user-level accounts, web accounts, email accounts, screensaver protection, voicemail password, and local router logins. Everyone should be aware of how to select strong passwords.

1. Poor, unacceptable passwords have the following characteristics:

   ✗ The password contains fewer than ten characters

   ✗ The password is a word found in a dictionary (English or foreign)

   ✗ The password is a common usage word such as:

   - Names of family, pets, friends, coworkers, fantasy characters, etc.
   - Computer terms and names, commands, sites, companies, hardware, software
   - Acronyms for the agency or city.
   - Birthdays and other personal information such as addresses and phone numbers
   - Word or number patterns like aaabbb, qwerty, zyxwvuts, 123321, etc.
   - Any of the above spelled backwards
   - Any of the above preceded or followed by a digit (e.g., secret1, 1secret)

2. Strong (acceptable) passwords have the following characteristics:

   ✓ Contain both upper and lowercase characters (e.g., a-z, AZ)

- ✓ Have digits and punctuation characters as well as letters (e.g., 0-9, !@#$%^&*()_+|~-=\`{}[]:";í<>?,./)
- ✓ Are at least ten alphanumeric characters long
- ✓ Are not based on personal information, names of family, etc.
- ✓ Try to create passwords that can be easily remembered. One way to do this is create a password based on a song title, affirmation, or other phrase. For example, the phrase might be: ?This May Be One Way To Remember? and the password could be: ?TmB1w2R!? or ?Tmb1W> r~? or some other variation.

  NOTE: Do not use either of these examples as passwords!

B. Password Protection Standards

Do not use the same password for Inspire Charter School accounts as for other non Inspire Charter School access (e.g., personal ISP account, personal email accounts, etc.).

Here is a list of "don'ts":

- ✗ Don't reveal a password over the phone to ANYONE.
- ✗ Don't reveal a password in an email message.
- ✗ Don't talk about a password in front of others.
- ✗ Don't hint at the format of a password (e.g., "my family name").
- ✗ Don't reveal a password on questionnaires or security forms.
- ✗ Don't share a password with family members.
- ✗ Don't reveal a password to co-workers while on vacation.
- ✗ Don't write a password in an obvious place that is accessible to others.

Do not share passwords with anyone, including passwords associated to ANY student accounts. All passwords are to be treated as sensitive, confidential ICS information. If a password is requested by a parent

or student, simply forward them an associated link to reset their password. We are not responsible for creating passwords for end-users.

Disabling Login Password

Internet and Email Policy

Overview

Voice mail, email, and internet usage assigned to an employee's computer or telephone extensions are solely for the purpose of conducting Inspire Charter Schools business. Most job responsibilities at ICS require access to the internet and the use of software. Only people appropriately authorized, for ICS purposes, may use the internet to access and download additional software.

This authorization is generally exclusive to decisions that the ITD makes in conjunction with the need to perform your job duties and any request made from managers or directors.

Software Access

Software needed, in addition to the Google products, must be authorized by your manager and downloaded by the ITD staff. If you need access to software or websites, please talk with your manager and consult with the ITD to explain what you expect to receive from the product.
All reasonable requests that are not considered a security risk will be considered for you and other employees.

Internet Usage

Internet use on Inspire Charter Schools time, using ICS-owned devices that are connected to the schools network, is authorized to conduct school business only. Internet use brings the possibility of breaches of the security of confidential information. Internet use also creates the possibility of contamination to our system via viruses or spyware. Spyware allows unauthorized people, outside of ICS, potential access to ICS passwords and other confidential information.

Removing such programs from the network requires IT staff to invest time and attention that is better devoted to making technological progress. For this reason, and to assure the use of work time appropriately for work, we ask staff members to limit internet use.

Additionally, under no circumstances may ICS owned computers or other electronic equipment, including devices owned by the employee, be used on ICS time at work to obtain, view, or reach any pornographic, or otherwise immoral, unethical, or non-business-related internet sites. Doing so can lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Social Media

We understand that part of what you do in social media is outreach that recruits new students and or employees and enhances our school brand. Many employees have social media responsibilities in their job description including the social media marketers, tech support, and School Growth/Public Relations staff.

We strongly encourage you to limit the use of social media to work-related content and outreach during work hours. Additionally, you are prohibited from sharing any confidential or protected information that belongs to or is about ICS. You are strongly encouraged not to share disparaging information that places ICS or coworkers in an unfavorable light.

The school's reputation and brand should be protected by all employees. The lives and actions of your coworkers should never be shared online. Please note the confidentiality of all students should be kept at all times.

There are great advantages to the use of social media and disadvantages; those include but are not limited to:

- The overuse and availability of bandwidth to all employees
- Malware and network hijack
- Decrease in work productivity
-

In social media participation from work devices or during working hours, social media content that discriminates against any protected classification including age, race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or genetic information is prohibited. It is ICS's policy to also recognize sexual preference as qualifying for discrimination protection. Any employee, who participates in social media, who violates this policy, will be dealt with according to the ICS harassment policy.

Email Usage at ICS

Email is to be used for ICS business only. ICS confidential information must not be shared outside of the school, without authorization, at any time. You are also not to conduct personal business using ICS computers or emails.
Please keep this in mind, also, as you consider forwarding non-business emails to associates, family or friends. Non-business related emails waste time and attention.

Viewing pornography, or sending pornographic jokes or stories via email, is considered sexual harassment and will be addressed according to our sexual harassment policy. Immediate termination is the most frequent disciplinary action. ***Please keep all email messaging appropriate and professional when communicating with co-workers and families***.

Mass Email and Effective Electronic Communication

All electronic communications are expected to comply with federal and state laws, as well as school regulations and policies.

Permission to mail to a group is not needed if you are the authorized sender for the group or are conducting normal school business. Before using a list that someone else owns, you must ask permission to use it. Access to a list does not necessarily imply permission to use.

If you wish to do a large mailing to a group you must get approval from a supervisor.

Mass Email Checklist

Before you send a large-scale mailing, you should ensure you can answer "yes" to each of the following questions:

- Is email the best or appropriate method to get information to your intended audience?
- Is the message relevant to the school's core missions?
- Have you included in the content of the message:
    - A "From:" address where replies will be received
    - The office, organization, or individual sending the message
    - Contact information if there is a question, comment, or complaint about the message
    - An explanation of why the recipient is receiving the message
    - Required information presented
    - Pointers to our website or elsewhere for additional information
- Do you have authorization to use the mailing list?
- If your mailing will go to more than 1,000 recipients, do you have approval to do a mass mailing to your intended audience?

Please note that Gmail has strict sending limits when sending bulk mail. Contact your ITD for more information about these limitations.

Employee Email

Keep in mind that ICS owns any communication sent via email or that is stored on ICS equipment. Management and other authorized staff have the right to access any material in your email or on your computer at any time. Please do not consider your electronic communication, storage or access to be private if it is created or stored on work devices.

Emails That Discriminate

Any email content that discriminates against any protected classification including age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or genetic information is prohibited. Any employee who sends an email that violates this policy will be dealt with according to the harassment policy. Threatening or offensive emails are prohibited at Inspire Charter Schools.

Phishing Emails are SCAMS

Phishing is a type of attack carried out in order to steal usernames, passwords, credit card information, Social Security Numbers, and other sensitive data by masquerading as a trustworthy entity. Phishing is most often seen in the form of malicious emails pretending to be from credible sources. We ask that you do your due diligence to ensure the email is safe and coming from a reputable source. No institution, bank or

otherwise, will ever ask for private information via email. It may not always be easy to tell whether an email or website is legitimate, but there are many ways to help:

- In the body of an email, you might see questions asking you to "verify" or "update your account" or "failure to update your records will result in account suspension." It is usually safe to assume that no credible organization will ever ask you to re-enter it, so do not fall for this trap.
- Any email that asks for your personal or sensitive information should be seriously scoured and not trusted. Even if the email has official logos or text or even links to a legitimate website, it could easily be fraudulent. **Never give out your personal information.**
- Do not respond to warning messages claiming you have a virus or have been hacked
- Check the email address - ask yourself: "does it come from someone you know, are you expecting an email from that source, does it match or legitimize the organization it is tied to"
- Hover over the link, don't click it. (Look at the bottom left corner of your monitor to reveal the URL)
- Never forward emails that aren't work related. Emails with advertisements and/or suggestions to forward to someone else are usually a trap and could introduce viruses to all users

If you suspect any malicious activity, please contact the ITD immediately.

Staff Equipment Policy

Overview

ICS attempts to provide sufficient equipment to allow employees to manage their duties efficiently. Equipment is usually assigned and issued immediately upon hire for all new employees. All new devices require a minimum of 1-3 weeks for delivery and configuration, therefore management is advised to notify the ITD immediately upon hiring a new staff member.

This document provides Inspire Charter Schools (ICS) policy requirements to assure appropriate and equitable issuance to faculty and staff of basic computer technology equipment. This policy guides faculty and staff concerning utilization and support of computer and peripheral needs and basic network access, as well as personal responsibilities of the employee and supervisor.

New Hire Details - When welcoming a new employee on board, it is required that management send the Information Technology Department (ITD) with the following details:

- The employees full name
- Supervisor or Director
- Address (only necessary for staff that work off-site)
- Title of position (please include department)
- Start Date
- Equipment needed (only if they require additional equipment)
- Email address to be assigned

Standard devices and equipment offered to all employees include, but are not limited to:

1. HP Elitebook 15.6 - a fast 15.6 laptop which usually includes touchscreen
2. Brother MFC-J985DW - wireless printer/scanner/fax machine
3. 1 or 2 displays, keyboard, mouse, and dock (offered to office staff ONLY)
4. Office phone (offered to office staff ONLY)

Please note, all request should have prior approval from a supervisor or director and be made by submitting a ticket via helpdesk: tech-stafforders@inspireschools.org. For detailed instructions on placing orders, please see the Technology Ordering Policy. **All devices are subject to change without notice.*

ICS Owned Equipment

Any device or computer including, but not limited to, desk phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers, and iPads that ICS provides for your use, should only be used for school business. Keep in mind that ICS owns the devices and the information in these devices. If you leave the school for any reason, ICS will require that you return the equipment on your last day of work.

Staff Use of Equipment/Materials

The equipment at ICS is for the benefit of staff and student instruction. The care of all devices is the responsibility of each staff member. If at any time there is an issue with a computing device, please contact

the ITD for more instructions. Employees may use equipment for non-instructional and not-for-profit use, subject to the following conditions:

1. If school owned equipment is to be removed from it's assigned location, prior approval must be given by management.
2. The employee is responsible for the cost of repairing any damaged and lost item while in the employees possession. Please immediately contact your manager and the ITD with any reports of loss or damage.
3. In no circumstance may equipment be used for private or personal business ventures, only school business.
4. Upon departure from ICS all staff are asked to return their items on the last day. If all attempts to collect a device is unsuccessful, the matter will be handed over to local law enforcement.

Pre-Purchase Review Requirements

To ensure sound purchasing, supportability, appropriate pricing and assure security of the school's resources, the purchase of all ICS technology equipment and software, regardless of the source of funds, shall be approved by the ITD prior to purchase. If there is an item that is "out of the ordinary," prior approval from a supervisor or director must be given.

*Please note, the school has a large list of vendors or suppliers that support our organizational needs, therefore the lead time for items purchased through these vendors may vary.

Software

The school considers software piracy a serious offense. ICS abides by legal requirements for licensing software. Only licensed software will be installed on school owned equipment. The Information Technology Department will be responsible for purchasing licenses for applications that are appropriate and included as part of the standard configuration.

We strongly discourage the purchase of licensing for individual and small groups, unless this is a part of your job duties. The Information Technology staff will not be liable for licensing issues when software is not in accordance with use for school related business and did not have prior authorization of purchase. Licensing purchases that have not been approved by management may be classified as a personal purchase and may not be reimbursed, this also applies to hardware. In order to provide a software recovery mechanism for individuals and small groups, each department is required to maintain the licensing documentation and original media of software purchases.

Software purchased through the school shall not be installed on personally owned computers without approval.

Security

Providing technology to all staff and students opens up to a certain amount of threats and malicious activity. It is the responsibility of ICS to insure that we are compliant with local, state and federal laws prohibiting the unfair use and distribution of confidential information. Every member of the ICS community is

responsible for protecting the security of school information and information systems by adhering to the objectives and requirements stated within all ICS policies. If multiple policy statements or security standards are relevant for a specific situation, the most restrictive security standards will apply.

Failure to comply with established policies and practices may result in loss of computing privileges and/or disciplinary action.

Replacement Cycle and Redeployment

Where possible every opportunity to reuse or find new uses for retired computers will be explored before equipment is retired. Redeployment and/or replacement is at the discretion of the department manager and ITD. All employees are asked to contact their manager prior to requesting a replacement device from the Information Technology Department.

Disposal of Equipment

The ICS ITD is solely responsible for the sale and disposal of all computing equipment and peripheral storage devices when they are deemed surplus. No department or individual may arrange for the sale or collect money for school owned equipment, computers, furniture, or other supplies/materials purchased with school funds, regardless of the source of funds. Departmental personnel may not gift or donate equipment, computers, cell phones, furniture, or other items without ICS approval. School owned equipment, computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones, furniture, and materials may not be removed from the school, converted to personal property, or retained for personal use when deemed excess.

Equipment Configuration Policy

Overview

This policy has been established to create a standard configuration for all technology resources at ICS. Because of the variances between the types, makes, models, configurations, builds, versions, and brands of technology resources available, it is necessary to standardize all technology resources to make service and maintenance easier and also to help keep costs down.

Policy

All employees shall order and utilize equipment that is serviceable and recommended by the ICS IT Department. Since equipment availability changes over time, especially when referring to technology, a comprehensive list indicating appropriate hardware would be almost impossible to create. Because of this, any individual or department wishing to purchase technology equipment should first consult an ICS ITD staff member for current specifications for any given piece of equipment.

This applies to any and all technology equipment including, but not limited to:

- Computers (Servers, Desktop, Laptop, Tablets, Mobile Devices, etc.)
- HDTVs, Printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, or all-in-one devices

- Projectors, and screens
- VoIP phones
- Digital cameras and camcorders
- Software (Application, Operating System, Network-Based, etc.)

8x8 Virtual Office Phone System

What is Virtual Office?
Virtual Office is a secure, cloud-based service that integrates voice, messaging, and meetings all in one place. You can use your virtual office with a traditional desk phone or a computer based softphone application. Providing this software makes it easy and fun to receive and place calls. If you would like more instructions on how to use 8x8 Virtual Office, please contact your Information Technology Department for more details and instructions.

*Do not provide your internal phone number or extension to the public, always use your external number and/or call queue extension.

Student Equipment Policy

Overview

Use of technology is a privilege extended to students in order to enhance learning and exchange information. The use of available hardware and software (including both external and internal resources) is for the purpose of facilitating the best learning experience. All students and families are required to comply with the Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy and any accompanying protocols.

Student Use of Equipment/Materials

The care of all equipment is the responsibility of each student/parent/guardian. If at any time there is an issue with a computing device, please contact the ITD for more instructions. Access to ICS technology, resources, and support offers a wealth of educational benefits. To maintain these privileges, all users must agree to, learn about, and comply with all information within this AUP document. Students/parents/guardians are required to know and understand policies related to student/parent usage of ICS devices.

1. Students are never allowed to leave a device unattended
2. Never lend out or transfer devices to other ICS students unless given permission
3. Keep all items away from dangerous conditions (e.g. liquids, heat sources, unstable surfaces or items) and keep away from conditions that would promote damage beyond normal wear and tear.
4. You are obligated to notify ITD of continued access to resources beyond student departure (e.g. withdrawal, graduation, expulsion) in the event ITD has not contacted you to do so.
5. The parent/guardian is expected to monitor and supervise device usage when their child is on the internet
6. All damages are to be immediately reported to the ITD

All parents are given a copy of the Acceptable Use Policy in addition to any support documents and policies.

Standard devices and equipment offered to all students include, but are not limited to:

1. HP 255 G6 - 15.6 inch laptop or Macbook Air 13 inch
2. Apple iMac 21 inch desktop
3. Amazon Fire Tablets and Ipads (versions may vary)
4. HP Officejet or Brother printers

**All available devices are subject to change without notice.*

Equipment Transfer

We do not allow students to transfer their devices to someone else, even those students that are currently enrolled in ICS without first contacting the Information Technology Department. There are times when exceptions can be made, depending on the circumstances. For instance, devices can be transferred within the same family from one sibling to another, however we must be informed of this transfer so all related records can be updated. If there are other circumstances, the device must be sent back to the ITD so it can properly re-assign, image, refurbish, wipe/clear all personal information and user-installed software.

Damage Caused by Carelessness

Much of the damage that occurs is the result of student carelessness. Damage caused by carelessness is not considered "Accidental Damage." Tablet and accessory damage resulting from carelessness will be assessed. Examples of student carelessness would be: iPad (pens) that are noticeably damaged, latches that hold the lid closed being pulled out of the computer case, sticky devices from liquid spills, broken LCD screens that result from shutting the lid with objects still in the keyboard, and the continual loss of keys from the keyboard. When asked how the damage occurred, the answer "I don't know," or "it was fine when I put it in my bag" will be considered damage caused by carelessness. *Habitual damage is considered abuse of school property.*

Individual school laptop computers and accessories must be returned to ICS at the end of each school year. Students who graduate early, are suspended or expelled, or terminate enrollment at ICS for any other reason must return their individual school technology on the date of termination or no later than 30 days after termination. Failure to return the computer will result in a theft report being filed with the local law enforcement. The student will also pay the replacement cost of the computer, or, if applicable, any insurance deductible.

Furthermore, the student will be responsible for any damage to the computer, consistent with the Acceptable Use Policy and must return the computer and accessories to the ICS Technology Department in satisfactory condition. The student may be charged a fee for any needed repairs not to exceed the replacement cost of the device.

Multiple Device Replacements

It is ICS policy to replace devices if there is a reasonable cause. Any technology purchased with the use of Instruction Funds is considered the property of Inspire Charter Schools. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to see that reasonable care is always taken when any item is loaned to a student. Therefore ICS prohibits loaning any equipment more than 3 times during a school year per student. If a student damages an item and request for a replacement more than the allotted privileges, those consecutive occurrences will be considered abuse of school property and no device will be given out to that family/student for the remaining year. Excessive abuse of school property will lead to further investigation.

Technology Orders

Overview

Technology is an important part of our student's learning environment. Making sure these resources are accessible is extremely important to the mission of Inspire Charter Schools. A reasonable attempt shall be made at all times to address the needs of our students and employees, particularly when those needs are due to an accessibility issue presented by a physical impairment or learning disability of some kind. The ICS IT Department shall make every effort to ensure that each and every student and or staff is presented with an equal or comparable environment technology resources.

Policy

This policy establishes the ordering guidelines for all ICS-owned technology resources. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that every ICS student is presented with an equal opportunity to learn and that all employees can adequately use the required technology equipment for the purpose of their required occupation. There are state regulated requirements that must be met where any physical and/or learning impairment exists for any student or work limitation exists for any employee. Please refer to Work Limitations guideline to determine if there are any reasonable accommodations that must be met. Please note that, the ITD is prohibited from making orders for "out of the ordinary" items for Special Education (SPED) students. If you require assistance with a SPED order, please contact your local Director.

Types of accessibility requirements include, but are not limited to, the following applications or devices.

- Screen reading software
- Stereo headsets or other sound devices
- Touchscreen laptops

Work Limitations/Reasonable Accommodations

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act requires that employers of five or more employees to provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with a physical or mental disability to apply for jobs

and perform their essential job duties, unless it would cause an undue hardship. Reasonable accommodations include, but not limited to:

1. Changing job duties
2. Providing leave for medical care
3. Changing work schedules
4. Relocating the work area
5. Providing mechanical and electrical aids

Employers must initiate an "interactive process" when an applicant or employee requests reasonable accommodations. The ITD attempts to provide the most useful resources available to employees and students with a disability in a timely manner. If you want more information please contact the HR Director.

Student Orders - Tech Store

The Tech Centre is an integral solution for students to purchase items relevant to their specific needs. All student purchases should be made through the website. Employees that assist families with making technology purchases are expected to familiarize themselves with the use and function of the Tech Centre. To learn more about this great and easy way to place orders, please visit: **techstore.inspireschools.org.**

Transferring Devices

Swapping or transferring devices amongst enrolled family members is allowed. However there are some restrictions and standards that must be followed. In order to better track and update our student data, all technology transfers must first qualify before any transfer is approved.

1. The student/family requesting to transfer their device must inform and update their assigned teacher
2. The student/family or teacher must report the student as "Withdrawn" before a device can be transferred
3. Transfers can ONLY exist amongst enrolled siblings. You can not transfer or loan a device to any other person(s) that is not a sibling currently enrolled with Inspire Charter Schools
4. Any and all damages to the device will be the responsibility of the transferee
5. No reimbursements will be made to the previous student's account
6. A helpdesk ticket must be submitted requesting to transfer a device to another student. Details must include the current student's name, exit date, assigned teacher, technology serial and asset number and name of the related sibling

The ICS tech department has a responsibility to update and track the inventory systems and data regularly. For safety regulations, it is important to always stay informed about the usage of each device. Properly updating information is apart of ensuring all safety precautions are taken at all times.

Special Education Orders (SPED)
(pending information)

Returns

All items purchased using Instructional Funds must be returned and is the property of ICS. The return requirements are as followed:

Full Refund/Credit

- Returns qualifying for Full Refund or Credit
    - Items eligible for a full refund/credit:
        - Must be undamaged and same condition as received
        - Must be complete with all accessories
        - Working (i.e. non-defective) items may be returned within 30 days of receipt of item for full refund/credit.
        - Defective items may be returned within 90 days of receipt. "Defects" are determined by manufacturer. Must not show signs of physical abuse, misuse or abnormal treatment for full refund/credit.

Partial Refund/Credit

Partial refunds / partial credit are given at the discretion of Inspire Charter Schools and may (or may not) be given for any reason. Worn, abused, misused or damaged items may or may not qualify for refund/credit.

- Returns qualifying for Partial Refund or Credit
    - Items eligible for partial refund/credit:
        - Working items beyond 30 days
        - Defective items beyond the 90 days

Return Process for students

Upon withdrawal, please check if the student has technology loaned/purchased through ICS and immediately initiate the return process. It is the policy of ICS that all students, once withdrawn from the school, must return any item within 30 days from their exit date. Please instruct students/parents to follow the return process below. You are also welcomed to return items on behave of a student, however, you will therefore be liable if an item is not returned. Students returning product due to damages must provide the damaged item before a replacement can be given. The IT Department will evaluate the severity of the damages and determine the best course of action thereafter. If damages are beyond normal wear and tear, applicable charges may be applied.

To return an item for any reason, please:

1. Contact our helpdesk:
    a. Email: tech-help@inspireschools.org
    b. Call: (626) 433-8094
2. Please include and have ready:

a. Your reason for the return

b. ICS Asset Tag number or Tech Centre order number

c. Your mailing address

d. Current phone number

i. Please include the student name and associated email

3. Return authorization will be given by a tech support agent
4. A shipping label will be provided at no cost. Home pick-up services may also be available at no additional cost
5. Item(s) will be returned to the Inspire Charter Schools Technology Department in Duarte, CA.
    a. Do not give your devices to anyone other than as instructed
6. Once returned, the item will be evaluated
7. A refund, credit, or replacement will be issued, if eligible
8. If an item is not returned within the allotted time, local law enforcement will pursue the device on behave of ICS. Any missing technology will be noted in the student's record by the Records Department.

Note: If you support a student or family that requires a specialty device not provided by the Tech Centre, please contact the Enrichment Department in your location for more instructions.

Stolen Technology

ICS is proud to work with Absolute Software - a solution that allows for effective security technology and student safety programs that track, locate and recover your endpoints in the event of a theft, while ensuring safety for students. Absolute provides:

- Remote security to monitor and protect each device
- Reporting tools that give hardware and software information
- Remote device freeze with user verification messaging
- Track assets on Google Maps, including recent and historical locations
- Web filtering to protect students on and off school networks
- Adherence to CIPA regulations around internet security policies
- Thief investigation services, remediation and more

The Recovery Investigation team will work with local law enforcement to recover any stolen device that is tracked through Absolute. They will attempt to collect the device up to 60 days. If they're unsuccessful, ICS may be compensated up to $500 for that device. *Pricing may vary and is subject to change without notice and is not guaranteed.

The ICS ITD always tries to take the most cautious and diplomatic approach when attempting to recover any stolen items. If the student has withdrawn from the School and the return process has been initiated but failed, three attempts will be made to contact the family using all forms of communication. Once our attempts have been unsuccessful, a police report is established and all information is handed over to the Absolute Recovery Team for further investigation. Absolute will then continue their process by tracking the device, contact the person in question, communicate with local law enforcement and if found provide a warrant to search for the device.

If a student has a lost or stolen device while still enrolled with the School, please report the device to local law enforcement and contact the ICS Technology Department to begin the investigation process. We will do our best to recovery and replace any device that has been reported as lost, stolen or missing. A police report must be provided prior to starting the investigation. ***Please note that this does not apply to all devices. Exclusions include purchases made through a third party vendor, Amazon Tablets or any related Amazon purchase, Apple devices, and older computers without Absolute Software. For Apple device's please contact the IT Department for more details.***

For more details, please visit: www.absolute.com/en/about/legal/agreements/absolute

Personal Technology Policy

Overview

This policy will set forth the rules and regulations which will determine how the ICS faculty, staff and customer are to perform work on personally-owned employee products. The ITD does not service technology equipment for personal devices. **It is strongly advised that no employee use their personal devices** to access confidential school information unless otherwise given permission from a Director or the Information Technology staff.

Policy

The IT Department always strives to ensure that ICS employees, students, and affiliates receive the best possible technology assistance available. However, this can leave something to be desired for non-ICS, personally-owned technology equipment owned by employees, students, and affiliates.

This policy will set forth the rules, regulations, and guidelines for which the Information Technology Department staff may provide services for personally-owned technology equipment.

All personal technology work will be performed within the following restrictions:

For Faculty and Staff

- Personal technology work may be performed during regular business hours, only if such work does not directly interfere or delay the normal operations or job duties of the ICS employee.
- No parts purchases for personal devices.

- ICS is not responsible for damages, repairs, placements or upgrades to any personally owned hardware or software
- Access to confidential school information is prohibited on personally owned devices, and is only allowed on a case by case basis. Your Director must grant approval.

For Students and Affiliates

- The ITD is prohibited from installing software on personal devices unless it is strictly for school purposes.
- Staff are prohibited from assisting with repairs or work on personal devices for customers (students and or/parents)
    - This includes installing or assisting with software not purchased through Instructional Funds
    - Guiding and directing the customer on how to fix or repair an issue
- If a personally owned device doesn't meet the needs necessary to complete an assignment, the ITD will offer to place a tech order for a new device that may fit their needs. Instructional Funds will be used for all technology purchases.

***ICS ITD is prohibited from placing orders for students and/or staff with the use of personal funds.*

Identification of Individuals for 504 Policy

The Cottonwood School recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program of the Charter School. Any student who has an objectively identified disability which substantially limits a major life activity including but not limited to learning, is eligible for accommodation by the Charter School.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Identification of Individuals for 504 Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Explain the Identification and Education Under Section 504
2. Define the Terms and Phrases of the Identification and Education Under Section 504
3. Identify the Referral, Identification, and Evaluation Process
4. Establish Section 504 Services Plan and Placement
5. Establish the Review and Reevaluation Process
6. Identify the Procedural Safeguards
7. Establish the Notification Process

1. **Identification and Education Under Section 504:** The Governing Board believes that all children, including children with disabilities, should have the opportunity to learn in a safe and nurturing environment. The Executive Director or designee shall work to identify children with disabilities who reside within the jurisdiction of the Charter School in order to ensure that they receive educational and related services required by law.

   The Executive Director or designee shall provide qualified students with disabilities with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), as defined under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Such students shall receive regular or special education and related aids and services designated to meet their individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met.

   In addition, qualified students with disabilities shall be provided an equal opportunity to participate in programs and activities that are integral components of the Charter School's basic education program, including, but not limited to, extracurricular athletics, interscholastic sports, and/or other non-academic activities.

   The Charter School's local control and accountability plan shall include goals and specific actions to improve student achievement and other outcomes of students with disabilities. At least annually, the Executive Director or designee shall assess the Charter School's progress in attaining the goals established for students with disabilities and shall report these results to the Board. (Education Code 52052, 52060)

In providing services to students with disabilities under Section 504, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure the Charter School complies with the law, including providing the students and their parents/guardians with applicable procedural safeguards and required notification. Any dispute as to the identification, evaluation, or placement of any student with a disability shall be resolved in accordance with the processes specific in the "Procedural Safeguards" section of the accompanying administrative regulation.

2. **Definition of Terms and Phrases:** The Student Support Team implements the requirements of Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973: For the purposes of implementing Section 504, the following terms and phrases shall have only the meanings specified below:

    - ***Free appropriate public education (FAPE)*** means the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the individual educational needs of a student with disabilities as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, at no cost to the student or his/her parent/guardian except when a fee is specifically authorized by law for all students.

    - ***Student with a disability*** means a student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

    - ***Physical impairment*** means any physiological disorder, or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems, such as neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genito-urinary, immune, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine. (28 CFR 35.108)

    - ***Mental impairment*** means any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disability. (28 CFR 35.108)

    - ***Substantially limits major life activities*** means limiting a person's ability to perform functions, as compared to most people in the general population, such as caring for himself/herself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, writing, communicating, and working. Major life activities also includes major bodily functions such as functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions, as well as the operation of an individual organ within a body system. The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a student's major life activities shall be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures other than ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses. Mitigating measures are measures that an individual may use to eliminate or reduce the effects of an impairment, including, but not limited to, medications, medical supplies or equipment, prosthetic devices, assistive devices, reasonable modifications or auxiliary aids or services, learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications,

psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy. (42 USC 12102; 28 CFR 35.108).

3. **Referral, Identification, and Evaluation:** Any action or decision to be taken by the Charter School involving the referral, identification, or evaluation of a student with disabilities shall be in accordance with the following procedures:

   i. A parent/guardian, teacher, other school employee, student success team, or community agency may refer a student to a 504 Coordinator for identification of a student with a disability under Section 504.

   ii. Upon receipt of any such referral, the 504 Coordinator, or other qualified individual with expertise in the area of the student's suspected disability shall consider the referral and determine whether an evaluation is appropriate. This determination shall be based on a review of the student's school records including those in academic and nonacademic areas of the school program; consultation with the student's teacher(s), other professionals, and the parent/guardian, as appropriate; and analysis of the student's needs. If it is determined that an evaluation is unnecessary, the 504 Coordinator shall inform the parents/guardians in writing of this decision and of the procedural safeguards available, as described in the "Procedural Safeguards" section below.

   iii. If the student needs or is believed to need special education or related services under Section 504, the Charter School shall conduct an evaluation of the student prior to his/her initial placement.

   Prior to conducting an initial evaluation of a student for eligibility under Section 504, the Charter School shall obtain written parent/guardian consent.

   The Charter School's evaluation procedures shall ensure that the tests and other evaluation materials:

   a. Have been validated and are administered by trained personnel in conformance with the instruction provided by the test publishers.

   b. Are tailored to assess specific areas of educational need and are not merely designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient

   c. Reflect the student's aptitude or achievement or whatever else the tests purport to measure rather than his/her impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, except where those skills are the factors that the tests purport to measure.

4. **Section 504 Services Plan and Placement:** Services and placement decisions for students with disabilities shall be determined as follows:
   i. A multidisciplinary 504 team shall be convened to review the evaluation data in order to make placement decisions. The 504 team shall consist of a group of persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options.

In interpreting evaluation data and making placement decisions, the team shall draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior. The team shall also ensure that information obtained from all such sources is documented and carefully considered.

ii. If, upon evaluation, a student is determined to be eligible for services under Section 504, the team shall meet to develop a written 504 services plan which shall specify the types of services necessary to ensure that the student receives FAPE.

The parents/guardians shall be invited to participate in the meeting and shall be given an opportunity to examine all relevant records.

iii. If the 504 team determines that no services are necessary for the student, the record of the team's meeting shall reflect whether or not the student has been identified as a person with a disability under Section 504 and shall state the basis for determination that no special services are presently needed. The student's parent/guardian shall be informed in writing of his/her rights and procedural safeguards, as described in the "Procedural Safeguards" section below.

iv. The student shall be placed in the regular educational environment, unless the Charter School can demonstrate that the education of the student in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. The student shall be educated with those who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate to his/her individual needs.

v. The Charter School shall complete the identification, evaluation, and placement process within a reasonable time frame. The Charter School shall adhere to this time frame regardless of any extended school breaks or times that school is otherwise not in session.

vi. A copy of the student's Section 504 services plan shall be kept in his/her student record. The student's teacher(s) and any other staff who provide services to the student shall be informed of the plan's requirements.

If a student transfers to another school, the charter school shall ensure that the new school receives a copy of the plan.

5. **Review and Reevaluation:** The 504 team shall monitor the progress of the student and, at least annually, shall review the effectiveness of the student's Section 504 services plan to determine whether the services are appropriate and necessary and whether the student's needs are being met as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met. In addition, each student with a disability under Section 504 shall be reevaluated at least once every three years.

A reevaluation of the student's needs will be conducted before any subsequent significant change in placement.

6. **Procedural Safeguards:** The administrator or designee shall notify the parents/guardians of students with disabilities of all actions and decisions by the Charter School regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of their children. He/she also shall notify the parents/guardians of all the procedural safeguards available to them if they disagree with the Charter School's action or decision, including an opportunity to examine all relevant records and an impartial hearing in which they shall have the right to participate.

   If a parent/guardian disagrees with any Charter School action or decision regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of his/her child under Section 504, he/she may request a Section 504 due process hearing within 30 days of that action or decision.
   Prior to requesting a Section 504 due process hearing, the parent/guardian may, at his/her discretion, but within 30 days of the Charter School's action or decision, request an administrative review of the action or decision. The Coordinator shall designate an appropriate administrator to meet with the parent/guardian to attempt to resolve the issue and the administrative review shall be held within 14 days of receiving the parent/guardian request. If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the resolution of the issue, or if the parent/guardian did not request an administrative review, he/she may request a Section 504 due process hearing.

   A Section 504 due process hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedures:

   i. The parent/guardian shall submit a written request to the Coordinator within 30 days of receiving the Charter School's decision or, if an administrative review is held, within 14 days of the completion of the review. The request for the due process hearing shall include:
      a. The specific nature of the decision with which he/she disagrees.
      b. The specific relief he/she seeks
      c. Any other information he/she believes is pertinent to resolving the disagreement.

   ii. Within 30 days of receiving the parent/guardian's request, the Executive Director or designee shall select an impartial hearing officer. This 30-day deadline may be extended for good cause or by mutual agreement of the parties.

   iii. Within 45 days of the selection of the hearing officer, the Section 504 due process hearing shall be conducted and a written decision mailed to all parties. This 45-day deadline may be extended for good cause or by mutual agreement of the parties.

   iv. The parties to the hearing shall be afforded the right to:
      a. Be accompanied and advised by legal counsel and by individuals with special knowledge or training related to the problems of students with disabilities under Section 504

b. Present written and oral evidence
c. Question and cross-examine witnesses
d. Receive written findings by the hearing officer stating the decision by a federal court of competent jurisdiction.

If desired, either party may seek a review of the hearing officer's decision by a federal court of competent jurisdiction.

7. **Notifications:** The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the Charter School has taken appropriate steps to notify students and parents/guardians of the Charter School's duty under Section 504.

Identification and Evaluation for Special Education Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to actively seeking out and evaluating the Charter School's residents from birth to age 21 who have disabilities in order to provide them with appropriate educational opportunities in accordance with state and federal law.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Identification and Evaluation for Special Education Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Procedures for Identifying and Evaluating Individuals Eligible for Special Education.
2. Establish the Procedures for Notifying Parents of Individuals Eligible for Special Education.

1. **Identification and Evaluation:** The Executive Director or designee shall establish a comprehensive system that includes procedures for the identification, screening, referral, and regular and triennial assessment of individuals eligible for special education, as well as procedures for the planning, implementation, and review of the education and related services provided to such individuals. (Education Code 56301)

   The charter's identification procedures shall include methods for utilizing referrals from parents/guardians, teachers, appropriate professionals, and others, and shall be coordinated with procedures for the referral of students whose needs cannot be met with modifications to the regular instructional program. (Education Code 56302)

2. **Notification:** The Executive Director or designee shall notify parents/guardians, in writing, of their rights related to identification, referral, assessment, instructional planning, implementation, and review, including the right to consent to any assessment concerning their child. In addition, the Executive Director or designee shall notify parents/guardians of procedures for initiating a referral for assessment to identify individuals who need special education services. (Education Code 56301)

Individual Education Program Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to identifying and serving students who have exceptional needs and are eligible to receive special education supports and services. Our commitment is based on the belief that all students shall have access to a high quality public education.

The purpose of the The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Individual Education Program Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Administrative Regulations Regarding for an Individualized Education Program
2. Identify A Foster Parent's Rights

1. **Administrative Regulation:** The Executive Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations regarding the appointment of the individualized education program (IEP) team, the contents of the IEP, and the development, review, and revision of the IEP.

2. **Rights of a Foster Parent:** To the extent permitted by federal law, a foster parent shall have the same rights relative to his/her foster child's IEP as a parent/guardian. (Education Code 56055)

Individual Education Program Administrative Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to identifying and serving students who have exceptional needs and are eligible to receive special education supports and services. Our commitment is based on the belief that all students shall have access to a high quality public education.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Individual Education Program Administrative Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define an Individualized Education Program.
2. Identify the Members of an IEP Team
3. Outline the Circumstances When an Individual Can be Invited to the IEP Meeting
4. Outline the Contents of the IEP
5. Outline the Procedures for the Development of the IEP
6. Outline the Provision of Special Education and Related Services
7. Outline the Process to Review and Revise the IEP
8. Outline the Use of Audio Recordings at an IEP Team Meeting
9. Identify Parent/Guardian Participation and Other Rights
10. Identify Parent/Guardian Consent for Provision of Special Education and Services
11. Outline the Procedures for Transfer Students

1. **Individual Education Program:** At the beginning of each school year, the charter shall have an individualized education program (IEP) in effect for each student with a disability within Charter School jurisdiction. The IEP shall be a written statement designed by the IEP team to meet the unique educational needs of a student with a disability. (Education Code 56344; 34 CFR 300.323)

2. **Members of the IEP Team:** The IEP team for any student with a disability shall include the following members: (Education Code 56341, 56341.5; 20 USC 1414(d)(1); 34 CFR 300.321)

    1. One or both of the student's parents/guardians and/or a representative selected by them

    2. If the student is or may be participating in the regular education program, at least one of the student's regular education teachers designated by the Executive Director or designee to represent the student's teachers.

       The regular education teacher shall, to the extent appropriate, participate in the development, review, and revision of the student's IEP, including assisting in the determination of appropriate positive behavioral interventions, supports, and other strategies for the student, and supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and supports for school personnel that will be provided for the student, consistent with 34 CFR 300.320. (Education Code 56341; 20 USC 1414(d)(3)(C); 34 CFR 300.324)

3. At least one of the student's special education teachers or, where appropriate, special education providers

4. A representative of the Charter School who is:
    a. Qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities

    b. Knowledgeable about the general education curriculum

    c. Knowledgeable about the availability of Charter School and/or special education local plan area (SELPA) resources

5. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of assessment results. This individual may already be a member of the team as described in items #2-4 above or in item #6 below.

6. At the discretion of the parent/guardian or the Executive Director or designee, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, including related services personnel, as appropriate. The determination of whether the individual has knowledge or special expertise regarding the student shall be made by the party who invites the individual to be a member of the IEP team.

7. Whenever appropriate, the student with a disability

    In the development, review, or revision of his/her IEP, the student shall be allowed to provide confidential input to any representative of his/her IEP team. (Education Code 56341.5)

    When the student is suspected of having a specific learning disability, at least one individual who is qualified to conduct individual diagnostic examinations of the student such as a school psychologist, speech language pathologist, or remedial reading teacher

    In accordance with 34 CFR 300.310, at least one team member other than the student's regular education teacher shall observe the student's academic performance and behavior in the areas of difficulty in his/her learning environment, including in the regular classroom setting. If the child is younger than five years or not enrolled in school, a team member shall observe the child in an environment appropriate for a child of that age.

3. Invitation of Specified Individuals: In the following circumstances, the Executive Director or designee shall invite other specified individuals to an IEP team meeting:

1. When the student has been placed in a group home by the juvenile court, a representative of the group home shall be invited to attend IEP team meetings. (Education Code 56341.2)

2. Whenever the IEP team is meeting to consider the student's postsecondary goals and the transition services needed to assist him/her in reaching the goals as stated in Education Code 56345(a)(8), the following individuals shall be invited to attend: (34 CFR 300.321)

    a. The student, regardless of his/her age.

        If the student does not attend the IEP team meeting, the Executive Director or designee shall take other steps to ensure that the student's preferences and interests are considered.

    b. To the extent appropriate, and with the consent of the parent/guardian, a representative of any other agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for the transition services

3. If the student was previously served under the Early Education for Individuals with Exceptional Needs (Education Code 56425-56432) or the California Early Intervention Services Act (Government Code 95000-95004), and upon request of the student's parent/guardian, the Executive Director or designee shall invite the Infant and Toddlers with Disabilities Coordinator or other representative of the early education or early intervention system to the initial IEP team meeting to assist with the smooth transition of services. (Education Code 56341; 20 USC 1414(d)(1)(D); 34 CFR 300.321)

4. A member of the IEP team shall not be required to attend an IEP team meeting, in whole or in part, if the parent/guardian and the Charter School agree, in writing, that the attendance of the member is not necessary because the member's area of the curriculum or related services is not being modified or discussed at the meeting. Even if the meeting involves a discussion of the IEP team member's area of the curriculum or related service, the member may be excused from the meeting if the parent/guardian, in writing, and the Charter School consent to the excusal after conferring with the member and the member submits to the parent/guardian and team written input into the development of the IEP prior to the meeting. (Education Code 56341; 20 USC 1414(d)(1)(C); 34 CFR 300.321)

4. The Contents of the IEP: The IEP shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 56043, 56345, 56345.1; 20 USC 1414(d)(1)(A); 34 CFR 300.320)

1. A statement of the present levels of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, including:

2. The manner in which the student's disability affects his/her involvement and progress in the general education curriculum (i.e., the same curriculum as for nondisabled students)

3. For a student with a disability who takes alternate assessments aligned to alternate achievement standards, a description of benchmarks or short-term objectives

4. A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals, designed to:

    a. Meet the student's needs that result from his/her disability in order to enable the student to be involved in and progress in the general education curriculum

    b. Meet each of the student's other educational needs that result from his/her disability

5. A description of the manner in which the student's progress toward meeting the annual goals described in item #2 above will be measured and when the Charter School will provide periodic reports on the progress the student is making toward meeting the annual goals, such as through the use of quarterly or other periodic reports, concurrent with the issuance of report cards

6. A statement of the special education instruction and related services and supplementary aids and services, based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable, to be provided to the student or on behalf of the student, and a statement of the program modifications or supports for school personnel that will be provided to enable the student to:

    a. Advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals

    b. Be involved and make progress in the general education curriculum in accordance with item #1 above and to participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities

    c. Be educated and participate with other students with disabilities and nondisabled students in the activities described in the IEP

7. An explanation of the extent, if any, to which the student will not participate with nondisabled students in the regular class and in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities described in the IEP

8. A statement of any appropriate individual accommodations necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on state and school assessments

    If the IEP team determines that the student shall take an alternate assessment instead of a particular regular state or Charter Schoolwide assessment, the student's IEP also shall include a statement of the reason that he/she cannot participate in the regular assessment and the reason that the particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for him/her.

9. The projected date for the beginning of the services and modifications described in item #4 above and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services and modifications

10. Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is 16 years of age, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team, and updated annually thereafter, the following:

    a. Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills

    b. The transition services, including courses of study, needed to assist the student in reaching those goals

11. Beginning at least one year before the student reaches age 18, a statement that the student has been informed of his/her rights, if any, that will transfer to him/her upon reaching age 18, pursuant to Education Code 56041.5

12. Where appropriate, the IEP shall also include: (Education Code 56345)

    a. For a student in grades 7-12, any alternative means and modes necessary for the student to complete the Charter School's prescribed course of study and to meet or exceed proficiency standards required for graduation

    b. Linguistically appropriate goals, objectives, programs, and services for a student whose native language is not English

    c. Extended school year services when the IEP team determines, on an individual basis, that the services are necessary for the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE)

    d. Provision for transition into the regular education program if the student is to be transferred from a special class or center or nonpublic, nonsectarian school into a regular education program in a public school for any part of the school day, including descriptions of activities intended to:

        i. Integrate the student into the regular education program, including indications of the nature of each activity and the time spent on the activity each day or week

        ii. Support the transition of the student from the special education program into the regular education program

iii. Specialized services, materials, and equipment for a student with low incidence disabilities, consistent with the guidelines pursuant to Education Code 56136

5. Development of the IEP: Within 30 days of a determination that a student needs special education and related services, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure that a meeting to develop an initial IEP is conducted. (34 CFR 300.323)

Any IEP required as a result of an assessment of a student shall be developed within 60 days from the date of receipt of the parent/guardian's written consent for assessment, unless the parent/guardian agrees, in writing, to an extension. Days between the student's regular school sessions, terms, or vacation of more than five school days shall not be counted. In the case of school vacations, the 60-day time limit shall commence on the date that the student's school days reconvene. (Education Code 56344)

However, when the IEP is required as a result of an assessment of a student for whom a referral has been made 30 days or less prior to the end of the preceding regular school year, the IEP shall be developed within 30 days after the commencement of the subsequent regular school year. (Education Code 56344)
In developing the IEP, the IEP team shall consider all of the following: (Education Code 56341.1, 56345; 20 USC 1414(d)(3)(A); 34 CFR 300.324)

1. The strengths of the student

2. The concerns of the parents/guardians for enhancing the education of their child

3. The results of the initial or most recent assessment of the student

4. The academic, developmental, and functional needs of the student

5. In the case of a student whose behavior impedes his/her learning or that of others, the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies to address that behavior

6. In the case of a student with limited English proficiency, the language needs of the student as such needs relate to the student's IEP

7. In the case of a student who is blind or visually impaired, the need to provide for instruction in Braille and instruction in the use of Braille. However, such instruction need not be included in the IEP if the IEP team determines that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate for the student. This determination shall be based upon an assessment of the student's reading and writing skills, his/her future needs for instruction in Braille or the use of Braille, and other appropriate reading and writing media.

8. The communication needs of the student and, in the case of a student who is deaf or hard of hearing, the student's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the student's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the student's language and communication mode

9. The team shall also consider the related services and program options that provide the student with an equal opportunity for communication access, as described in Education Code 56345.

    a. Whether the student requires assistive technology devices and services

10. If, in considering the special factors in items #1-9 above, the IEP team determines that the student needs a particular device or service, including an intervention, accommodation, or other program modification, in order to receive FAPE, the team shall include a statement to that effect in the student's IEP. (Education Code 56341.1)

6. **Provision of Special Education and Related Services:** The Charter School shall ensure that, as soon as possible following development of the IEP, special education services and related services are made available to the student in accordance with his/her IEP. (Education Code 56344; 34 CFR 300.323)

   The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the student's IEP is accessible to each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, and any other service provider who is responsible for its implementation. The Executive Director or designee also shall ensure that such teachers and providers are informed of their specific responsibilities related to implementing the IEP and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided to the student in accordance with the IEP. (34 CFR 300.323)

7. **Review and Revision of the IEP:** The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the IEP team reviews the IEP periodically, but at least annually, in order to: (Education Code 56043, 56341.1, 56380; 20 USC 1414(d)(4); 34 CFR 300.324)
    1. Determine whether the annual goals for the student are being achieved

    2. Revise the IEP, as appropriate, to address:

        a. Any lack of expected progress toward the annual goals and in the general education curriculum, where appropriate

        b. The results of any reassessment conducted pursuant to Education Code 56381

        c. Information about the student provided to or by the parents/guardians regarding review of evaluation data pursuant to 34 CFR 300.305(a)(2) and Education Code 56381(b)

d. The student's anticipated needs

e. Any other relevant matter

3. Consider the special factors listed in items #5-9 above under "Development of the IEP," when reviewing the IEP of any student with a disability to whom one of those factors may apply

The IEP team shall also meet at any other time upon request by the student's parent/guardian or teacher to review or revise the IEP. (Education Code 56343)

When a parent/guardian requests an IEP team meeting to review the IEP, the team shall meet within 30 days of receiving the parent/guardian's written request, not counting days between the student's regular school sessions or terms or days of school vacation in excess of five school days. If a parent/guardian makes an oral request, the Charter School shall notify the parent/guardian of the need for a written request and the procedure for filing such a request. (Education Code 56043, 56343.5)

A regular education or special education teacher may request a review of the classroom assignment of a student with a disability by submitting a written request to the Executive Director or designee. The Executive Director or designee shall consider the request within 20 days of receiving it, not counting days when school is not in session or, for year-round schools, days when the school is off track. If the review indicates a need for change in the student's placement, instruction, and/or related services, the Executive Director or designee shall convene an IEP team meeting, which shall be held within 30 days of the Executive Director or designee review, not counting days when school is not in session or days when school is off track, unless the student's parent/guardian consents in writing to an extension of time.

If a participating agency other than the Charter School fails to provide the transition services described in the student's IEP, the team shall reconvene to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition service objectives set out for the student in the IEP. (Education Code 56345.1; 20 USC 1414(d); 34 CFR 300.324)

If a student with a disability residing in a licensed children's institution or foster family home has been placed by the Charter School in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school, the Executive Director or designee shall conduct an annual evaluation as part of the IEP process of whether the placement is the least restrictive environment that is appropriate to meet the student's needs. (Education Code 56157)

To the extent possible, the Executive Director or designee shall encourage the consolidation of reassessment meetings and other IEP team meetings for a student. (20 USC 1414(d)(3)(A); 34 CFR 300.324)

When a change is necessary to a student's IEP after the annual IEP team meeting for the school year has been held, the parent/guardian and the Executive Director or designee may agree not to convene an IEP team meeting for the purpose of making the change and instead may develop

a written document to amend or modify the student's current IEP. The IEP team shall be informed of any such changes. Upon request, the Executive Director or designee shall provide the parent/guardian with a revised copy of the IEP with the incorporated amendments. (20 USC 1414(d)(3)(D); 34 CFR 300.324)

8. **Audio Recording of IEP Team Meetings:** Parents/guardians and the Executive Director or designee shall have the right to audio record the proceedings of IEP team meetings, provided members of the IEP team are notified of this intent at least 24 hours before the meeting. If the Executive Director or designee gives notice of intent to audio record a meeting and the parent/guardian objects or refuses to attend because the meeting would be audio recorded, the meeting shall not be audio recorded. Parents/guardians also have the right to: (Education Code 56341.1)

    1. Inspect and review the audio recordings

    2. Request that an audio recording be amended if they believe it contains information that is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights or other rights

    3. Challenge, in a hearing, information that the parents/guardians believe is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights or other rights

9. **Parent/Guardian Participation and Other Rights:** The Executive Director or designee shall take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents/guardians of the student with a disability are present at each IEP team meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate. These steps shall include notifying the parents/guardians of the meeting early enough to ensure that they will have the opportunity to attend and scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed upon time and place. (Education Code 56341.5; 34 CFR 300.322)

    The Executive Director or designee shall send parents/guardians notices of IEP team meetings that: (Education Code 56341.5; 34 CFR 300.322)

    1. Indicate the purpose, time, and location of the meeting

    2. Indicate who will be in attendance at the meeting

    3. Inform them of:

        a. Their right to bring to the meeting other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise about the student, pursuant to Education Code 56341(b)(6)

        b. The provision of Education Code 56341(i) relating to the participation of the Infant and Toddlers with Disabilities Coordinator at the initial IEP team meeting, if the student was previously served under Early Education for Individuals with Exceptional Needs (Education Code 56425-56432) or the California Early Intervention Services Act (Government Code 95000-95004)

4. In addition, when the IEP team meeting is to consider the development, review, or revision of the IEP of a student with a disability who is 16 years of age or older, or younger than 16 if deemed appropriate by the IEP team, the Executive Director or designee notice to the student's parents/guardians shall include the following: (Education Code 56341.5)

    a. An indication that a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of postsecondary goals and transition services for the student pursuant to Education Code 56345.1, 20 USC 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII), and 34 CFR 300.320(b)

    b. An indication that the student is invited to the IEP team meeting

    c. Identification of any other agency that will be invited to send a representative

At each IEP team meeting convened by the charter, the school administrator or specialist on the team shall inform the parent/guardian and student of the federal and state procedural safeguards included in the notice of parental rights provided pursuant to Education Code 56321. (Education Code 56500.1)

The parent/guardian shall have the right and opportunity to examine all of his/her child's school records upon request, before any IEP meeting, and in connection with any hearing or resolution session on matters affecting his/her child, including, but not limited to, initial formal assessment, procedural safeguards, and due process. Upon receipt of an oral or written request, the Executive Director or designee shall provide complete copies of the records within five business days. (Education Code 56043, 56504)

The parent/guardian shall have the right to present information to the IEP team in person or through a representative and the right to participate in meetings that relate to eligibility for special education and related services, recommendations, and program planning. (Education Code 56341.1)

If neither parent/guardian can attend the meeting, the Executive Director or designee shall use other methods to ensure parent/guardian participation, including video conferences or individual or conference telephone calls. (Education Code 56341.5; 20 USC 1414(f); 34 CFR 300.322)

At each IEP team meeting convened by the charter, the school administrator or specialist on the team shall inform the parent/guardian and student of the federal and state procedural safeguards included in the notice of parental rights provided pursuant to Education Code 56321. (Education Code 56500.1)

The parent/guardian shall have the right and opportunity to examine all of his/her child's school records upon request, before any IEP meeting, and in connection with any hearing or resolution session on matters affecting his/her child, including, but not limited to, initial formal

assessment, procedural safeguards, and due process. Upon receipt of an oral or written request, the Executive Director or designee shall provide complete copies of the records within five business days. (Education Code 56043, 56504)

The parent/guardian shall have the right to present information to the IEP team in person or through a representative and the right to participate in meetings that relate to eligibility for special education and related services, recommendations, and program planning. (Education Code 56341.1)

If neither parent/guardian can attend the meeting, the Executive Director or designee shall use other methods to ensure parent/guardian participation, including video conferences or individual or conference telephone calls. (Education Code 56341.5; 20 USC 1414(f); 34 CFR 300.322)

An IEP team meeting may be conducted without a parent/guardian in attendance if the Executive Director or designee is unable to convince the parent/guardian that he/she should attend. In such a case, the Executive Director or designee shall maintain a record of the attempts to arrange a mutually agreed upon time and place for the meeting, including: (Education Code 56341.5; 34 CFR 300.322)

1. Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls

2. Copies of correspondence sent to the parent/guardian and any responses received

3. Detailed records of visits made to the parent/guardian's home or place of employment and the results of those visits

The Executive Director or designee shall take any action necessary to ensure that the parents/guardians understand the proceedings of the meeting, including arranging for an interpreter for parents/guardians with deafness or whose native language is not English. (Education Code 56341.5; 34 CFR 300.322)

The Executive Director or designee shall give the parents/guardians of a student with a disability a copy of his/her child's IEP at no cost. (Education Code 56341.5; 34 CFR 300.322)

10. **Parent/Guardian Consent for Provision of Special Education and Services:** Before providing special education and related services to any student, the Executive Director or designee shall seek to obtain informed consent of the student's parent/guardian pursuant to 20 USC 1414(a)(1). The Charter shall not provide services by utilizing the due process hearing procedures pursuant to 20 USC 1415(f) if the parent/guardian refuses to consent to the initiation of services. If the parent/guardian does not consent to all of the components of the IEP, then those components to which the parent/guardian has consented shall be implemented so as not to delay providing instruction and services to the student. (Education Code 56346)

    If the Executive Director or designee determines that a part of a proposed IEP to which the parent/guardian does not consent is necessary in order to provide the student with FAPE, a due

process hearing shall be initiated in accordance with 20 USC 1415(f). While the due process hearing is pending, the student shall remain in the current placement unless the parent/guardian and the Executive Director or designee agree otherwise. (Education Code 56346)

If at any time subsequent to the initial provision of services, the student's parent/guardian, in writing, revokes consent for the continued provision of special education services, the Executive Director or designee shall provide prior written notice within a reasonable time before ceasing to provide services to the student. The Executive Director or designee shall not request a due process hearing or pursue mediation in order to require an agreement or ruling that services be provided to the student. (Education Code 56346; 34 CFR 300.300, 300.503)

When the Charter School ceases to provide special education services in response to the parent/guardian's revocation of consent, the student shall be classified as a general education student.

11. **Transfer Students:** To facilitate the transition of a student with a disability who is transferring into the Charter School, the Executive Director or designee shall take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the student's records, including his/her IEP and the supporting documents related to the provision of special education services. (Education Code 56325; 34 CFR 300.323)

    If the student transfers into the charter from another school Charter School within the same SELPA during the school year, the Charter School shall continue to provide services comparable to those described in the student's existing IEP, unless his/her parent/guardian and the Charter School agree to develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP that is consistent with state and federal law. (Education Code 56325; 34 CFR 300.323)

    If the student transfers into the charter from a school district outside of the Charter School's SELPA during the school year, the Charter School shall provide the student with FAPE, including services comparable to those described in the previous district's IEP. Within 30 days, the Executive Director or designee shall, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians, adopt the previous district's IEP or shall develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP that is consistent with state and federal law. (Education Code 56325; 34 CFR 300.323)

    If the student transfers into the Charter School from an out-of-state district during the school year, the Charter School shall provide the student with FAPE, including services comparable to the out-of-state district's IEP, in consultation with the parent/guardian, until such time as the Executive Director or designee conducts an assessment, if it determines that such an assessment is necessary, and develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP, if appropriate. (Education Code 56325; 34 CFR 300.323)

Parent-Student Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to providing our students with access to technology, information, and digital resources while fostering safe, responsible, and ethical learning environments. The Charter School is committed to upholding important security, privacy, and safety regulations, protocols, and standards. Users of the Charter School's devices, networks, accounts, and other resources must adhere to the Charter School's policies. Users are also expected to fully comply with local, state, and federal regulations. Failure to adhere to these policies or regulations may result in discipline, legal action, or other remedies determined to be within the rights of the Charter School. Relevant regulations include (but are not limited to):

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The purpose of the The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Parent-Student Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Technology Use Terms and Phrases
2. Identify the User Responsibility
3. Outline Acceptable Use of Resources
4. Outline Unacceptable Use of Resources
5. Outline the Expectation of Privacy
6. Define Cyberbullying
7. Outline Stolen Technology Procedures
8. Outline the Student Departure Procedures
9. Identify the Disclaimers and Acknowledgements
10. Establish the User Agreement

1. Definitions:

- ***School*** *or* ***Organization*** *or* ***We*** – the Charter School and its subsidiaries, programs, and divisions
- ***ITD*** - Inspire Charter Schools Information Technology Department
- ***You*** *or* ***Your*** *or* ***I*** - the parent/guardian, student, and signer of this Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
- ***Resources*** - devices, systems, services or networks owned, operated or issued by the Charter School.

- ***User*** - any person(s) accessing or utilizing the Charter School's resources that is not a resource operator
- ***AUP*** – Parent-Student Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

2. **User Responsibilities:** Access to the Charter School's technology, resources, and support is a privilege which offers a wealth of educational benefits. To maintain these privileges, all users must agree to, learn about, and comply with all information within this AUP document.

    - You agree to, learn about and comply with all information outlined in this AUP document

    - Persons to whom items are assigned are expected to exercise reasonable care to protect those items against damage, loss and theft. "Reasonable care" is defined as:
        - Never leaving items unattended
        - Never lending, giving or releasing items to a person other than an employee of the ITD or Charter School
        - Never removing protective accessories or features (e.g. cases, bumpers)
        - Keeping items away from dangerous conditions (e.g. liquids, heat sources, unstable surfaces or items) and preventing actions which promote damage beyond normal wear and tear

    - You must immediately report damaged, lost, or stolen items/resources. Items reported stolen or missing will require a police report.

    - Parents/guardians are expected to provide supervision and monitor device/Internet access and usage.

    - You are expected to make a reasonable effort to protect your passwords, information and data.

    - You are obligated to notify the ITD of continued access to resources beyond student departure (e.g. withdrawal, graduation, expulsion) in the event the ITD has not contacted you to do so.

    - **Items, devices and resources issued by the Charter School are School property and must be returned or relinquished to the Charter School upon request.**

3. **Acceptable Use of Resources:**
    - All of the Charter School-issued accounts are intended solely for use by the person authorized to use the account.

- When sharing or exposing personal information or data online, extreme caution should be exercised.

- Any information or communication accessible via any of the Charter School networks should be assumed private property.

- The Charter Schools reserves the right to verify whether specific uses of the Charter School technology or networks are consistent with this acceptable use policy.

- The Charter School is bound by certain licensing agreements. Users are expected to comply with those agreements.

- Educational and instructional use as related to the Charter School only

4. Unacceptable Use of Resources:

- All commercial or personal for-profit usage is prohibited.
- The access, use or transmission of objectionable material (e.g. materials that are obscene, bullying, profane, lewd, threatening, disrespectful, hateful, pornographic) is prohibited.

- Violation of any local, state, or federal laws as well as School, board or administrative policies are prohibited. (e.g. Federal copyright laws - Title 17, USC)

- Any attempt to circumvent of the Charter School's security measures, content filters or access restricted resources is prohibited.

- All malicious and nefarious activities are prohibited. Examples include (1) unauthorized trespassing or infiltration of a network or device, (2) the intentional distribution of malware, (3) any attempt to deny a remote service. Malicious actors may also be in violation of *California's unauthorized computer access law, Penal Code 502(c) PC.*

- The intentional collection, mining, or uncovering of personal information, files, passwords belonging to a user other than yourself is prohibited.

- Impersonation of any user other than yourself is prohibited.

- Unauthorized falsification or modification of any school records is prohibited.

- The collection or transmission of personal information (e.g. home address, phone number, personal email) which may be useable to identify an individual without written consent is prohibited.

- Political lobbying or advertising is prohibited.

- Unauthorized maintenance, service, repairs, or upgrades are prohibited. The Charter School's owned or operated resources must be maintained by the ITD or authorized third parties.

5. **Expectation of Privacy:** For email, networks, systems, and other resources owned or operated by the Charter School, users should have no expectation of privacy. The Charter School reserves the right to manage and monitor all aspects of its own resources. The following are examples of actions which may be performed for reasons deemed legitimate by the Charter School:

    - Obtain emails, messages, and their attachments transmitted to or through the Charter School's owned or operated email systems

    - Monitor an individual's use of the Charter School's owned resources

    - Locate or track the location of the Charter School's owned resource

    - Confiscate, search, disable, or wipe any of the Charter School's owned device, item or their contents/data

    Personal devices are private. The Charter School must obtain permission to access personal devices.

6. **Cyberbullying**: Cyberbullying is the use of technology resources to willfully harm either a person or persons through electronic systems (e.g. texts, photos, videos. messages, social media). Examples of this behavior include, but are not limited to:

    - Transmitting false, cruel, hateful, or embarrassing information or media targeting others

    - Creating posts or websites that have stories, cartoons, pictures or jokes ridiculing others

    - Unauthorized access to any resource (e.g. social media, email) for purposes of downloading or transmitting vicious or embarrassing materials

- Engaging someone in electronic communication, tricking that person into revealing sensitive personal information, and transmitting that information or media to others

- Posting of a student picture without their permission.

- The use of derogatory comments, including those regarding race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, political persuasion, body type, physical or mental health.

7. **Stolen Technology:** The Charter School is proud to work with Absolute Software - a solution that allows for effective security technology and student safety programs that track, locate and recover your endpoints in the event of a theft, while ensuring safety for students. Absolute provides:

    - Remote security to monitor and protect each device

    - Reporting tools that give hardware and software information

    - Remote device freeze with user verification messaging

    - Track assets on Google Maps, including recent and historical locations

    - Web filtering to protect students on and off school networks

    - Adherence to CIPA regulations around internet security policies

    - Thief investigation services, remediation and more

    The Recovery Investigation team will work with local law enforcement to recover any stolen device that is tracked through Absolute. They will attempt to collect the device up to 60 days. If they are unsuccessful, the Charter School may be compensated up to $500 for that device. Pricing may vary and is subject to change without notice and is not guaranteed.

    The Charter School's ITD always tries to take the most cautious and diplomatic approach when attempting to recover any stolen items. Three attempts will be made to contact the employee using all forms of communication. Once our attempts have been unsuccessful, a police report is established and all information is handed over to the Absolute Recovery Team for further investigation. Absolute will then continue their process by tracking the device, contact the person in question, communicate with local law enforcement and if found provide a warrant to search for the device.

    If a student has a lost or stolen device while still enrolled with the School, please report the device to local law enforcement and contact the Technology Department to begin the investigation process. ITD will do their best to recovery and replace any device that has been

reported as lost, stolen, or missing. A police report must be provided prior to starting the investigation.

For more details, please visit: www.absolute.com/en/about/legal/agreements/absolute

8. **Student Departure:** Upon student departure (e.g. withdrawal, graduation, or expulsion) from the Charter School, all issued items must be returned within 30 days. Prepaid return labels and pick up services may be provided at no cost. Please review the Charter School's *Tech Centre and Issued Technology Agreement* for complete details regarding returns.

   If all attempts to collect a device are unsuccessful, the matter will be handed over to local law enforcement and pursued on behalf of the Charter School. Any missing technology will also be added to the student's records.
   For information regarding technology returns, please review the Charter School's *Tech Centre and Issued Technology Agreement* or contact ITD.

9. **Disclaimer & Acknowledgements:**
   - The Charter School reserves the right to modify its policies and rules at any time.
   - **ALL DEVICES, ITEMS AND SOFTWARE ISSUED BY THE CHARTER SCHOOL ARE SCHOOL PROPERTY.** YOU ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN ALL ITEMS ISSUED TO YOU UPON REQUEST BY OR DEPARTURE FROM THE CHARTER SCHOOL. We reserve the right to issue penalties (e.g. denial of access to resources, withholding of transcripts) or seek legal remedies in response to non-compliance.
   - Access to the Charter School's technology, resources and support is a privilege, not a right. These privileges are offered at the discretion of the Charter School.
   - The Charter School will not be held liable for the information or data retrieved, stored, or transmitted by means of the Charter School owned or operated resources, devices, networks, or systems
   - Users should not have an expectation of privacy in the use of the Charter School's resources, email, systems, networks
   - Illegal activities performed using the Charter School's devices, networks, and systems will be reported to the proper authorities when discovered
   - The Charter School will not be held responsible for losses or damages suffered by any user, including loss of data, interruption of service, delays, or non-deliveries

- The Charter School's issued property reported as lost, missing, or stolen may be remotely tracked, located and/or disabled at the discretion of the Charter School.

- The Charter School may confiscate and search any of the Charter School's resource for any reason deemed reasonable by the Charter School including in response to violation of school policies or government regulations

- The Charter School is not in any way an Internet Service Provider

10. **User Agreement Statement:** I have read, understand, and will abide by the PARENT-STUDENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY when using any of the Charter School's technology and other electronic resources issued, owned or operated by the Charter School. I further understand that any violation of the policies above are considered unethical and in some cases may constitute a criminal offense. Should I violate any of the policies outlined in this agreement, I understand my access to any of the Charter School's technology resource may be limited, revoked or returned and disciplinary and or legal action may be taken.

_____

STUDENT NAME (please print)

_____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE Date

Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for

The Cottonwood School is committed to protecting the rights of students with disabilities in accordance with the procedural safeguards set forth in state and federal law. Parents/guardians shall receive written notice of their rights in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Procedural Safeguards for Special Education Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Charter School's Representation in a Due Process Hearing
2. Establish the Complaint Procedures for Special Education

1. **Charter School's Representation in a Due Process Hearing:** The Executive Director or designee shall represent the Charter School in any due process hearing conducted with regard to the Charter School's students and shall inform the Board about the result of the hearing.

2. **Complaint Procedures for Special Education:** The Executive Director or designee shall address a complaint concerning compliance with state or federal law regarding special education in accordance with the Charter School's uniform complaint procedures.

Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education Students Administrative Regulation

The Cottonwood School is committed to protecting the rights of students with disabilities in accordance with the procedural safeguards set forth in state and federal law. Parents/guardians shall receive written notice of their rights in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education Students Administrative Regulation is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Reasonable Time for Written Notice
2. Identify What is Included in Written Notice
3. Outline the Procedures for Procedural Safeguard Notice
4. Outline the Format for Parent/Guardian Notice
5. Outline the Procedures for a Due Process Complaint
6. Outline the Charter School's Response to Due Process Complaints
7. Outline the Informal Process/Pre-Hearing Mediation Conference

1. **Reasonable Time for Written Notice:** The Executive Director or designee shall send to the parents/guardians of any student with disabilities a prior written notice within a reasonable time: (20 USC 1415(c); 34 CFR 300.102, 300.300, 300.503; Education Code 56500.4, 56500.5)

    - Before the charter initially refers the student for assessment
    - Before the charter proposes to initiate or change the student's identification, assessment, educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the student
    - Before the charter refuses to initiate or change the student's identification, assessment, or educational placement or the provision of FAPE to the student
    - Before the student graduates from high school with a regular diploma thus resulting in a change in placement
    - Upon receipt of the parent/guardian's written revocation of consent for the continued provision of special education and related services to his/her child

2. **Written Notice:** This notice shall include: (20 USC 1415(c); 34 CFR 300.503; Education Code 56500.4)

- A description of the action proposed or refused by the charter
- An explanation as to why the charter proposes or refuses to take the action
- A description of each assessment procedure, test, record, or report the charter used as a basis for the proposed or refused action
- A statement that the parents/guardians of the student have protection under procedural safeguards and, if this notice is not an initial referral for assessment, the means by which a copy of the description of procedural safeguards can be obtained
- Sources for parents/guardians to obtain assistance in understanding these provisions
- A description of any other options that the individualized education program (IEP) team considered and why those options were rejected
- A description of any other factors relevant to the charter's proposal or refusal

3. **Procedural Safeguards Notice:** A procedural safeguards notice shall be made available to parents/guardians of students with disabilities once each school year and: (20 USC 1415(d)(1); 34 CFR 300.504; Education Code 56301)

    - Upon initial referral or parent/guardian request for assessment
    - Upon receipt of the first state compliance complaint in a school year
    - Upon receipt of the first due process hearing request in a school year
    - In accordance with the discipline procedures pursuant to 34 CFR 300.530(h), when a decision is made to remove a student because of a violation of a code of conduct constituting a change of placement
    - Upon request by a parent/guardian

    The procedural safeguards notice shall include a full explanation of all of the procedural safeguards available under 34 CFR 300.148, 300.151-300.153, 300.300, 300.502-300.503, 300.505-300.518, 300.520, 300.530-300.536, and 300.610-300.625 relating to: (20 USC 1415(d)(2); 34 CFR 300.504; Education Code 56301)

    - Independent educational evaluation
    - Prior written notice

- Parental consent, including a parent/guardian's right to revoke consent, in writing, to his/her child's continued receipt of special education and related services

- Access to educational records

- Opportunity to present complaints and resolve complaints through the due process complaint and state compliance complaint procedures, including the time period in which to file a complaint, the opportunity for the charter to resolve the complaint, and the difference between a due process complaint and the state compliance complaint procedures, including the jurisdiction of each procedure, what issues may be raised, filing and decisional timelines, and relevant procedures

- The availability of mediation

- The student's placement during the pendency of any due process complaint

- Procedures for students who are subject to placement in an interim alternative educational setting

- Requirements for unilateral placement by parents/guardians of students in private schools at public expense

- Hearings on due process complaints, including requirements for disclosure of assessment results and recommendations

- State-level appeals

- Civil actions, including the time period in which to file those actions

- Attorney's fees

This notice shall also include the rights and procedures contained in Education Code 56500-56509, including information on the procedures for requesting an informal meeting, prehearing mediation conference, mediation conference, or due process hearing; the timelines for completing each process; whether the process is optional; the type of representative who may be invited to participate; the right of the parent/guardian and/or the Charter School to electronically record the proceedings of IEP meetings in accordance with Education Code 56341; and information regarding the state special schools for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind. (Education Code 56321, 56321.5, 56321.6)

A copy of this notice shall be attached to the student's assessment plan and referred to at each IEP meeting. (Education Code 56321, 56321.5)

The charter may place a copy of the procedural safeguards notice on the charter's web site. (20 USC 1415(d))

A parent/guardian of a student with disabilities may elect to receive the prior written notice or procedural safeguards notice by an electronic mail communication. (34 CFR 300.505)

4. **Format of Parent/Guardian Notices:** The parents/guardians of a student with a disability shall be provided written notice of their rights in a language easily understood by the general public and in their native language or other mode of communication used by them, unless to do so is clearly not feasible. (34 CFR 300.503; Education Code 56341, 56506)

   If the native language or other mode of communication of the parent/guardian is not a written language, the charter shall take steps to ensure that: (34 CFR 300.503)

   - The notice is translated orally or by other means to the parent/guardian in his/her native language or other mode of communication.
   - The parent/guardian understands the contents of the notice.
   - There is written evidence that items #1 and #2 have been satisfied.

5. **Due Process Complaints:** A parent/guardian and/or the Charter School may initiate due process hearing procedures whenever: (20 USC 1415(b); Education Code 56501)

   - There is a proposal to initiate or change the student's identification, assessment, or educational placement or the provision of FAPE to the student.
   - There is a refusal to initiate or change the student's identification, assessment, or educational placement or the provision of FAPE to the student.
   - The parent/guardian refuses to consent to an assessment of his/her child.
   - There is a disagreement between a parent/guardian and the charter regarding the availability of a program appropriate for the student, including the question of financial responsibility, as specified in 34 CFR 300.148.

   Prior to having a due process hearing, the party requesting the hearing, or the party's attorney, shall provide the opposing party a due process complaint, which shall remain confidential, specifying: (20 USC 1415(b); 34 CFR 300.508; Education Code 56502)

   - The student's name
   - The student's address or, in the case of a student identified as homeless pursuant to 42 USC 11434, available contact information for that student
   - The name of the school the student attends

- A description of the nature of the student's problem relating to the proposed or refused initiation or change, including facts relating to the problem

- A proposed resolution to the problem to the extent known and available to the complaining party at the time

Parties filing a due process complaint shall file their request with the Executive Director of Public Instruction or designated contracted agency. (Education Code 56502)

6. **The Charter School's Response to Due Process Complaints:** If the Charter School has sent prior written notice to the parent/guardian regarding the subject matter of the parent/guardian's due process complaint, the Charter School shall, within 10 days of receipt of the complaint, send a response specifically addressing the issues in the complaint. (20 USC 1415(c)(1); 34 CFR 300.508)

   If the charter has not sent a prior written notice to the parent/guardian regarding the subject matter contained in the parent/guardian's due process complaint, the Charter School shall send a response to the parent/guardian within 10 days of receipt of the complaint containing: (20 USC 1415(c)(1); 34 CFR 300.508):

   - An explanation of why the Charter School's proposed or refused to take the action raised in the complaint

   - A description of other options that the IEP team considered and the reasons that those options were rejected

   - A description of each evaluation procedure, assessment, record, or report the charters used as the basis for the proposed or refused action

   - A description of the factors that are relevant to the Charter School's proposal or refusal

   Upon the filing of a due process complaint by either party or upon request of the parent/guardian, the Charter School shall inform the parent/guardian of any free or low-cost legal and other relevant services available in the area. (34 CFR 300.507)

7. **Informal Process/Pre-Hearing Mediation Conference:** Prior to or upon initiating a due process hearing, the Executive Director or designee and a parent/guardian may, if the party initiating the hearing so chooses, agree to meet informally to resolve any issue(s) relating to the identification, assessment, education and placement, or provision of FAPE for a student with disabilities. The Executive Director or designee shall have the authority to resolve the issue(s). In addition, either party may file a request with the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a mediation conference to be conducted by a person under contract with the California Department of Education. (Education Code 56502)

If resolution is reached that resolves the due process issue(s), the parties shall enter into a legally binding agreement that satisfies the requirements of Education Code 56500.3. (Education Code 56500.3)

Attorneys may attend or otherwise participate only in those mediation conferences that are scheduled after the filing of a request for due process hearing. (Education Code 56500.3, 56501)

Staff Information Technology

The Cottonwood School is committed to empowering our staff with access to technology, information, and digital resources while fostering safe, responsible, and ethical working and learning environments. The Charter School is committed to upholding important security, privacy, and safety regulations, protocols, and standards. Users of the Charter School's devices, networks, accounts, and other resources must adhere to the Charter School's policies. Users are expected to fully comply with local, state, and federal regulations. Failure to adhere to these policies or regulations may result in discipline, legal action, or other remedies determined to be within the rights of the Charter School. Relevant regulations include (but are not limited to):

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Staff Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Technology Use Terms and Phrases
2. Identify the User Responsibility
3. Outline Acceptable Use of Resources
4. Outline Unacceptable Use of Resources
5. Outline the Expectation of Privacy
6. Define Cyberbullying
7. Outline Stolen Technology Procedures
8. Outline the Staff/Employee Departure Procedures
9. Identify the Disclaimers and Acknowledgements
10. Establish the User Agreement

1. Definitions:

- ***School*** *or* ***Organization*** *or* ***We*** – the Charter School and its subsidiaries, programs, and divisions
- ***ITD*** - Inspire Charter Schools Information Technology Department
- ***You*** *or* ***Your*** *or* ***I*** - employee of the Charter School and or signer of this Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
- ***Resources*** - devices, systems, services or networks owned, operated or issued by the Charter School.

- ***User*** - any person(s) accessing or utilizing the Charter School's resources that is not a resource operator
- ***AUP-*** Staff Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

2. **User Responsibilities:** Access to the Charter School's technology, resources, and support offers a wealth of educational benefits and work efficiencies. To maintain access to these tools and resources, all users must agree to, learn about, and comply with all information within this AUP document.

    - You agree to, learn about and comply with all information outlined in this AUP document

    - Persons to whom items are assigned are expected to exercise reasonable care to protect those items against damage, loss and theft. "Reasonable care" is defined as:
        - Never leaving items unattended
        - Never lending, giving or releasing items to a person other than an employee of the ITD or school administration
        - Never removing protective accessories or features (e.g. cases, bumpers)
        - Keeping items away from dangerous conditions (e.g. liquids, heat sources, unstable surfaces or items) and preventing actions which promote damage beyond normal wear and tear

    - You must immediately report damaged, lost or stolen items/resources. Items reported stolen or missing will require a police report.

    - You are expected to make a reasonable effort to protect your passwords, information and data.

    - The Charter School employees may be held liable, financially, punitively or otherwise, for lost, stolen, missing, damaged equipment.

    - You are obligated to notify the ITD of continued access to technology resources beyond departure from the Charter School (e.g. resignation, termination, administrative leave) in the event the ITD has not contacted you.

    - **Items, devices and resources issued by the Charter School are School property and must be returned or relinquished to the Charter School upon request or departure**

3. **Acceptable Use of Resources:**
    - All of the Charter School-issued accounts are intended solely for use by the person

authorized to use the account.

- When sharing or exposing personal information or data online, extreme caution should be exercised.

- Any information or communication accessible via any of the Charter School networks should be assumed private property.

- The Charter Schools reserves the right to verify whether specific uses of the Charter School technology or networks are consistent with this acceptable use policy.

- The Charter School is bound by certain licensing agreements. Users are expected to comply with those agreements.

- Educational and instructional use as related to the Charter School only

4. Unacceptable Use of Resources:

- All commercial or personal for-profit usage is prohibited.
- The access, use or transmission of objectionable material (e.g. materials that are obscene, bullying, profane, lewd, threatening, disrespectful, hateful, pornographic) is prohibited.

- Violation of any local, state or federal laws as well as School, board or administrative policies are prohibited. (e.g. Federal copyright laws - Title 17, USC)

- Any attempt to circumvent of the Charter School's security measures, content filters or access restricted resources is prohibited.

- All malicious and nefarious activities are prohibited. Examples include (1) unauthorized trespassing or infiltration of a network or device, (2) the intentional distribution of malware, (3) any attempt to deny a remote service. Malicious actors may also be in violation of *California's unauthorized computer access law, Penal Code 502(c) PC.*

- The intentional collection, mining or uncovering of personal information, files, passwords belonging to a user other than yourself is prohibited.

- Impersonation of any user other than yourself is prohibited.

- Unauthorized falsification or modification of any school records is prohibited.

- The collection or transmission of personal information (e.g. home address, phone number, personal email) which may be useable to identify an individual without written consent is prohibited.

- Political lobbying or advertising is prohibited.

- Unauthorized maintenance, service, repairs or upgrades are prohibited. ICS owned or operated resources must be maintained by the ITD or authorized third parties.

5. **Expectation of Privacy:** For email, networks, systems and other resources owned or operated by the Charter Schools, users should have no expectation of privacy. The Charter School reserves the right to manage and monitor all aspects of its own resources. The following are examples of actions which may be performed for reasons deemed legitimate by the Charter School:

    - Obtain emails, messages and their attachments transmitted to or through the Charter School's owned or operated email systems

    - Monitor an individual's use of the Charter School's owned resources

    - Locate or track the location of the Charter School's owned resource

    - Confiscate, search, disable or wipe any of the Charter School's owned device, item or their contents/data

    Personal devices are private. The Charter School must obtain permission to access personal devices. However, when the Charter School resources are accessed with a personal device, data, information and transmissions which come into contact with those resources cannot be guaranteed.

6. **Cyberbullying**: Cyberbullying is the use of technology resources to willfully harm either a person or persons through electronic systems (e.g. texts, photos, videos. messages, social media). Examples of this behavior include but are not limited to:

    - Transmitting false, cruel, hateful or embarrassing information or media targeting others

    - Creating posts or websites that have stories, cartoons, pictures or jokes ridiculing others

    - Unauthorized access to any resource (e.g. social media, email) for purposes of downloading or transmitting vicious or embarrassing materials

- Engaging someone in electronic communication, tricking that person into revealing sensitive personal information and transmitting that information or media to others

- Posting of a student or staff member picture without their permission

- The use of derogatory comments, including those regarding race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, political persuasion, body type, physical or mental health

7. **Stolen Technology:** The Charter School is proud to work with Absolute Software - a solution that allows for effective security technology and student safety programs that track, locate and recover your endpoints in the event of a theft, while ensuring safety for students and staff. Absolute provides:

    - Remote security to monitor and protect each device

    - Reporting tools that give hardware and software information

    - Remote device freeze with user verification messaging

    - Track assets on Google Maps, including recent and historical locations

    - Web filtering to protect students on and off school networks

    - Adherence to CIPA regulations around internet security policies

    - Thief investigation services, remediation and more

    The Recovery Investigation team will work with local law enforcement to recover any stolen device that is tracked through Absolute. They will attempt to collect the device up to 60 days. If they are unsuccessful, the Charter School may be compensated up to $500 for that device. Pricing may vary and is subject to change without notice and is not guaranteed.

    The Charter School's ITD always tries to take the most cautious and diplomatic approach when attempting to recover any stolen items. Three attempts will be made to contact the employee using all forms of communication. Once our attempts have been unsuccessful, a police report is established and all information is handed over to the Absolute Recovery Team for further investigation. Absolute will then continue their process by tracking the device, contact the person in question, communicate with local law enforcement and if found provide a warrant to search for the device.

    If a staff member has a lost or stolen device while still employed with the Charter School, please report the device to local law enforcement and contact the ITD to begin the investigation

process. ITD will do their best to recovery and replace any device that has been reported as lost, stolen or missing. A police report must be provided prior to starting the investigation.

For more details, please visit: www.absolute.com/en/about/legal/agreements/absolute

8. **Staff / Employee Departure:** Upon employee departure (e.g. resignation, termination, layoff, non-renewal, administrative leave) from the Charter School, all issued items must be returned immediately. Prepaid return labels and pick up services may be provided at no cost.

9. **Disclaimer & Acknowledgements:**

- The Charter School reserves the right to modify its policies and rules at any time.

- **ALL DEVICES, ITEMS AND SOFTWARE ISSUED BY THE CHARTER SCHOOL ARE SCHOOL PROPERTY.** YOU ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN ALL ITEMS ISSUED TO YOU UPON REQUEST BY OR DEPARTURE FROM THE CHARTER SCHOOL.

- We reserve the right to seek reimbursement, docked pay or legal remedies in response to non-compliance

- Access to the Charter School's technology, resources and support are offered at the discretion of the Charter School.

- The Charter School will not be held liable for the information or data retrieved, stored, or transmitted by means of the Charter School owned or operated resources, devices, networks, or systems

- Users should not have an expectation of privacy in the use of the Charter School's resources, email, systems, networks

- Illegal activities performed using the Charter School's devices, networks, and systems will be reported to the proper authorities when discovered

- The Charter School will not be held responsible for losses or damages suffered by any user, including loss of data, interruption of service, delays or non-deliveries

- The Charter School's issued property reported as lost, missing or stolen may be remotely tracked, located and/or disabled at the discretion of the Charter School.

- The Charter School may confiscate and search any of the Charter School's resource for any reason deemed reasonable by the Charter School including in response to violation of school policies or government regulations

- The Charter School is not in any way an Internet Service Provider

10. **User Agreement Statement:** I have read, understand, and will abide by the STAFF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY when using any of the Charter School's technology and other electronic resources issued, owned or operated by the Charter School. I further understand that any violation of the policies above are considered unethical and in some cases may constitute a criminal offense. Should I violate any of the policies outlined in this agreement, I understand my access to any of the Charter School's resource may be limited, revoked or returned and disciplinary and or legal action may be taken.

_____

EMPLOYEE NAME (please print)

_____

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE Date

Suicide Prevention Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed protecting the health and well-being of all The Cottonwood School students, including vulnerable youth populations, by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide and self-harming behavior. Vulnerable youth populations include LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) youth, youth living with mental and/or substance use disorders, youth who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, youth in out-of-home settings, youth experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native youth or youth that identify with other racial minority groups, youth bereaved by suicide and youth living with medical conditions and disabilities.

California *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 215, as added by Assembly Bill 2246, (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2016) mandates that the Governing Board of any local educational agency (LEA) that serves pupils in grades seven to twelve, inclusive, adopt a policy on pupil suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. The policy shall specifically address the needs of high-risk groups, including suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers, and ensure that a school employee acts within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Suicide Prevention Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Explain the Purpose for The Suicide Prevention Policy
2. Identify Parental Involvement in Suicide Prevention
3. Outline Key Terms and Definitions of Suicide Prevention
4. Identify Risk Factors and Protective Factors
5. Outline the Warning Signs of Suicide
6. Outline How to Respond to the Warning Signs of Suicide
7. Explain Suicide Discussion/Communication for Parents and Children.
8. Outline the Process for Assessment and Referral
9. Outline the Process for Implementing the Policy
10. Provide Resources for Parents, Students, and Staff Members on Suicide Prevention

1. Purpose: The Cottonwood School recognizes that:

a) physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's educational outcome,

b) further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people,

c) the has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide, and

d) acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster positive youth development.

In recognition of the need to protect the health, safety and welfare of its students, to promote healthy development, to safeguard against the threat or attempt of suicide among school aged youth, and to address barriers to learning, The Cottonwood School hereby adopts a policy, which corresponds with and supports other federal, state and local efforts to provide youth with prevention education, early identification and intervention, and access to all local resources to promote health and prevent personal harm or injury.

With the intention of creating a safe and nurturing educational entity that minimizes suicidal ideation in students, we also recognize our duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our students, and aim to safeguard students and staff against suicide attempts, deaths and other trauma associated with suicide. These safeguards include ensuring adequate supports for students, staff, and families affected by suicide attempts and loss. Because the emotional wellness of students greatly impacts learning, motivation, and educational success, the current policy shall be paired with other policies that support the emotional and behavioral wellness of students. Our policy is based on research and best practices in suicide prevention, and has been adopted with the understanding that suicide prevention activities decrease suicide risk, increase help-seeking behavior, identify those at risk of suicide, and decrease suicidal behaviors. Empirical evidence refutes a common belief that talking about suicide can increase risk or "place the idea in someone's mind."

In an attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the school has developed strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, and the identification of the mental health challenges frequently associated with suicidal thinking and behavior. These strategies shall include professional development for parents/guardians, caregivers, students, and school personnel who regularly interact with students or serve in a position to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of suicide.

2. Parental/Guardian Involvement: Parents and guardians play a key role in youth emotional and behavioral health, including suicide prevention. This policy is meant to be used as a tool for parents/guardians to be informed and actively involved in decisions regarding a child's welfare. Parents/guardians who learn the warning signs and risk factors for suicide are better equipped to connect with professional help when necessary. The school encourages and advises parents/guardians to take every statement regarding suicide or personal harm seriously and avoid assuming that a child is simply seeking attention.

Parents and guardians can also contribute to factors and conditions that reduce vulnerability to suicidal and self harming behavior, for vulnerable youth populations. Feeling accepted by parents or guardians is a critical protective factor for vulnerable youth populations. As educators, The Cottonwood School faculty and staff can help protect vulnerable youth populations by ensuring that parents and guardians have adequate resources regarding family acceptance and the essential role it plays in students' behavioral and emotional health.

3. Key Terms and Definitions:

- ***At Risk*** A student who is defined as high risk for suicide is one who has made a suicide attempt, has the intent to die by suicide, or has displayed a significant change in behavior suggesting the onset or deterioration of a mental health condition. The student may have thought about suicide including potential means of death and may have a plan. In addition, the student may exhibit feelings of isolation, hopelessness, helplessness, and the inability to tolerate any more pain. This situation would necessitate a referral, as documented in the following procedures.

- ***Crisis Team*** A multidisciplinary team of primarily administrative, mental health, safety professionals, and support staff whose primary focus is to address crisis preparedness, intervention/response, and recovery. These professionals have been specifically trained in crisis preparedness through recovery and take the leadership role in developing crisis plans, ensuring school staff can effectively execute various crisis protocols, and may provide mental health services for effective crisis interventions and recovery supports.

- ***Mental Health*** A state of mental and emotional being that can impact choices and actions that affect wellness. Mental health problems include mental and substance use disorders.

- ***Postvention*** Suicide postvention is a crisis intervention strategy designed to reduce the risk of suicide and suicide contagion, provide the support needed to help survivors cope with a suicide death, address the social stigma associated with suicide, and disseminate factual information after the suicide death of a member of the school community.

- ***Risk Assessment*** An evaluation of a student[SEP] who may be at risk for suicide, conducted by the appropriate school staff (e.g., school psychologist or school counselor). This assessment is designed to elicit information regarding the student's intent to die by suicide, previous history of suicide attempts, presence of a suicide plan and its level of lethality and availability, presence of support systems, and level of hopelessness and helplessness, mental status, and other relevant risk factors.

- ***Risk Factors for Suicide*** Characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take his or her life. Suicide risk tends to be highest when someone has several risk factors at the same time. Risk factors may encompass biological, psychological, and or social factors in the individual, family, and environment.

- ***Self-Harm*** Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. Can be categorized as either non-suicidal or suicidal. Although self-harm often lacks suicidal intent, youth who engage in self-harm are more likely to attempt suicide.

- ***Suicide*** Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior. Note: The coroner's or medical examiner's office must first confirm that the death was a suicide before any school official may state this as the cause of death.

- ***Suicide Attempt*** A self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person had at least some intent to kill himself or herself. A suicide attempt may result in death, injuries, or no injuries. A mixture of ambivalent feelings such as wish to die and desire to live is a common experience with most suicide attempts. Therefore, ambivalence is not a sign of a less serious or less dangerous suicide attempt.

- ***Suicidal Behavior*** Suicide attempts, intentional injury to self associated with at least some level of intent, developing a plan or strategy for suicide, gathering the means for a suicide plan, or any other overt action or thought indicating intent to end one's life.

- ***Suicide Contagion*** The process by which suicidal behavior or a suicide influences an increase in the suicidal behaviors of others. Guilt, identification, and modeling are each thought to play a role in contagion. Although rare, suicide contagion can result in a cluster of suicides.

- ***Suicidal Ideation*** Thinking about, considering, or planning for self-injurious behavior which may result in death. A desire to be dead without a plan or intent to end one's life is still considered suicidal ideation and should be taken seriously.

4. Risk Factors and Protective Factors:

Risk Factors are characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take her or his life or participate in self-harming behaviors. These risks tend to be highest when someone has several risk factors at the same time.

The most frequently cited risk factors for suicide are:

1. Major depression (feeling down in a way that impacts your daily life) or bipolar disorder (severe mood swings)
2. Problems with alcohol or drugs
3. Unusual thoughts and behavior or confusion about reality
4. Personality traits that create a pattern of intense, unstable relationships or trouble with the law
5. Impulsivity and aggression, especially along with a mental disorder
6. Previous suicide attempt or family history of a suicide attempt or mental disorder
7. Serious medical condition and /or pain

It is important to bear in mind that the large majority of people with mental disorders or other suicide risk factors do not engage in suicidal behavior.

Protective Factors are characteristics or conditions that may help to decrease a person's risk of suicide or self-harming behaviors. While these factors do not eliminate the possibility of suicide, especially in someone with risk factors, they may help to reduce that risk. Protective factors for suicide have not been studied as thoroughly as risk factors, so less is known about them.

The most frequently cited protective factors of suicide include:

1. Receiving effective mental health care
2. Positive connections to family, peers, community, and social institutions such as marriage and religion that foster resilience
3. The skills and ability to solve problems

It is important for school districts to be aware of student populations that are at elevated risk of suicidal or self-harming behavior based on various factors:

1. Youth living with mental and/or substance use disorders. While the large majority of people with mental disorders do not engage in suicidal behavior, people with mental disorders account for more than 90 percent of deaths by suicide. Mental disorders, in particular depression or bipolar (manic-depressive) disorder, alcohol or substance abuse, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, borderline personality disorder, conduct disorders, and anxiety disorders are important risk factors for suicidal behavior among your people. The majority of people suffering from these mental disorders are not engaged in treatment, therefore school staff may play a pivotal role in recognizing and referring the student to treatment that may reduce risk.
2. Youth who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide. Suicide risk among those who engage in self-harm is significantly higher than the general population. Whether or not they report suicidal intent, people who engage in self harm are at elevated risk for dying by suicide within 10 years. Additionally, a previous suicide attempt is a known predictor of suicide death. Many adolescents who have attempted suicide do not receive necessary follow up care.
3. Youth in out-of-home settings. Youth involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems have a high prevalence of many risk factors of suicide. Young people involved in the juvenile justice system die by suicide at a rate about four times greater than the rate among youth in the general population. Though comprehensive suicide data on youth in foster care does not exist, one research found that youth in foster care were more than twice as likely to have considered suicide and almost four times more likely to have attempted suicide than their peers not in foster care.
4. Youth experiencing homelessness. For youth experiencing homelessness, rates of suicide attempts are higher than those of the adolescent population in general. These young people also have higher rates of mood disorders, conduct disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
5. American Indian/Alaska Native youth. In 2009, the rate of suicide among American Indian / Alaska Native youth ages 15-19 was more than twice that of the general youth population. Risk factors that can affect this group include substance use, discrimination, lack of access to mental health care, and historical trauma.
6. LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning) youth. The CDC finds that LGBTQ youth are four times more likely, and questioning youth are three times more likely, to attempt suicide as their straight peers. The American Association of Suicidology reports that nearly half of young transgender people have seriously considered taking their lives and one quarter report having made suicide attempt. Suicidal behavior among LGBTQ youth can be related to experiences of discrimination, family rejections, harassment, bullying, violence and victimization. For those youth with baseline risk for suicide (especially those with a mental disorder), these experiences can place them at increased risk. It is these societal factors, in concert

with other individual factors such as mental health history, and not the fact of being LGBTQ that will elevate the risk of suicidal behavior for LGBTQ youth.

7. Youth bereaved by suicide. Studies show that those who have experience suicide loss, through the death of a friend or loved one, are at increased risk for suicide themselves.
8. Youth living with medical conditions and disabilities. A number of physical conditions are associated with an elevated risk for suicidal behavior. Some of the conditions include chronic pain, loss of mobility, disfigurement, cognitive styles that make problem-solving a challenge, and other chronic limitations. Adolescents with asthma are more likely to report suicidal ideation and behavior than those without asthma. Additionally, studies show that suicide rates are significantly higher among people with certain types of disabilities, such as those with multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injuries.

5. **Warning Signs of Suicide**: It is vital to suicide prevention that individuals are equipped to recognize the warning signs of someone who is seriously contemplating suicide. Behaviors that may mean a person is at *immediate* risk for suicide and thus prompt you to take action right away include:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill one's self
- Looking for a way to kill one's self, such as a new or sudden interest in buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or like there's no point in living or carrying on
- Unusual or unexpected visits or calls to family and friends to say "goodbye" as if they will not be seen again
- Sudden efforts to get one's affairs in order, e.g., making a will out of the blue or giving away prized possessions
- A sudden sense of calm and happiness; though this might sound contradictory, if an extremely depressed person suddenly seems calm or happy, this can mean the person has made a decision to commit suicide. *Do not assume a person expressing a desire to die is joking*. Ask if they are serious. And make sure to follow up. Someone might say they are only joking when in fact the "joke" is motivated by a sincere desire to die. Suicide is not a joking matter; do not treat it as such. Less immediate, but still concerning, warning signs of suicidal ideation include:
- Feeling anxious or agitated
- Sudden reckless behavior
- Significant changes in sleep behavior (hardly sleeping, sleeping too much)

- Withdrawing or isolating from others
- Talking about feeling trapped
- Talking about pain feeling unbearable
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increased use/abuse of alcohol or drugs
- Extreme mood swings

The above behaviors do not necessarily indicate suicidal ideation in and of themselves. However, when combined with other factors (like a recent, painful loss or public moment of humiliation), they should take on a new sense of urgency to intervene with help.

6. **Responding to the Warning Signs**: The most important thing you can do is ***take the person seriously***. Do not judge them; do not make them feel bad; do not make a joke about it even if it makes you feel uncomfortable. Above all, do not assume the person is only seeking attention. That is not your judgment to make and you making it could be a life-threatening mistake. Be there, support them, and take immediate action. That immediate action should include, at the very minimum, the following:

    - Talk to the person. Let them know you care about them.
    - Listen without judging. This means you need to set aside whatever religious or theological beliefs you have about suicide in the abstract. This moment is about helping the human being in front of you who needs support.
    - Try not to act/appear shocked. The person is already in distress; an overwhelming display of emotions on your part could only further distress them and make them feel they should not talk to you.
    - Ask the person directly, "Are you thinking of ending your life?" or "Are you considering killing yourself?" Though it might make *you* uncomfortable, remember these four concrete questions: Suicidal? Method? Have what you need to follow through with plan? When?

    The more information you know, the better you can help the suicidal person as well as the professionals that need to get involved. Also, asking these questions can help you determine how significant the risk. The more developed the person's suicidal plan, the higher the risk. For example, if the person has a method and a time in mind, the risk is extremely high.

    - If the person says, "No," continue to be with the person and give support and stay in touch for the next few days, repeating the above process.

- If the person says, "Yes," and has a plan and access to lethal means, do not leave the person alone. Get a professional involved. ***Immediately contact a local mental health professional, law enforcement, a local hospital emergency department, and/or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1–800–273-8255).***

- Provide any relevant information you may have about the person to those who are managing the crisis.

- Keep in contact with the person after the crisis and provide ongoing care and support.

- Draw on other leaders and volunteers in your home and school community to provide support

- If a person ever asks you to keep their suicidal feelings or thoughts secret, refuse. The most loving response to someone feeling suicidal is getting them the help they need. A life is at risk. *If the risk of chronic/not immediate:* Sometimes people may display warning signs of suicide or *feel* suicidal but not have any plans to actually commit suicide. Their risk may be low, but their suicidal feelings or thoughts are still causing significant distress in their lives. Even though their risk of actually attempting suicide is low, you should still reach out and do your best to support them. Here are some ways you can do so:

- Ask them directly about their feelings and thoughts. You'd be surprised how willing some people are to talk about their suicidal urges. It might even be a relief for them to have someone to talk to about those urges. The Help Guide gives the following suggestions for starting such a conversation:

    - Help Guide, "Suicide Prevention: How to Help Someone who is Suicidal," http://www.helpguide.org/articles/suicide-prevention/suicide-prevention-helping-someone-who-is- suicidal

        - *Ways to start a conversation about suicide*: I have been feeling concerned about you lately. Recently, I have noticed some differences in you and wondered how you are doing. I wanted to check in with you because you haven't seemed yourself lately.

        - *Questions you can ask*: When did you begin feeling like this? Did something happen that made you start feeling this way? How can I best support you right now? Have you thought about getting help?

        - *What you can say that helps*: You are not alone in this. I'm here for you. You may not believe it now, but the way you're feeling will change. I may not be able to understand exactly how you feel, but I care about you and want to help. When you want to give up, tell yourself you will hold off for just one more day, hour, minute—whatever you can manage.

Educate yourself about suicide. Study more about suicide, its causes, and how to show love to someone who struggles with it.

Do not talk about suicidal people as if they are "crazy" or "insane." Use words that will not make them feel like isolating themselves even more. Most suicidal people are not clinically psychotic. They might be grief-stricken or depressed, but do not make them feel like they should be locked up in an asylum.

Help the person find professional assistance. Offer to help them find a counselor or therapist; offer to help fill out forms for applying to your county or state's mental health care system.

Encourage positive lifestyle changes, such as exercising more. Start small: for example, invite the person to going for a walk or hiking with you on the weekend.

Help the person make a safety plan. Help the person develop a set of concrete and specific-steps they promise to follow if they feel particularly suicidal. The plan should include things they promise to avoid (alcohol, drugs, etc.) and things they promise to do instead (call you, call another friend or therapist, etc.).

If necessary, have the person temporarily give you anything that they could use to commit suicide, such as unneeded, extra medications, razors, knives, etc.

Continue to stay in touch and support the person over the long-term. Repeat the above steps as needed.

7. **For Parents- Suicide Discussion/Communication: Talking to your Children**: *Here are some suggestions to help you with introducing the subject:*

    - **Be courageous**: There is no shame in admitting that suicide is a scary issue. As parents, you probably want to protect your kids from all sorts of scary things. But you also have an obligation to teach them how to face reality and equip them to deal with all the scary things reality can bring. Here's the truth: your kids are going to learn about suicide one way or another. So would you rather that they learn about it from the media or a friend who suddenly kills himself, or would you rather that you have the opportunity to educate them in advance? So face those fears and dive right in.

    - **Pick a time where you can have an uninterrupted conversation:** Start the conversation when you have the best chance of having your child's attention. A car ride, for example, ensures that your child will have fewer distractions than at home with the TV on. While you want to make sure your child gives you their attention, also make sure they don't feel trapped. Remember: if talking about suicide makes *you* uncomfortable, it can also make your child feel uncomfortable. So make sure you not only have their attention, but that you do so in an environment that feels non-threatening and open.

- **Plan in advance:** Think about what you want to say and make sure you have the right information to talk to your child accurately and helpfully about suicide. Make notes or plan a script if you want.

- **Tailor the conversation to your child's age:** When talking about suicide (or any big, serious topic, for that matter), make sure that you keep the conversation at a level that is appropriate for that child's developmental level. For younger children, your descriptions can be shorter and simpler. For older children, give longer and more detailed answers. Additionally, older children will likely have many questions. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't be afraid to say that. You can make it into a learning experience and research the answer with your child together. That's much better than inaccurate or misleading information.

- **Explain suicide in a way that dispels common myths:** Let your children know not only the facts about suicide, but also what depression is and how it can make people feel suicide is their only escape. Let them know that suicide is never a necessity and that there is always hope. Let them know that they are not bad if they feel sad or upset and that it's ok to tell you if they do feel this way. Make sure they feel safe in your home and that they do not have to pretend to always be happy. Let them know you will not judge them if they are feeling down and that you love them no matter how happy or sad they are.

- **Encourage them to talk to trusted adults:** Let your kids know that they can talk to you if they are feeling depressed or suicidal. Or let them know that if they ever feel uncomfortable talking to you about depression or suicide, that they can always talk to another trusted family member or adult in your community. The important thing is that they do not hold their feelings inside until they become so unbearable they feel like they are going to explode.

- **Let your child speak:** Ask your child what *they* think about the topic. Just be direct, e.g., "Have you thought about suicide? What do you think about it? Do your friends think about it? Do you know who you can talk to if you're feeling these feelings?"

- **Listen to your child:** If you ask your child what they think, make sure to be silent and give them the space to talk. If they say something that is inaccurate or that worries you, definitely be honest but do not interrupt them. Wait until they are done, affirm that you heard what they said and appreciate that they shared their thoughts with you, and *then* address whatever issues you feel need to be corrected.

- **Seeking Assistance:** There are differing situations where your child's distress may become apparent. Your child may reveal their suicidal thoughts to you, a friend, or a trusted adult. Whoever becomes aware of your child's distress must immediately seek assistance. In seeking assistance, your child's safety is the first consideration. The child should **never** be left alone during this crisis. If your child has a physician or therapist, call to alert them of the situation.

For the Child/ Student: School can be an exciting time, filled with new experiences, but at times you might feel as though it is more of a struggle. This information is meant to help you as you work through a tough time.

Life can be stressful. Between the friend drama, packed schedules, classes, clubs, relationships, sports, jobs, parental expectations, figuring out who you are, uncertainty over things, and not getting enough sleep, life can occasionally get you down and feel overwhelming. That is normal.

What is not normal is struggling through each day, feeling like things will only get worse. Maybe you feel like you have lost control, that nothing matters, or that you are alone. These feelings may indicate a condition that requires professional help, such as depression, anxiety or other mental health conditions.

Not everyone experiences mental health conditions in the same way, but **everyone struggling with their mental health deserves help**. Depression is among the most common conditions experienced. It is a complex medical illness that significantly interferes with an individual's ability to function, enjoy life, and feel like themselves.

A number of factors may contribute to a person becoming depressed; genetic predisposition and stressful life events can certainly play a role, but sometimes depression can occur without an obvious cause. This means that **anyone can become depressed**, even those who seemingly have every reason to be happy.

Depression commonly affects your thoughts, your emotions, your behaviors, and your overall physical health. Experiencing any one of these symptoms on its own does not constitute depression; a diagnosis of depression requires several of these symptoms to occur for at least two weeks. Here are some of the most common symptoms that point to the presence of depression:

- **Feelings:**
    - Sadness
    - Hopelessness
    - Guilt
    - Moodiness
    - Angry outbursts
    - Loss of interest in friends, family, and favorite activities
- **Thoughts:**
    - Trouble concentrating

- Difficulty making decisions
- Trouble remembering
- Thoughts of harming oneself
- Delusions and/or hallucinations can also occur in cases of severe depression

- **Behaviors:**
  - Withdrawing from people
  - Substance abuse
  - Missing work, school, or other commitments
  - Attempts to harm oneself (e.g., cutting)

- **Physical/Somatic Problems:**
  - Tiredness or lack of energy
  - Unexplained aches and pains
  - Changes in appetite
  - Weight loss or gain
  - Changes in sleep – sleeping too little or too much

If you are experiencing symptoms of depression, it is important to **talk to a trusted adult** (parent, teacher, counselor, coach, or clergy) or doctor so that you can get the help you need. **Depression does not go away on its own, but with the appropriate help it can be treated.** Studies show that more than 80% of people with depression can feel better with talk therapy (counseling) and/or medication. Maybe you have noticed that your friend has not been acting like themselves lately and you are worried about whether or not they are really "fine" after all. If you think a friend may be depressed, show them you care by reaching out. Give yourself time to talk in a private, comfortable place. Honestly share what you have noticed (changes in behavior, things they have said or done) and ask them how they are feeling. Let them know that you are asking them because you care, because you want them to feel better, and because there is help. Let them know that there is hope and help available, and support them to get the help they need. If you don't feel comfortable asking your friend, share your concerns with a trusted adult who can. Talking about mental health can be difficult, but reaching out and getting help for depression is one of the most courageous, important things you can do for yourself or for a friend. **It might even save a life.**

- Resources at home or outside school:

- Talk to a parent or older relative
- Call your pediatrician or physician
- Talk to a trusted adult, teacher, or guidance counselor
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255
- If someone is in immediate danger, **call 911**. ***Getting help does not mean that you have failed, it demonstrates courage, hope, and means you've allowed others to show they care.***

8. **Assessment and Referral:** When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal, e.g., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factors such as agitation or intoxication, the act of self-harm occurs, or a student self-refers, the student will be seen by a school employed mental health professional within the same school day to assess risk and facilitate referral. If there is no mental health professional available, a school nurse or administrator will fill this role until a mental health professional can be brought in.

    - School staff will continuously supervise the student to ensure their safety.
    - The designated mental health and suicide prevention coordinator (s) will be made aware of the situation as soon as reasonably possible.
    - The mental health professional/coordinator will contact the student's parent or guardian, and will assist the family with urgent referral. When appropriate, this may include calling emergency services or bringing the student to the local hospital emergency department, but in most cases will involve setting up an outpatient mental health or primary care appointment and communicating the reason for referral to the healthcare provider.
    - Staff will ask the student's parent or guardian for written permission to discuss the student's health with outside care, if appropriate.

Protecting the health and well-being of all students is of utmost importance. A suicide prevention policy serves to assist and protect all students through the following steps:

- Students should be made aware of and informed about recognizing and responding to warning signs of suicide in peers and friends, using coping skills, using support systems, and seeking help for themselves and friends.
- The Cottonwood School will designate a suicide prevention coordinator to serve as a point of contact for students in crisis and to refer students to appropriate resources.

- When a student is identified as being at risk, they will be assessed by a school employed mental health professional who will work with the parents, staff, and student, and help connect them to appropriate local resources.

- Students will have access to national resources which they can contact for additional support.

- All students will be expected to help create a school culture of respect and support in which students feel comfortable seeking help for themselves or friends. Students are encouraged to tell an adult (e.g.teacher, parent) if they, or someone they know, is feeling suicidal or in need of help.

- Students should also know that because of the life or death nature of these matters, confidentiality or privacy concerns are secondary to seeking help for students in crisis.

Coping Skills/Healthy Behaviors: These are positive actions and behaviors that a student engages in to help them through their struggles on a daily basis. Some coping strategies include activities that students can do in order to regulate his/her emotions; ask the student for input, and teach him/her additional strategies if necessary. Strategies may include: *slow breathing, yoga, play basketball, draw, write in journal, take a break from school activities to drink water, listen to music.*

Places I Feel Safe: These are places that the student feels most comfortable. It should be a safe, healthy, and generally supportive environment. This can be a physical location, an imaginary happy place, or in the presence of safe people. Help students identify a physical and/or emotional state of being. Places may include: m*y being with my friends, youth group at church, imagining I am on a beach watching the waves.*

School Support: Any school staff member or administrator can check in with a student regularly (regardless of whether or not the student seeks out help). Notify student's teacher(s) and request monitoring and supervision of the student (keeping in mind not to share confidential information).

Adult Support: It is important that a student also feel connected with healthy adults at home or in their community. The student should trust these adults and feel comfortable asking for help during a crisis. Identify how student will communicate with these individuals and include a phone number. Some adults may include: *family (e.g., grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sister); clergy (e.g. youth pastor); or neighbor.*

9. **Prevention: School Policy Implementation**: A suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by The Cottonwood School Administration. This may be an existing staff person, such as a School Counselor or School Psychologist. The suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of suicide prevention for the school.

The school suicide prevention coordinator will act as a point of contact in the school for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to the school mental health/suicide prevention coordinator.

Providing a safe, positive, and welcoming school climate; and ensuring that students have trusting relationships with adults serves as the foundation for effective suicide prevention efforts. Bullying and suicide-related behaviors have a number of shared risk factors including mental health challenges (e.g., depression, hopelessness, and substance use/abuse). Youth who report frequently bullying others and those who report being frequently bullied are at increased risk for suicidal thoughts and behavior. Bully-victims (those who report both bullying others and being bullied) are at the highest risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Keep in mind the relationship between bullying and suicide is more complex and less direct than it might appear. While bullying may be a precipitating event, there are often many other contributing factors, including underlying mental illness.

Prevention efforts should also address non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI or "cutting"). While the behavior is typically not associated with suicidal thinking, it is a red flag that someone is distressed and does increase the risk for suicidal thinking and behaviors. It is important that school staff learn to recognize the signs of NSSI, including cuts, burns, scratches, scabs, and scrapes, especially those that are recurrent and if explanations for the injuries are not credible. Suicide risk assessment should always be a part of intervention with the student who displays NSSI.

Staff Professional Development: All staff will receive annual professional development on risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, post-vention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention. The professional development will include additional information regarding groups of students at elevated risk for suicide, including those living with mental and/or substance use disorders, those who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, those in out-of-home settings, those experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native student, LGBTQ students, students bereaved by suicide and those with medical conditions or certain types of disabilities. Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention will be provided to school employed mental health professionals and school nurses.

Identification and Intervention: Early identification and intervention are critical to preventing suicidal behavior. When a parent/caregiver or school staff become aware of a student exhibiting potential suicidal behavior, they should immediately and contact a member of the school's crisis response team for a suicide risk assessment and support. If the appropriate staff is not available, 911 should be called. Typically, it is best to inform the student what you are going to do every step of the way. Under no circumstances should the student be left alone (even in a bathroom/ restroom). Reassure and supervise the student until a 24/7 caregiving resource (e.g., mental health professional or law enforcement representative) can assume responsibility.

Designated members of the school crisis team should conduct a suicide risk assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the level of risk and to identify the most

appropriate actions to ensure the immediate and long-term safety and well-being of the student. This should be done by a team that includes a school-employed mental health professional.

Caregiver notification is a vital part of suicide prevention. The appropriate caregiver(s) must always be contacted when signs of suicidal thinking and behavior are observed. Typically this is the student's parent(s); however, when child abuse is suspected protective services should be contacted. Even if a child is judged to be at low risk for suicidal behavior, schools may ask caregivers to sign a form to indicate that relevant information has been provided. Regardless, all caregiver notifications must be documented. Caregivers also provide critical information in determining level of risk. Whether a student is in imminent danger or not, it is strongly recommended that lethal means are (e.g., guns, poisons, medications, and sharp objects) are removed or made inaccessible.

Refer to community services if warranted. Referral options to 24 hour community-based services should be identified in advance. It is best to obtain a release from the primary caregiver to facilitate the sharing of information between the school and community agency.

Help the parent/caregiver and/or school staff to develop with the student a safety plan. Helping the student to develop a written list of coping strategies and sources of support that can be of assistance when he or she is having thoughts of suicide (e.g., a safety plan) is recommended. Suicide prevention hotlines (e.g., 800-273-TALK) and the app MY3 (my3app.org) can be helpful elements of such a plan.

Schools are legally responsible for documenting every step in the assessment and intervention process. A documentation form for support personnel and crisis response team members should be developed to record all suicide intervention actions and caregiver communication. Student information must be kept confidential but there are exceptions to FERPA when safety is of concern. Staff responsible for the safety and welfare of the student should be provided with the information necessary to work with the student and preserve the safety. School staff members do not need clinical information about the student or a detailed history of his or her suicidal risk or behavior. Discussion among staff should be restricted to the student's treatment and support needs.

Keep tabs on the rumor mill (including social media). If you hear or see something credible, refer the student to a school-employed mental health professional or crisis response team member. At the same time, gossip about particular incidents and students should also be discouraged.

Please Remember:

If it seems that an individual is in immediate danger of hurting himself or herself: Take the person to a hospital Emergency Room to be evaluated by a health professional.

If the person refuses help: Call 9-1-1 *for police evaluation of the individual.* If the person is a danger to self or others, the officer can transport the person to a hospital where he or she may be held.

Postvention. Following a suicide, school communities must strike a delicate balance. Students should have an opportunity to grieve, but in a way that does not glorifying, romanticizing or sensationalizing suicide, which may increase suicide risk for other students.

Confirm facts. Confirm the facts related to the death with the family and/or police. Inform other schools in the district with students related or close to the deceased. Contact the family to offer condolences, ask what the school can do to help, offer resources, and to discuss communication with the school community. Protect and gather the personal effects of the deceased for the family and/or the police. Pay close attention to other students (and staff) who may also be at risk of suicidal behavior.

Resources needed. In some situations, schools may have adequate resources to handle the aftermath of a suicide. However, it is critical that schools assess the impact of the suicide on the school community to determine the level of postvention support needed. Factors to consider include how well known the student was, if the suicide was public (e.g., occurred at a school event), and/or if the deceased had shared his/her suicidal intentions with others (particularly to large numbers of other students via social media). These factors generally increase the impact and thus the potential postvention needs of members of the school community.

Contagion. Suicide contagion occurs when suicidal behavior is imitated. The effect is strongest among adolescents: they appear to be more susceptible to imitative suicide than adults, largely because they may identify more readily with the behavior and qualities of their peers. Guilt, identification, and modeling are each thought to play a role in contagion. Sometimes suicide contagion can result in a cluster of suicides. Studies indicate that 1-5% of all suicides within this age group are due to contagion (100-200 teenage cluster suicides per year).

Suicide postvention strategies designed to minimize contagion include avoiding sensationalism or giving unnecessary attention to the suicide, avoiding glorifying or vilifying of suicide victims, and minimizing the amount of detail about the suicide shared with students.

If there appears to be contagion, school administrators should consider taking additional steps beyond the basic crisis response, including stepping up efforts to identify other students who may be at heightened risk of suicide, collaborating with community partners in a coordinated suicide prevention effort, and possibly bringing in outside experts.

Memorials. Memorials in particular run the risk of glamorizing suicide and should thus be implemented with great care. Living memorials are recommended such as making donations to a local crisis center, participating in an event that raises awareness about suicide prevention, or providing opportunities for service activities in the school that emphasize the importance of student's taking care of each other.

Care for the caregiver. It is important that administrators and crisis team members not underestimate the potential impact that a suicide can have on school staff members. School leaders should promote a culture in which both the students and the adults in the building feel comfortable asking for help and/or to take a break. Providing contact information and

encouraging staff to meet their own mental health needs is an important first step in ensuring that staff are adequately supported.

Grief. Understanding the nature of grief can help us better cope with loss. Grief is a natural, healthy process that enables us to recover from terrible emotional wounds. Grief can affect our thinking, behavior, emotions, relationships, and health. People may experience sleeplessness, exhaustion, indigestion, lack of appetite, or memory lapses. Recognizing that these are common reactions to grief can help us minimize them by reaching out to friends, or joining a community support group.

The journey through grief has four phases:

- **Shock – In the days and weeks immediately following a devastating loss, common feelings include numbness and unreality, like being trapped in a bad dream.**

- **Reality – As the fact of the loss takes hold, deep sorrow sets in, accompanied by weeping and other forms of emotional release. Loneliness and depression may also occur.**

- **Reaction – Anger, brought on by feelings of abandonment and helplessness, may be directed toward family, friends, doctors, and the one who died or deserted us. Other typical feelings include listlessness, apathy, and guilt over perceived failures or unresolved personal issues.**

- **Recovery – Finally, there is a gradual, almost imperceptible return to normalcy. This is a time of adjustment to the new circumstances in life.**

These phases vary in duration for each person, so the school should not impose a timetable upon anyone. Some people need a year or two, while others may take less time. Holidays, anniversaries, and birthdays can trigger intense grief, especially the first year. Everyone grieves differently – depending on personality, religious beliefs, maturity, emotional stability, and cultural traditions.

10. Resources for Parents, Students and Staff Members on Suicide Prevention:

- **Parents as Partners: A Suicide Prevention Guide for Parents** is a booklet that contains useful information for parents/guardians/caregivers who are concerned that their children may be at risk for suicide. It is available from Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE). See the SAVE Web page at https://www.save.org/product/parents-as-partners/

- **Sources of Strength:** https://sourcesofstrength.org

- **Know the Signs:** http://www.suicideispreventable.org

- **National Mental Health and Suicide Support Services:** The following are just a few places you can access listings for local mental health services in your area. Please call or visit their websites for details.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1 (800) 273-TALK (800-273-8255)
- **Mental Health America (MHA):** www.mentalhealthamerica.net 1-800-969-6642
- **Mental Health Services Locator:** www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** www.afsp.org
- **American Association for Suicide Prevention** www.suicidology.org
- **Center for Disease Control & Prevention** www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide
- **Healthy Place** - www.healthyplace.com
- **Jed Foundation** - www.jedfoundation.org
- **National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health** www.ffcmh.org
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** www.nami.org 1-800-950-NAMI (6264)
- **The Trevor Lifeline** - www.thetrevorproject.org 1-866-488-7386
- **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) -** www.nimh.nih.gov
- **Strength of US-** www.strengthofus.org
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** www.samhsa.gov/prevention/suicide.aspx
- **Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)** www.save.org
- **Suicide Prevention Action Network USA** - www.spanusa.org
- **Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) -** www.sprc.org

Book Resources for Parents: Mental Health and Resilience

- Beardslee, William. Out of the Darkened Room: When a Parent is Depressed: Protecting the Children and Strengthening the Family. 2002.
- Rapee, Ronald et al. Helping your anxious child: A step by step guide. 2000.

- Manassis, Katharina & Levac, Anne Marie. Helping your teenager beat depression: A problem-solving approach for families. 2004.
- Lezine, DeQuincy and Brent, David. Eight Stories Up: An Adolescent Chooses Hope over Suicide. 2008.
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- Pema Chodron, *The Places that Scare You: A Guide to Fearlessness in Difficult Times*
- Pete Walker, *The Tao of fully feeling: Harvesting forgiveness out of blame.*
- Peter A. Levine, *Waking the Tiger: Healing Trauma*

Suspension and Expulsion Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to promoting learning and protecting the safety and well-being of all students at the Charter School. In creating this policy, the Charter School has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* which describes the non-charter schools' list of offenses and procedures to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions and expulsions. The language that follows closely mirrors the language of Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* The Charter School is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Suspension and Expulsion Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Responsibility of the Charter School
2. Identify the Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students
3. Identify Enumerated Offenses
4. Outline Suspension Procedures
5. Outline the Authority to Expel
6. Outline Expulsion Procedures
7. Outline Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses
8. Identify the Record of Hearing
9. Identify the Presentation of Evidence
10. Outline the Written Notice to Expel
11. Outline the Maintenance of Disciplinary Records
12. Identify a Student's Right to Appeal
13. Outline Expelled Students/Alternative Education
14. Outline Rehabilitation Plans
15. Outline the Readmission Process

1. **Responsibility of the Charter School:** When the policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from the Charter School. This policy shall serve as the Charter School's policy and procedures for student suspension and expulsion and it may be amended from time to time without the need to amend the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements. Charter School staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. This Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed as part of the Parent-Student Handbook and will clearly describe discipline expectations. Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does

not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff, or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

The Charter School administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline policies and procedures.

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom the Charter School has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEIA") or who is qualified for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to general education students except when federal and state law mandates additional or different procedures. The Charter School will follow all applicable federal and state laws including but not limited to the California Education Code, when imposing any form of discipline on a student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom the Charter School has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in according due process to such students. Additional detail follows below.

2. **Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students:** A student may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any time including but not limited to: a) while on school grounds; b) while going to or coming from school; c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

3. **Enumerated Offenses:**
    - Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:
        - Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
        - Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
        - Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
        - Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person

another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited, to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a student.
- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.
- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.
- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

- Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

- Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars ($1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.

- Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.

    1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act,

and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.

2) "Electronic Act" means the transmission by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
   i. A message, text, sound, or image.
   ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
      (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
      (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.
      (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.
   iii. Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

- A student who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a student who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1).

- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

- Non-Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

  - Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

- Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students may be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

  - Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.

  - Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.

  - Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.

  - Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

  - Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.

  - Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.

- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.

- Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a student.

- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.

- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.

- Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.

- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

- Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.

- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.

- Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

- Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

- Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars ($1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.

- Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.

    1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including acts one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

        i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a

person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.

ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.

iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.

iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.

2) "Electronic Act" means the transmission by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

i. A message, text, sound, or image.

ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:

(a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.

(b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.

(c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.

iii. Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

- A student who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a student who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1).

- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess

the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

- Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students must be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined pursuant to the procedures below that the student:

  - Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

  If it is determined by the Board of Directors that a student has brought a fire arm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or dangerous device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

  The term "firearm" means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.

  The term "destructive device" means (A) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including but not limited to: (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

4. **Suspension Procedure:** Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:
   - Conference: Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Director or the Director's designee with the student and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the student to the Director or designee.

     The conference may be omitted if the Director or designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An "emergency situation" involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or Charter School personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

     At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to

present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense. This conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a student for failure of the student's parent or guardian to attend a conference with Charter School officials. Reinstatement of the suspended student shall not be contingent upon attendance by the student's parent or guardian at the conference.

- Notice to Parents/Guardians: At the time of the suspension, an administrator or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If Charter School officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

- Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion: Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension. Upon a recommendation of Expulsion by the Director or Director's designee, the student and the student's guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the student should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. This determination will be made by the Director or designee upon either of the following: 1) the student's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the student poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the student's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

5. **Authority to Expel:** A student may be expelled either by the Charter School Board following a hearing before it or by the Charter School Board upon the recommendation of an Administrative Panel to be assigned by the Board as needed. The Administrative Panel should consist of at least three members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the student or a Board member of the Charter School's governing board. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense.

6. **Expulsion Procedures:** Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Director or designee determines that the Student has committed an expellable offense.

   In the event an Administrative Panel hears the case, it will make a recommendation to the Board for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session

(complying with all student confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the Student makes a written request for a public hearing three (3) days prior to the hearing.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the student. The notice shall include:

1. The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
2. A statement of the specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
3. A copy of the Charter School's disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the student's status at the Charter School to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor;
6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf including witnesses.

7. **Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses:** The Charter School may, upon a finding of good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations that shall be examined only by the Charter School or the hearing officer. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the student.

    - The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of his/her right to (a) receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.

    - The Charter School must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.

    - At the discretion of the entity conducting the expulsion hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.

- The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.

- The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.

- Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the person presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.

- If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, the Charter School must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to the Charter School. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising his or her discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.

- The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.

- Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in public at the request of the student being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by means of closed-circuit television.

- Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard absent a determination by the person conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstance can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent, legal counsel, or

other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

8. **Record of Hearing:** A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

9. **Presentation of Evidence:** While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board or Administrative Panel determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

   If, due to a written request by the expelled student, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his or her testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

   The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board who will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the Board shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing.

   If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, the student shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

10. **Written Notice to Expel:** The Director or designee, following a decision of the Board to expel, shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Board's adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following: (a) Notice of the specific offense committed by the student; and (b) Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the Charter School.

    The Director or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the authorizer. This notice shall include the following: (a) The student's name; and (b) The specific expellable offense committed by the student.

11. **Disciplinary Records:** The Charter School shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at the Charter School. Such records shall be made available to the authorizer

upon request.

12. **Right to Appeal:** Per AB 1360, a student being expelled or suspended will be provided "oral or written notice of the charges against the student," "an explanation of the evidence that supports the charges and an opportunity for the student to present his or her side of the story," and/or the opportunity for "a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within a reasonable number of days at which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate." Moreover, for any non-voluntary removal, the student's parent or guardian will be given written notice of intent to remove the student no less than 5 school days in advance, and the parent/guardian will be given the right to challenge the non-voluntary removal under the same procedures as an expulsion.

13. **Expelled Students/Alternative Education:** Students who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs including, but not limited to, programs within the County or their school district of residence. The Charter School shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during expulsion.

14. **Rehabilitation Plans:** Students who are expelled from the Charter School shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by the Board at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one year from the date of expulsion when the student may reapply to the Charter School for readmission.

15. **Readmission:** The decision to readmit a student or to admit a previously expelled student from another school district or charter school shall be in the sole discretion of the Board following a meeting with the Director or designee and the student and guardian or representative to determine whether the student has successfully completed the rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the student poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Director or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board following the meeting regarding his or her determination. The student's readmission is also contingent upon the Charter School's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission.

Teacher Certification Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to providing a high-quality educational program is dependent upon the employment of certificated staff who are adequately prepared and have demonstrated proficiency in basic skills and in the subject matter to be taught. The Executive Director designee shall ensure that persons employed to fill positions requiring certification qualifications possess the appropriate credential, permit, or other certification document from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and fulfill any additional state, federal, or the Charter School requirements for the position.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Teacher Certification Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Support to Teachers Holding Preliminary Credentials
2. Identify the Procedures for Hiring Based on Unavailability of Credentialed Teacher
3. Outline the Declaration of Need Requirements
4. Establish the Procedures for Employing Non-Credentialed Teachers

1. **Support for Teachers Holding Preliminary Credentials:** The Executive Director or designee shall provide assistance and support to teachers holding preliminary credentials to enable them to meet the qualifications required for the clear credential.

2. **Hiring Based on Unavailability of Credentialed Teacher:** The Executive Director or designee shall make reasonable efforts to recruit a fully prepared teacher for each assignment. Whenever a teacher with a clear or preliminary credential is not available, the Executive Director or designee shall make reasonable efforts to recruit an individual for the assignment in the following order: (Education Code 44225.7)

    1. A candidate who enrolls in an approved intern program in the region of the Charter School and possesses an intern credential
    2. A candidate who is scheduled to complete preliminary credential requirements within six months and who holds a provisional internship permit (PIP) or short-term staff permit issued by the CTC
    3. The Board shall approve, as an action item at a public Board meeting, a notice of its intent to employ a PIP applicant for a specific position. (5 CCR 80021.1)
    4. An individual who holds an emergency permit or for whom a credential waiver has been granted by the CTC

    Prior to requesting that the CTC issue an emergency permit pursuant to item #3 above or a limited assignment permit which allows a fully credentialed teacher to teach outside of his/her area of certification while working toward an added or supplementary authorization, the Board shall annually approve a Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators. The Declaration

of Need shall be approved by the Board as an action item at a regularly scheduled public Board meeting, with the entire Declaration of Need being included in the Board agenda. (Education Code 44225, 44225.7; 5 CCR 80023.2, 80026, 80027, 80027.1)

3. **The Declaration of Need:** The Declaration of Need shall certify that there is an insufficient number of certificated persons who meet the Charter School's specified employment criteria for the position(s) and that the Charter School has made reasonable efforts to recruit individuals who meet the qualifications specified in items #1-2 above. The Declaration of Need shall also indicate the number and type of emergency permits that the Charter School estimates it will need during the valid period of the Declaration of Need, based on the previous year's actual needs and projections of enrollment. Whenever the actual number of permits needed exceeds the estimate by 10 percent, the Board shall revise and resubmit the Declaration of Need. (5 CCR 80026)

4. **Non-Credentialed Teachers:** Whenever it is necessary to employ non-credentialed teachers to fill a position requiring certification qualifications, the Executive Director or designee shall provide support and guidance in accordance with law to ensure the quality of the instructional programs.

The Charter School Documents Policy

The Cottonwood School recognizes the importance of securing and retaining the Charter School's documents. The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the Charter School's records are developed, maintained, and disposed of in accordance with law and Board policy.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Charter School Documents Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Management of Business and Non-Instructional Operations Documents
2. Identify the Procedures during a Breach of Security
3. Identify the Procedures for The Safe at Home Program

1. **Management of Business and Non-Instructional Operations Documents:** The Executive Director or designee shall consult with the Charter School legal counsel, site administrators, the Charter School information technology staff, personnel department staff, and others as necessary to develop a secure document management system that provides for the storage, retrieval, archiving, and destruction of the Charter School documents, including electronically stored information such as email. This document management system shall be designed to comply with state and federal laws regarding security of records, record retention and destruction, response to "litigation hold" discovery requests, and the recovery of records in the event of a disaster or emergency.

   The Executive Director or designee shall ensure the confidentiality of records as required by law and shall establish regulations to safeguard data against damage, loss, or theft.

   The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that employees receive information about the Charter School's document management system, including retention and confidentiality requirements and an employee's obligations in the event of a litigation hold established on the advice of legal counsel.

2. **Breach of Security:** If the Charter School discovers or is notified that a breach of security of the Charter School records containing unencrypted personal information has occurred, the Executive Director or designee shall notify every individual whose personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person. Personal information includes, but is not limited to, a social security number, driver's license or identification card number, medical information, health insurance information, or an account number in combination with an access code or password that would permit access to a financial account. (Civil Code 1798.29)

   The Executive Director or designee shall provide the notice in a timely manner either in writing or electronically, unless otherwise provided in law. The notice shall include the material

specified in Civil Code 1798.29, be formatted as required, and be distributed in a timely manner, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement to conduct an uncompromised investigation or any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and restore reasonable integrity of the data system. (Civil Code 1798.29)

3. **Safe at Home Program:** The Charter School's public records shall not include the actual addresses of students, parents/guardians, or employees when a substitute address is designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Safe at Home program. (Government Code 6206, 6207)

   When a substitute address card is provided pursuant to this program, the confidential, actual address may be used only to establish the Charter School residency requirements for enrollment and for school emergency purposes.

Transportation for Students with Disabilities Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to meeting the transportation needs of students with disabilities to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. The Charter School shall provide appropriate transportation services for a student with disabilities when transportation services are required by his/her individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan, as determined by the team.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Transportation for Students with Disabilities Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Procedures for Determining the Students Transportation Needs.
2. Establish the Charter School's Provision of Transportation Services Specified in an IEP
3. Identify the Procedures for Alternative Transportation
4. Establish the Financial Agreement for Contracting with a Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School or Agency
5. Establish the Procedures for Transportation Schedules for Students with Disabilities
6. Establish the Compatibility of Mobile Seating Devices
7. Identify the Procedures for a Service Animal and Transportation

1. **Determination of Transportation Needs**: The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to, the student's health needs, travel distances, physical accessibility and safety of streets and sidewalks, accessibility of public transportation systems, midday or other transportation needs, extended-year services, and, as necessary, implementation of a behavioral intervention plan.

   The Executive Director or designee shall provide IEP teams with information about the Charter School's transportation services in order to assist them in making decisions as to the mode, schedule, and location of transportation services that may be available to each student with disabilities.

2. **Providing Transportation Services:** Transportation services specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan shall be provided.

   When transportation is not specifically required by the IEP or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities, the student shall be subject to the rules and policies regarding regular transportation offerings within the Charter School.

3. **Alternative Transportation:** If a student whose IEP or accommodation plan specifies transportation needs is excluded from school bus transportation for any reason, such as

suspension, expulsion, or other reason, the Charter School shall provide alternative transportation at no cost to the student or parent/guardian. (Education Code 48915.5)

4. **Financial Agreement for Contracting:** When contracting with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency to provide special education services, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the contract includes general administrative and financial agreements related to the provision of transportation services if specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 56366)

5. **Transportation Schedules:** The Executive Director or designee shall arrange transportation schedules so that students with disabilities do not spend an excessive amount of time on buses compared to other students.

6. **Mobile Seating Devices:** The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that any mobile seating devices used on the Charter School's buses are compatible with bus securement systems required by 49 CFR 571.222. (Education Code 56195.8)

7. **Service Animal:** As necessary, a student with disabilities may be accompanied on school transportation by a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, including a specially trained guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.1-54.2; 28 CFR 35.136)

Universal Complaint Policy

The Cottonwood School recognizes that the Charter School has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The Board encourages early resolution of complaints whenever possible. To resolve complaints which may require a more formal process, the Board adopts the uniform system of complaint processes specified in 5 CCR 4600-4670 and the accompanying administrative regulation.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Universal Complaint Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Identify the Complaints Subject to the Universal Complaint Policy
2. Establish the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
3. Establish the Prohibition of Retaliation
4. Identify the Maintenance of Universal Complaints
5. Identify the Complaints not Subject to Universal Complaint Policy

1. **Complaints Subject to the Universal Complaint Policy:** The Charter School's uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve the following complaints:

    - Any complaint alleging the Charter School violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing adult education programs, After School Education and Safety programs, agricultural vocational education, American Indian education centers and early childhood education program assessments, bilingual education, peer assistance and review programs for teachers, career technical and technical education and training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, compensatory education, consolidated categorical aid programs, Economic Impact Aid, English learner programs, federal education programs in Title I-VII, migrant education, Regional Occupational Centers and Programs, school safety plans, special education programs, State Preschool Programs, Tobacco-Use Prevention Education programs, and any other Charter School-implemented program which is listed in Education Code 64000(a)

    - Any complaint alleging the occurrence of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) against any student, employee, or other person participating in the Charter School programs and activities, including, but not limited to, those programs or activities funded directly by or that receive or benefit from any state financial assistance, based on the person's actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender

identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Government Code 11135, or Penal Code 422.55, or based on his/her association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics (5 CCR 4610)

- Any complaint alleging the Charter School noncompliance with the requirement to provide reasonable accommodation to a lactating student at a school event or location to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other breastfeeding-related needs of the student (Education Code 222)

- Any complaint alleging the Charter School noncompliance with the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participation in educational activities (5 CCR 4610)

- Any complaint alleging the Charter School noncompliance with legal requirements related to the implementation of the local control and accountability plan (Education Code 52075)

- Any complaint, by or on behalf of any student who is a foster youth, alleging noncompliance with any legal requirement applicable to the student regarding placement decisions, the responsibilities of the Charter School's educational liaison to the student, the award of credit for coursework satisfactorily completed in another school or district, school transfer, or the grant of an exemption from Board-imposed graduation requirements (Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

- Any complaint, by or on behalf of a homeless student as defined in 42 USC 11434a, a former juvenile court school student, or a child of a military family as defined in Education Code 49701 who transfers into the Charter School after his/her second year of high school, alleging the Charter School noncompliance with any requirement applicable to the student regarding the award of credit for coursework satisfactorily completed in another school or the Charter School or the grant of an exemption from Board-imposed graduation requirements (Education Code 51225.1, 51225.2)

- Any complaint alleging the Charter School noncompliance with the requirements of Education Code 51228.1 and 51228.2 that prohibit the assignment of a student in grades 9-12 to a course without educational content for more than one week in any semester or to a course the student has previously satisfactorily completed, without meeting specified conditions (Education Code 51228.3)

- Any complaint alleging retaliation against a complainant or other participant in the complaint process or anyone who has acted to uncover or report a violation subject to this policy

2. **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** The Charter School recognizes that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) can, depending on the nature of the allegations, offer a process to reach a resolution to the complaint that is acceptable to all parties. ADR such as mediation may be

offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint involving sexual assault or where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the use of ADR is consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

3. **Retaliation:** The Charter School shall protect all complainants from retaliation. In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the parties involved shall be protected as required by law. For any complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the Executive Director or designee shall keep the identity of the complainant, and/or the subject of the complaint if he/she is different from the complainant, confidential when appropriate and as long as the integrity of the complaint process is maintained.

4. **Maintenance of Universal Complaints:** The Executive Director or designee shall maintain records of all UCP complaints and the investigations of those complaints in accordance with applicable law and the Charter School policy.

   The Executive Director or designee shall provide training to the Charter School staff to ensure awareness and knowledge of current law and related requirements, including the steps and timelines specified in this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation.

5. **Complaints not Subject to Universal Complaint Policy:** When an allegation that is not subject to the UCP is included in a UCP complaint, the Charter School shall refer the non-UCP allegation to the appropriate staff or agency and shall investigate and, if appropriate, resolve the UCP-related allegation(s) through the Charter School's UCP. Non-Universal Complaint Policy Complaints:

   - Any complaint alleging child abuse or neglect shall be referred to the County Department of Social Services, the County Protective Services Division, and the appropriate law enforcement agency.

   - Any complaint alleging health and safety violations by a child development program shall, for licensed facilities, be referred to Department of Social Services and shall, for licensing-exempt facilities, be referred to the appropriate Child Development regional administrator.

   - Any complaint alleging fraud shall be referred to the Legal, Audits and Compliance Branch of the California Department of Education.

   - Any complaint alleging employment discrimination or harassment shall be investigated and resolved by the Charter School in accordance with the procedures specified in AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

   - Any complaint related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or

staff, or teacher vacancies and misassignments shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with the procedures in AR 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures. (Education Code 35186)

Universal Complaint Administrative Regulation

The Cottonwood School may otherwise specifically provide in other policies, these uniform complaint procedures (UCP) shall be used to investigate and resolve only the complaints specified in the Universal Complaint Board Policy.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Universal Complaint Administrative Regulation is to accomplish the following:

1. Identify the Compliance Officers
2. Outline the Notification Process of the Universal Complaint Process
3. Outline the Cost for Copies of the Charter School's UCP
4. Outline the Charter School's Responsibilities
5. Outline the Procedures for Filing of Complaints
6. Outline the Procedures for Mediation
7. Outline the Procedures for Investigating a Complaint
8. Outline the Procedures for the Report of Findings
9. Outline the Procedures for Notice of the Final Written Decision
10. Outline the Corrective Actions
11. Outline the Process for Appeals to the California Department of Education

1. Compliance Officers: The Charter School designates the individual(s) identified below as the employee(s) responsible for coordinating the Charter School's response to complaints and for complying with state and federal civil rights laws. The individual(s) are also listed in the Whistleblower Policy as the responsible employee(s) to handle complaints regarding unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying). The individual(s) shall receive and coordinate the investigation of complaints and shall ensure compliance with law.

Director of Human Resources
1740 Huntington Dr. # 205, Duarte CA 91010
888-215-3040
hr@inspireschools.org

The compliance officer who receives a complaint may assign another compliance officer to investigate and resolve the complaint. The compliance officer shall promptly notify the complainant and respondent, if applicable, if another compliance officer is assigned to the complaint.

In no instance shall a compliance officer be assigned to a complaint in which he/she has a bias or conflict of interest that would prohibit him/her from fairly investigating or resolving the complaint. Any complaint against a compliance officer or that raises a concern about the

compliance officer's ability to investigate the complaint fairly and without bias shall be filed with the Executive Director or designee who shall determine how the complaint will be investigated.

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that employees assigned to investigate and resolve complaints receive training and are knowledgeable about the laws and programs at issue in the complaints to which they are assigned. Training provided to such employees shall cover current state and federal laws and regulations governing the program, applicable processes for investigating and resolving complaints, including those alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), applicable standards for reaching decisions on complaints, and appropriate corrective measures. Assigned employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Executive Director or designee.

The compliance officer or, if necessary, any appropriate administrator shall determine whether interim measures are necessary during and pending the result of an investigation. If interim measures are determined to be necessary, the compliance officer or the administrator shall consult with the Executive Director, the Executive Director's designee, or, if appropriate, the regional or department director to implement one or more interim measures. The interim measures shall remain in place until the compliance officer determines that they are no longer necessary or until the Charter School issues its final written decision, whichever occurs first.

2. **Notifications:** The Charter School's UCP policy and administrative regulation shall be posted in all school offices, including staff lounges. (Education Code 234.1)

   The Executive Director or designee shall annually provide written notification of the Charter School's UCP to students, employees, parents/guardians of students, advisory committee members, appropriate school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. The notification shall include information regarding the prohibition of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying; unlawful student fees; local control and accountability plan (LCAP) requirements; and requirements related to the educational rights of foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and children of military families. (Education Code 262.3, 48853, 48853.5, 49010-49013, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2, 52075; 5 CCR 4622)

   The notice shall:

   - Identify the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for receiving complaints

   - Advise the complainant of any civil law remedies that may be available to him/her under state or federal antidiscrimination laws, if applicable

   - Advise the complainant of the appeal process, including, if applicable, the complainant's right to take a complaint directly to the California Department of Education (CDE) or to pursue remedies before civil courts or other public agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in cases involving unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying).

- Include statements that:
    - The Charter School has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs.

    - The complaint review shall be completed within 60 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline.

    - A complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) must be filed not later than six months from the date it occurred, or six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Executive Director or designee for good cause upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension.

    - Complaints should be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. If a complainant is unable to put his/her complaint in writing, for example, due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, the Charter School staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint.

    - If a complaint is not filed in writing but the Charter School receives notice of any allegation that is subject to the UCP, the Charter School shall take affirmative steps to investigate and address the allegations, in a manner appropriate to the particular circumstances.

      If the allegation involves retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) and the investigation confirms that discrimination has occurred, the Charter School will take steps to prevent recurrence of discrimination and correct its discriminatory effects on the complainant, and on others, if appropriate.

    - A student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a fee for his/her participation in an educational activity that constitutes an integral fundamental part of the Charter School's educational program, including curricular and extracurricular activities.

    - The Board is required to adopt and annually update the LCAP in a manner that includes meaningful engagement of parents/guardians, students, and other stakeholders in the development and/or review of the LCAP.

    - A foster youth shall receive information about educational rights related to his/her educational placement, enrollment in and checkout from school, as well as the responsibilities of the Charter School liaison for foster youth to ensure

and facilitate these requirements and to assist the student in ensuring proper transfer of his/her credits, records, and grades when he/she transfers between schools or between the Charter School and another district.

- A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family who transfers into a district high school or between district high schools as applicable shall be notified of the Charter School's responsibility to:

  - Accept any coursework or part of the coursework that the student has satisfactorily completed in another public school, juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, and to issue full or partial credit for the coursework completed

  - Not require the student to retake any course or a portion of a course which he/she has satisfactorily completed in another public school, juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency

  - If the student has completed his/her second year of high school before the transfer, provide the student information about the Charter School-adopted coursework and Board-imposed graduation requirements from which he/she may be exempted pursuant to Education Code 51225.1

- The complainant has a right to appeal the Charter School's decision to CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving the Charter School's decision.

  In any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the respondent also shall have the right to file an appeal with CDE in the same manner as the complainant, if he/she is dissatisfied with the Charter School's decision.

- The appeal to CDE must include a copy of the complaint filed with the Charter School and a copy of the Charter School's decision.

3. **Cost for Copies of the Charter School's UCP:** Copies of the Charter School's UCP are available free of charge.

   The annual notification, complete contact information of the compliance officer(s), and information related to Title IX as required pursuant to Education Code 221.61 shall be posted on the Charter School web site and may be provided through the Charter School-supported social media, if available.

   The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that all students and parents/guardians, including students and parents/guardians with limited English proficiency, have access to the

relevant information provided in the Charter School's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning the UCP.

If 15 percent or more of students enrolled in the Charter School speak a single primary language other than English, the Charter School's policy, regulation, forms, and notices concerning the UCP shall be translated into that language, in accordance with Education Code 234.1 and 48985. In all other instances, the Charter School shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant UCP information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

4. **The Charter School's Responsibilities:** All UCP-related complaints shall be investigated and resolved within 60 calendar days of the Charter School's receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline. (5 CCR 4631)
   For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the Charter School shall inform the respondent when the complainant agrees to an extension of the timeline for investigating and resolving the complaint.

   The compliance officer shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions, including steps taken during the investigation and all information required for compliance with 5 CCR 4631 and 4633.

   All parties involved in the allegations shall be notified when a complaint is filed and when a decision or ruling is made. However, the compliance officer shall keep all complaints or allegations of retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) confidential except when disclosure is necessary to carry out the investigation, take subsequent corrective action, conduct ongoing monitoring, or maintain the integrity of the process. (5 CCR 4630, 4964)

   All complainants shall be protected from retaliation.

5. **Filing of Complaints:** The complaint shall be presented to the compliance officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and a date stamp.

   All complaints shall be filed in writing and signed by the complainant. If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, the Charter School staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600)

   Complaints shall also be filed in accordance with the following rules, as applicable:

   - A complaint alleging violation of applicable state or federal law or regulations governing the programs specified in the accompanying Board policy (item #1 of the section "Complaints Subject to the UCP") may be filed by any individual, public agency, or organization. (5 CCR 4630)

   - Any complaint alleging noncompliance with law regarding the prohibition against requiring students to pay student fees, deposits, and charges or any requirement related

to the LCAP may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support an allegation of noncompliance. A complaint about a violation of the prohibition against the charging of unlawful student fees may be filed with the principal of the school or with the Executive Director or designee. However, any such complaint shall be filed no later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred. (Education Code 49013, 52075; 5 CCR 4630)

- A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) may be filed only by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered the unlawful discrimination or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to it. The complaint shall be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, or six months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged unlawful discrimination. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Executive Director or designee for good cause upon written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension. (5 CCR 4630)

- When a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) is filed anonymously, the compliance officer shall pursue an investigation or other response as appropriate, depending on the specificity and reliability of the information provided and the seriousness of the allegation.

- When the complainant of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) or the alleged victim, when he/she is not the complainant, requests confidentiality, the compliance officer shall inform him/her that the request may limit the Charter School's ability to investigate the conduct or take other necessary action. When honoring a request for confidentiality, the Charter School shall nevertheless take all reasonable steps to investigate and resolve/respond to the complaint consistent with the request.

6. **Mediation:** Within three business days after the compliance officer receives the complaint, he/she may informally discuss with all the parties the possibility of using mediation. Mediation shall be offered to resolve complaints that involve more than one student and no adult. However, mediation shall not be offered or used to resolve any complaint involving an allegation of sexual assault or where there is a reasonable risk that a party to the mediation would feel compelled to participate. If the parties agree to mediation, the compliance officer shall make all arrangements for this process.

   Before initiating the mediation of a complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the compliance officer shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to relevant confidential information. The compliance officer shall also notify all parties of the right to end the informal process at any time.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the compliance officer shall proceed with his/her investigation of the complaint.

The use of mediation shall not extend the Charter School's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time. If mediation is successful and the complaint is withdrawn, then the Charter School shall take only the actions agreed upon through the mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful, the Charter School shall then continue with subsequent steps specified in this administrative regulation.

7. **Investigation of Complaint:** Within ten business days after the compliance officer receives the complaint, the compliance officer shall begin an investigation into the complaint.

   Within one business day of initiating the investigation, the compliance officer shall provide the complainant and/or his/her representative with the opportunity to present the information contained in the complaint to the compliance officer and shall notify the complainant and/or his/her representative of the opportunity to present the compliance officer with any evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegations in the complaint. Such evidence or information may be presented at any time during the investigation.

   In conducting the investigation, the compliance officer shall collect all available documents and review all available records, notes, or statements related to the complaint, including any additional evidence or information received from the parties during the course of the investigation. He/she shall individually interview all available witnesses with information pertinent to the complaint, and may visit any reasonably accessible location where the relevant actions are alleged to have taken place. At appropriate intervals, the compliance officer shall inform both parties of the status of the investigation.

   To investigate a complaint alleging retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the compliance officer shall interview the alleged victim(s), any alleged offenders, and other relevant witnesses privately, separately, and in a confidential manner. As necessary, additional staff or legal counsel may conduct or support the investigation.

   A complainant's refusal to provide the Charter School's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation. Similarly, a respondent's refusal to provide the Charter School's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

   In accordance with law, the Charter School shall provide the investigator with access to records and other information related to the allegation in the complaint and shall not in any way obstruct the investigation. Failure or refusal of the Charter School to cooperate in the

investigation may result in a finding based on evidence collected that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

The compliance officer shall apply a "preponderance of the evidence" standard in determining the veracity of the factual allegations in a complaint. This standard is met if the allegation is more likely to be true than not.

8. **Report of Findings:**

   - OPTION 1: Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant, and respondent if there is one, a written report, as described in the section "Final Written Decision" below, within 60 calendar days of the Charter School's receipt of the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

   - OPTION 2: Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, a final decision shall be sent to the complainant within 60 calendar days of the Charter School's receipt of the complaint. Within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report, as described in the section "Final Written Decision" below. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance officer's decision, he/she may, within five business days, file his/her complaint in writing with the Board.

   The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered. When required by law, the matter shall be considered in closed session. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the compliance officer's decision shall be final.

   If the Board hears the complaint, the compliance officer shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 calendar days of the Charter School's initial receipt of the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

   In resolving any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), the respondent also shall be sent the Charter School's decision and, in the same manner as the complainant, may file a complaint with the Board if dissatisfied with the decision.

9. **Final Written Decision:** The Charter School's decision on how it will resolve the complaint shall be in writing and shall be sent to the complainant and respondent. (5 CCR 4631)

   In consultation with the Charter School's legal counsel, information about the relevant part of a decision may be communicated to a victim who is not the complainant and to other parties who may be involved in implementing the decision or are affected by the complaint, as long as the privacy of the parties is protected. In a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), notice of the Charter School's

decision to the alleged victim shall include information about any sanction to be imposed upon the respondent that relates directly to the alleged victim.

If the complaint involves a limited-English-proficient student or parent/guardian and the student involved attends a school at which 15 percent or more of the students speak a single primary language other than English, then the decision shall also be translated into that language. In all other instances, the Charter School shall ensure meaningful access to all relevant information for parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

For all complaints, the decision shall include: (5 CCR 4631)

- The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered. In reaching a factual determination, the following factors may be taken into account:
    - Statements made by any witnesses
    - The relative credibility of the individuals involved
    - How the complaining individual reacted to the incident
    - Any documentary or other evidence relating to the alleged conduct
    - Past instances of similar conduct by any alleged offenders
    - Past false allegations made by the complainant
- The conclusion(s) of law
- Disposition of the complaint
- Rationale for such disposition

For complaints of retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the disposition of the complaint shall include a determination for each allegation as to whether retaliation or unlawful discrimination has occurred.

The determination of whether a hostile environment exists may involve consideration of the following:

- The manner in which the misconduct affected one or more students' education
- The type, frequency, and duration of the misconduct
- The relationship between the alleged victim(s) and offender(s)
- The number of persons engaged in the conduct and at whom the conduct was directed

- The size of the school, location of the incidents, and context in which they occurred

- Other incidents at the school involving different individuals

Corrective action(s), including any actions that have been taken or will be taken to address the allegations in the complaint and including, with respect to a student fees complaint, a remedy that comports with Education Code 49013 and 5 CCR 4600

For complaints of unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the decision may, as required by law, include:

- The corrective actions imposed on the respondent

- Individual remedies offered or provided to the complainant or another person who was the subject of the complaint, but this information should not be shared with the respondent.

- Systemic measures the school has taken to eliminate a hostile environment and prevent recurrence

Notice of the complainant's and respondent's right to appeal the Charter School's decision to CDE within 15 calendar days, and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal

The decision may also include follow-up procedures to prevent recurrence or retaliation and for reporting any subsequent problems.

For complaints alleging unlawful discrimination based on state law (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying), the decision shall also include a notice to the complainant that:

- He/she may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the Charter School's complaint procedures, including seeking assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys, 60 calendar days after the filing of an appeal with CDE. (Education Code 262.3)

- The 60 days moratorium does not apply to complaints seeking injunctive relief in state courts or to discrimination complaints based on federal law. (Education Code 262.3)

- Complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender, disability, or age may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at www.ed.gov/ocr within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

10. **Corrective Actions:** When a complaint is found to have merit, the compliance officer shall adopt any appropriate corrective action permitted by law. Appropriate corrective actions that focus on the Charter School’s environment may include, but are not limited to, actions to

reinforce the Charter School's policies; training for faculty, staff, and students; updates to school policies; or school climate surveys.

For complaints involving retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), appropriate remedies that may be offered to the victim but not communicated to the respondent may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Counseling
- Academic support
- Health services
- Assignment of an escort to allow the victim to move safely about campus
- Information regarding available resources and how to report similar incidents or retaliation
- Separation of the victim from any other individuals involved, provided the separation does not penalize the victim
- Restorative justice
- Follow-up inquiries to ensure that the conduct has stopped and there has been no retaliation
- Determination of whether any past actions of the victim that resulted in discipline were related to the treatment the victim received and described in the complaint

For complaints involving retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), appropriate corrective actions that focus on a student offender may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Transfer from a class or school as permitted by law
- Parent/guardian conference
- Education regarding the impact of the conduct on others
- Positive behavior support
- Referral to a student success team
- Denial of participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities or other privileges as permitted by law

- Disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion, as permitted by law

When an employee is found to have committed retaliation or unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), the Charter School shall take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, in accordance with applicable law and collective bargaining agreement.

The Charter School may also consider training and other interventions for the larger school community to ensure that students, staff, and parents/guardians understand the types of behavior that constitute unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying), that the Charter School does not tolerate it, and how to report and respond to it.

When a complaint is found to have merit, an appropriate remedy shall be provided to the complainant or other affected person.

If a complaint alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, deposits, and other charges, physical education instructional minutes for students in elementary schools, or any requirement related to the LCAP is found to have merit, the Charter School shall provide a remedy to all affected students and parents/guardians subject to procedures established by regulation of the State Board of Education. (Education Code 49013, 51223, 52075)

For complaints alleging noncompliance with the laws regarding student fees, the Charter School shall attempt in good faith, by engaging in reasonable efforts, to identify and fully reimburse all affected students and parents/guardians who paid the unlawful student fees within one year prior to the filing of the complaint. (Education Code 49013; 5 CCR 4600)

11. **Appeals to the California Department of Education:** Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the Charter School's final written decision of a complaint regarding any specified federal or state educational program subject to the UCP may file an appeal in writing with CDE within 15 calendar days of receiving the Charter School's decision. (Education Code 222, 48853, 48853.5, 49013, 49069.5, 51223, 51225.1, 51225.2, 51228.3, 52075; 5 CCR 4632)

    When a respondent in any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying) is dissatisfied with the Charter School's final written decision, he/she, in the same manner as the complainant, may file an appeal with CDE.

    The complainant or respondent shall specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and how the facts of the Charter School's decision are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be sent to CDE with a copy of the original locally filed complaint and a copy of the Charter School's decision in that complaint. (5 CCR 4632)

    Upon notification by CDE that the complainant or respondent has appealed the Charter School's decision, the Executive Director or designee shall forward the following documents to CDE: (5 CCR 4633)

- A copy of the original complaint
- A copy of the written decision
- A summary of the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by the Charter School, if not covered by the decision
- A copy of the investigation file including, but not limited to, all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties and gathered by the investigator
- A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
- A copy of the Charter School's uniform complaint procedures

Other relevant information requested by CD

Whistleblower Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to maintaining a workplace where employees are free to raise good faith concerns regarding certain business practices, specifically: (1) reporting suspected violations of law, including, but not limited to, federal laws and regulations; (2) providing truthful information in connection with an inquiry or investigation by a court, agency, law enforcement, or other governmental body; and (3) identifying potential violations of The Cottonwood School policy, specifically the policies contained in The Cottonwood School Employee Handbook.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Whistleblower Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Identify Who to Report Suspected Violations to
2. Establish the Prohibition of Retaliation and the Consequences for Retaliation
3. Identify Who to Report Suspected Retaliation to
4. Establish Investigation Procedures

1. **Who to Report Suspected Violations to:** An employee who wishes to report a suspected violation of law or The Cottonwood School policy may do so confidentially by contacting any of the following individuals: a supervisor, a member of the leadership team or the Director of Human Resources.

2. **Retaliation and The Consequences for Retaliation:** The Cottonwood School expressly prohibits any form of retaliation, including harassment, intimidation, adverse employment actions, or any other form of retaliation, against employees who raise suspected violations of law, cooperate in inquiries or investigations, or identify potential violations of The Cottonwood School. Any employee who engages in retaliation will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

3. **Who to Report Suspected Retaliation to:** Any employee who believes that he or she has been subjected to any form of retaliation as a result of reporting a suspected violation of law or policy should immediately report the retaliation to one of the following: the Inspire Executive Director, or the Inspire Deputy Executive Director. Any supervisor, manager, or Human Resources staff that receives complaints of retaliation must immediately inform the Inspire Executive Director, or the Inspire Deputy Executive Director.

4. **Investigation Procedures:** Reports of suspected violations of law or policy and reports of retaliation will be investigated promptly and in a manner intended to protect confidentiality, consistent with a full and fair investigation. The Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director and a member of ICS management will conduct or designate other internal or external parties to conduct the investigations. The investigating parties will notify the concerned individuals of their findings directly.

Suicide Prevention Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed protecting the health and well-being of all The Cottonwood School students, including vulnerable youth populations, by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide and self-harming behavior. Vulnerable youth populations include LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) youth, youth living with mental and/or substance use disorders, youth who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide, youth in out-of-home settings, youth experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native youth or youth that identify with other racial minority groups, youth bereaved by suicide and youth living with medical conditions and disabilities.

California *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 215, as added by Assembly Bill 2246, (Chapter 642, Statutes of 2016) mandates that the Governing Board of any local educational agency (LEA) that serves pupils in grades seven to twelve, inclusive, adopt a policy on pupil suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. The policy shall specifically address the needs of high-risk groups, including suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers, and ensure that a school employee acts within the authorization and scope of the employee's credential or license.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Suicide Prevention Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Explain the Purpose for The Suicide Prevention Policy
2. Identify Parental Involvement in Suicide Prevention
3. Outline Key Terms and Definitions of Suicide Prevention
4. Identify Risk Factors and Protective Factors
5. Outline the Warning Signs of Suicide
6. Outline How to Respond to the Warning Signs of Suicide
7. Explain Suicide Discussion/Communication for Parents and Children.
8. Outline the Process for Assessment and Referral
9. Outline the Process for Implementing the Policy
10. Provide Resources for Parents, Students, and Staff Members on Suicide Prevention

1. Purpose: The Cottonwood School recognizes that:

a) physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's educational outcome,

b) further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people,

c) the has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide, and

d) acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster positive youth development.

In recognition of the need to protect the health, safety and welfare of its students, to promote healthy development, to safeguard against the threat or attempt of suicide among school aged youth, and to address barriers to learning, The Cottonwood School hereby adopts a policy, which corresponds with and supports other federal, state and local efforts to provide youth with prevention education, early identification and intervention, and access to all local resources to promote health and prevent personal harm or injury.

With the intention of creating a safe and nurturing educational entity that minimizes suicidal ideation in students, we also recognize our duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our students, and aim to safeguard students and staff against suicide attempts, deaths and other trauma associated with suicide. These safeguards include ensuring adequate supports for students, staff, and families affected by suicide attempts and loss. Because the emotional wellness of students greatly impacts learning, motivation, and educational success, the current policy shall be paired with other policies that support the emotional and behavioral wellness of students. Our policy is based on research and best practices in suicide prevention, and has been adopted with the understanding that suicide prevention activities decrease suicide risk, increase help-seeking behavior, identify those at risk of suicide, and decrease suicidal behaviors. Empirical evidence refutes a common belief that talking about suicide can increase risk or "place the idea in someone's mind."

In an attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the school has developed strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, and the identification of the mental health challenges frequently associated with suicidal thinking and behavior. These strategies shall include professional development for parents/guardians, caregivers, students, and school personnel who regularly interact with students or serve in a position to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of suicide.

2. Parental/Guardian Involvement: Parents and guardians play a key role in youth emotional and behavioral health, including suicide prevention. This policy is meant to be used as a tool for parents/guardians to be informed and actively involved in decisions regarding a child's welfare. Parents/guardians who learn the warning signs and risk factors for suicide are better equipped to connect with professional help when necessary. The school encourages and advises parents/guardians to take every statement regarding suicide or personal harm seriously and avoid assuming that a child is simply seeking attention.

Parents and guardians can also contribute to factors and conditions that reduce vulnerability to suicidal and self harming behavior, for vulnerable youth populations. Feeling accepted by parents or guardians is a critical protective factor for vulnerable youth populations. As educators, The Cottonwood School faculty and staff can help protect vulnerable youth populations by ensuring that parents and guardians have adequate resources regarding family acceptance and the essential role it plays in students' behavioral and emotional health.

3. Key Terms and Definitions:

- ***At Risk*** A student who is defined as high risk for suicide is one who has made a suicide attempt, has the intent to die by suicide, or has displayed a significant change in behavior suggesting the onset or deterioration of a mental health condition. The student may have thought about suicide including potential means of death and may have a plan. In addition, the student may exhibit feelings of isolation, hopelessness, helplessness, and the inability to tolerate any more pain. This situation would necessitate a referral, as documented in the following procedures.

- ***Crisis Team*** A multidisciplinary team of primarily administrative, mental health, safety professionals, and support staff whose primary focus is to address crisis preparedness, intervention/response, and recovery. These professionals have been specifically trained in crisis preparedness through recovery and take the leadership role in developing crisis plans, ensuring school staff can effectively execute various crisis protocols, and may provide mental health services for effective crisis interventions and recovery supports.

- ***Mental Health*** A state of mental and emotional being that can impact choices and actions that affect wellness. Mental health problems include mental and substance use disorders.

- ***Postvention*** Suicide postvention is a crisis intervention strategy designed to reduce the risk of suicide and suicide contagion, provide the support needed to help survivors cope with a suicide death, address the social stigma associated with suicide, and disseminate factual information after the suicide death of a member of the school community.

- ***Risk Assessment*** An evaluation of a student[SEP] who may be at risk for suicide, conducted by the appropriate school staff (e.g., school psychologist or school counselor). This assessment is designed to elicit information regarding the student's intent to die by suicide, previous history of suicide attempts, presence of a suicide plan and its level of lethality and availability, presence of support systems, and level of hopelessness and helplessness, mental status, and other relevant risk factors.

- ***Risk Factors for Suicide*** Characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take his or her life. Suicide risk tends to be highest when someone has several risk factors at the same time. Risk factors may encompass biological, psychological, and or social factors in the individual, family, and environment.

- ***Self-Harm*** Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. Can be categorized as either non-suicidal or suicidal. Although self-harm often lacks suicidal intent, youth who engage in self-harm are more likely to attempt suicide.

- ***Suicide*** Death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with any intent to die as a result of the behavior. Note: The coroner's or medical examiner's office must first confirm that the death was a suicide before any school official may state this as the cause of death.

- ***Suicide Attempt*** A self-injurious behavior for which there is evidence that the person had at least some intent to kill himself or herself. A suicide attempt may result in death, injuries, or no injuries. A mixture of ambivalent feelings such as wish to die and desire to live is a common experience with most suicide attempts. Therefore, ambivalence is not a sign of a less serious or less dangerous suicide attempt.

- ***Suicidal Behavior*** Suicide attempts, intentional injury to self associated with at least some level of intent, developing a plan or strategy for suicide, gathering the means for a suicide plan, or any other overt action or thought indicating intent to end one's life.

- ***Suicide Contagion*** The process by which suicidal behavior or a suicide influences an increase in the suicidal behaviors of others. Guilt, identification, and modeling are each thought to play a role in contagion. Although rare, suicide contagion can result in a cluster of suicides.

- ***Suicidal Ideation*** Thinking about, considering, or planning for self-injurious behavior which may result in death. A desire to be dead without a plan or intent to end one's life is still considered suicidal ideation and should be taken seriously.

4. Risk Factors and Protective Factors:

Risk Factors are characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take her or his life or participate in self-harming behaviors. These risks tend to be highest when someone has several risk factors at the same time.

The most frequently cited risk factors for suicide are:

1. Major depression (feeling down in a way that impacts your daily life) or bipolar disorder (severe mood swings)
2. Problems with alcohol or drugs
3. Unusual thoughts and behavior or confusion about reality
4. Personality traits that create a pattern of intense, unstable relationships or trouble with the law
5. Impulsivity and aggression, especially along with a mental disorder
6. Previous suicide attempt or family history of a suicide attempt or mental disorder
7. Serious medical condition and /or pain

It is important to bear in mind that the large majority of people with mental disorders or other suicide risk factors do not engage in suicidal behavior.

Protective Factors are characteristics or conditions that may help to decrease a person's risk of suicide or self-harming behaviors. While these factors do not eliminate the possibility of suicide, especially in someone with risk factors, they may help to reduce that risk. Protective factors for suicide have not been studied as thoroughly as risk factors, so less is known about them.

The most frequently cited protective factors of suicide include:

1. Receiving effective mental health care
2. Positive connections to family, peers, community, and social institutions such as marriage and religion that foster resilience
3. The skills and ability to solve problems

It is important for school districts to be aware of student populations that are at elevated risk of suicidal or self-harming behavior based on various factors:

1. Youth living with mental and/or substance use disorders. While the large majority of people with mental disorders do not engage in suicidal behavior, people with mental disorders account for more than 90 percent of deaths by suicide. Mental disorders, in particular depression or bipolar (manic-depressive) disorder, alcohol or substance abuse, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, borderline personality disorder, conduct disorders, and anxiety disorders are important risk factors for suicidal behavior among your people. The majority of people suffering from these mental disorders are not engaged in treatment, therefore school staff may play a pivotal role in recognizing and referring the student to treatment that may reduce risk.
2. Youth who engage in self-harm or have attempted suicide. Suicide risk among those who engage in self-harm is significantly higher than the general population. Whether or not they report suicidal intent, people who engage in self harm are at elevated risk for dying by suicide within 10 years. Additionally, a previous suicide attempt is a known predictor of suicide death. Many adolescents who have attempted suicide do not receive necessary follow up care.
3. Youth in out-of-home settings. Youth involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems have a high prevalence of many risk factors of suicide. Young people involved in the juvenile justice system die by suicide at a rate about four times greater than the rate among youth in the general population. Though comprehensive suicide data on youth in foster care does not exist, one research found that youth in foster care were more than twice as likely to have considered suicide and almost four times more likely to have attempted suicide than their peers not in foster care.
4. Youth experiencing homelessness. For youth experiencing homelessness, rates of suicide attempts are higher than those of the adolescent population in general. These young people also have higher rates of mood disorders, conduct disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
5. American Indian/Alaska Native youth. In 2009, the rate of suicide among American Indian / Alaska Native youth ages 15-19 was more than twice that of the general youth population. Risk factors that can affect this group include substance use, discrimination, lack of access to mental health care, and historical trauma.
6. LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning) youth. The CDC finds that LGBTQ youth are four times more likely, and questioning youth are three times more likely, to attempt suicide as their straight peers. The American Association of Suicidology reports that nearly half of young transgender people have seriously considered taking their lives and one quarter report having made suicide attempt. Suicidal behavior among LGBTQ youth can be related to experiences of discrimination, family rejections, harassment, bullying, violence and victimization. For those youth with baseline risk for suicide (especially those with a mental disorder), these experiences can place them at increased risk. It is these societal factors, in concert

with other individual factors such as mental health history, and not the fact of being LGBTQ that will elevate the risk of suicidal behavior for LGBTQ youth.

7. Youth bereaved by suicide. Studies show that those who have experience suicide loss, through the death of a friend or loved one, are at increased risk for suicide themselves.
8. Youth living with medical conditions and disabilities. A number of physical conditions are associated with an elevated risk for suicidal behavior. Some of the conditions include chronic pain, loss of mobility, disfigurement, cognitive styles that make problem-solving a challenge, and other chronic limitations. Adolescents with asthma are more likely to report suicidal ideation and behavior than those without asthma. Additionally, studies show that suicide rates are significantly higher among people with certain types of disabilities, such as those with multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injuries.

5. **Warning Signs of Suicide**: It is vital to suicide prevention that individuals are equipped to recognize the warning signs of someone who is seriously contemplating suicide. Behaviors that may mean a person is at *immediate* risk for suicide and thus prompt you to take action right away include:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill one's self
- Looking for a way to kill one's self, such as a new or sudden interest in buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or like there's no point in living or carrying on
- Unusual or unexpected visits or calls to family and friends to say "goodbye" as if they will not be seen again
- Sudden efforts to get one's affairs in order, e.g., making a will out of the blue or giving away prized possessions
- A sudden sense of calm and happiness; though this might sound contradictory, if an extremely depressed person suddenly seems calm or happy, this can mean the person has made a decision to commit suicide. *Do not assume a person expressing a desire to die is joking*. Ask if they are serious. And make sure to follow up. Someone might say they are only joking when in fact the "joke" is motivated by a sincere desire to die. Suicide is not a joking matter; do not treat it as such. Less immediate, but still concerning, warning signs of suicidal ideation include:
- Feeling anxious or agitated
- Sudden reckless behavior
- Significant changes in sleep behavior (hardly sleeping, sleeping too much)

- Withdrawing or isolating from others
- Talking about feeling trapped
- Talking about pain feeling unbearable
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increased use/abuse of alcohol or drugs
- Extreme mood swings

The above behaviors do not necessarily indicate suicidal ideation in and of themselves. However, when combined with other factors (like a recent, painful loss or public moment of humiliation), they should take on a new sense of urgency to intervene with help.

6. **Responding to the Warning Signs**: The most important thing you can do is ***take the person seriously***. Do not judge them; do not make them feel bad; do not make a joke about it even if it makes you feel uncomfortable. Above all, do not assume the person is only seeking attention. That is not your judgment to make and you making it could be a life-threatening mistake. Be there, support them, and take immediate action. That immediate action should include, at the very minimum, the following:

    - Talk to the person. Let them know you care about them.
    - Listen without judging. This means you need to set aside whatever religious or theological beliefs you have about suicide in the abstract. This moment is about helping the human being in front of you who needs support.
    - Try not to act/appear shocked. The person is already in distress; an overwhelming display of emotions on your part could only further distress them and make them feel they should not talk to you.
    - Ask the person directly, "Are you thinking of ending your life?" or "Are you considering killing yourself?" Though it might make *you* uncomfortable, remember these four concrete questions: Suicidal? Method? Have what you need to follow through with plan? When?

    The more information you know, the better you can help the suicidal person as well as the professionals that need to get involved. Also, asking these questions can help you determine how significant the risk. The more developed the person's suicidal plan, the higher the risk. For example, if the person has a method and a time in mind, the risk is extremely high.

    - If the person says, "No," continue to be with the person and give support and stay in touch for the next few days, repeating the above process.

Immigration Enforcement Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to ensuring that public schools remain safe and accessible to all California residents regardless of immigration status.

The purpose of the The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Immigration Enforcement Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Outline the Procedures for Responding to an Immigration or Law-Enforcement Officer
2. Outline the Procedures for Notifying Parents Before a Student is Interviewed or Searched by any Officer Seeking to Enforce Civil Immigration

1. **Responding to an Immigration or Law-Enforcement Officer**: The Charter School personnel shall notify the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director of any request by an immigration or law-enforcement officer for school or student access, requests for review of the Charter school documents, or requests of the services of lawful subpoenas, petitions, complaints etc., as soon as possible.

   In addition, if an officer appears at a school function specifically for immigration-enforcement purposes, the Charter School personnel must take the following actions:

   1. Advise the officer that the Charter School personnel must have the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director review written notification prior to beginning with request;
   2. Ask to see (and make a copy of or note) the officer's name and badge number;
   3. Ask the officer for her/his reason for being at the Charter School event and document it;
   4. Ask the officer to produce any documentation that authorizes school access;
   5. Make copies and retain a copy of all documents provided by the officer. Retain one copy for the Charter School records;
   6. If the officer asserts that special exigent circumstances exist and demands immediate access to the Charter school location, the Charter school personnel should comply and contact the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director.

   If the officer does not declare that exigent circumstances exist, the Charter School personnel shall inform the officer that the Charter School must consult its own legal counsel before proceeding. In the event the officer presents a federal judicial warrant (search and seizure warrant or arrest warrant), consultation with the Charter School's legal counsel shall be made before providing the agent access to the person or materials specified in the warrant if feasible.

The Charter School personnel should not consent to access by an immigration-enforcement officer, except as described above. At the same time, personnel shall never physically impede an officer, even if the officer appears to be exceeding the authorization given under a warrant or other document. If the officer enters without consent, personnel shall document his or her actions while on campus.

The Charter School personnel shall provide notes of the interaction to the Charter School's legal counsel and provide the governing board a report of the interaction as timely as possible. These notes must include, but are not limited to:

1. List or copy of the officer's credentials and contact information;
2. List of all the Charter School personnel who communicated with the officer;
3. Details of the officer's request;
4. Information on whether the officer presented a warrant or subpoena to accompany his/her request, the information/access requested and proof that the warrant was/wasn't signed;
5. The Charter school personnel's response to the officer's request;
6. Any further action taken by the officer;
7. Photo or copy of all/any information presented by the agent.

Any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school location or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes should be reported to the Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice at BCJ@doj.ca.gov

2. **Parental Notification:** Before a student can be interview or searched by any officer seeking to enforce civil immigration laws at the Charter School, the Charter School personnel must receive consent from the student's parent or guardian, unless the officer presents a valid, effective warrant signed by a judge or a valid, effective court order, stating otherwise.

   The Charter school personnel must immediately notify the student's parents or guardians if a law-enforcement officer requests or gains access to a student for immigration-enforcement purposes unless that access was in compliance with a warrant or subpoena that restricts the disclosure of the information to the parent or guardian.

Immigration Enforcement Policy Related to the Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member

The Cottonwood School is committed to ensuring that public schools remain safe and accessible to all California residents regardless of immigration status.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Immigration Enforcement Policy Related to the Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member is to accomplish the following:

1. Outline the Procedures for Responding to the Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member

1. **Responding to the Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member**: The Charter School shall encourage families and students to be prepared in the event that a family member is detained or deported. The Charter School shall encourage families and students to:

    - Know their emergency phone numbers;

    - Know where to find important documentation such as birth certificates, passports, Social Security Cards, doctors' contact information, medication lists, and lists of allergies.

    The Charter School shall permit students and families to update a student's emergency contact information as needed throughout the school year and to provide alternative contacts if not parent or guardian is available.

    The Charter School shall ensure that families may include the contact information of a trusted adult guardian as a secondary emergency contact in the event a student's parent or guardian is ever detained.

    The Charter School shall communicate to families that the information provided on the emergency cards will only be used to respond to emergency situations – and will never be used for any other purpose.

    The student's emergency card contact information is the information that shall be used in the event a student's parent or guardian is detained or deported and the student must be released to an adult designated on that card. Alternately, the Charter School shall release the student into the custody of any individual who presents a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit on behalf of the student. The Charter School shall only contact Child Protective Services if school staff are unable to arrange for timely care through the methods outlined above or other instructions given by the parent or guardian.

Any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes should be reported to the Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice at BCJ@doj.ca.gov

Anti-Nepotism Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of The Cottonwood School to avoid Nepotism, which means to avoid creating or maintaining circumstances in which the appearance or possibility of favoritism, conflicts of interest, or management disruptions exist due to a relationship between a The Cottonwood School decision-maker and his or her Family Member. This policy is to ensure effective supervision, internal discipline, security, safety, and positive morale in the workplace and to avoid the potential for problems of actual or perceived favoritism, conflicts in loyalty, discrimination, and appearances of impropriety or conflict of interest. This policy applies to all The Cottonwood School board members, employees, individual consultants hired or retained by The Cottonwood School, and School Services Providers hired or retained by The Cottonwood School.

Relationships between The Cottonwood School board members, employees, consultants, or School Services Providers are permissible under the following circumstances:

(a) Family Members of The Cottonwood School board members, employees, individual consultants, or School Services Providers shall not be hired for or retained in an employment position if one Family Member would have the authority or be in a position to directly supervise, hire, or discharge the other.

(b) Any time a board member, employee, individual consultant, or School Services Provider is a Family Member of another, the relationship shall not result in an adverse impact on work productivity or performance. The determination of whether there is an adverse impact shall be in the discretion of the supervisor(s) of the employee(s), consultant(s), or School Services Provider(s), or in the case of a board member, in the discretion of The Cottonwood School board of directors.

(c) Any time a board member, employee, individual consultant, or School Services Provider is a Family Member of another, the relationship shall not create an actual conflict of interest under the law, and shall not create a detrimental perceived conflict of interest. The determination of whether there is a detrimental perceived conflict of interest shall be in the discretion of the supervisor(s) of the employee(s), consultant(s) or School Services Provider(s), or in the case of a board member, in the discretion of The Cottonwood School board of directors.

DEFINITIONS

"Family Members" include an employee's parent, child (natural, adopted, or legal guardianship), spouse, domestic partner, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, step-relationships within the preceding categories, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and father-in-law.

"Nepotism" describes a work-related situation in which there is the potential for favoritism toward a Family Member (such as giving a job, promotion, biased performance reviews, or more favorable working conditions) on the basis of the familial relationship.

"School Services Provider" shall mean any provider of school services to The Cottonwood School, and in the case of an organization shall mean be the responsible individual at such organization that provides school services to The Cottonwood School.

PROCEDURES

When a Family Member of a current The Cottonwood School board member, employee, individual consultant, or School Services Provider applies to become a board member or employee, or requests to be a consultant or School Services Provider, the Family Member's application/request must be denied if a conflict under this policy exists (e.g., if one Family Member would have the authority or be in a position to directly supervise, hire, or discharge the other). Special circumstances may be reviewed by the Board in the event that The Cottonwood School 's best interests would be served otherwise.

When a Family Member of a current The Cottonwood School board member, employee, individual consultant, or School Services Provider applies for a transfer to a new employment position within Inspire Charter School – Central, the Family Member's application must be evaluated to determine whether a conflict under this policy exists. If a conflict exists, the application for transfer must either be denied or one of the Family Members must seek a position transfer to avoid the conflict, if any such opportunity exists. In the event that no such opportunity exists, the application for transfer must be denied.

In implementing this policy, it is permissible to ask an applicant, potential consultant, or School Services Provider to state whether he or she has a Family Member who is presently employed by or on the board of The Cottonwood School, but such information may not be used as a basis for an employment decision except as stated herein.

When a relationship that creates a conflict with this policy occurs during employment, The Cottonwood School will attempt to arrange a transfer or change in position/duties to eliminate the conflict. If a suitable transfer/change in position/duties is not available, one of the employees may be

separated from service. Every attempt will be made to effect transfer or separation on the basis of agreement between the employees involved and The Cottonwood School. If a mutual agreement is unattainable, the Board will determine, in The Cottonwood School 's best interest, which employee is to be transferred or separated.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Director or designee shall coordinate with the current employee's direct supervisor to develop appropriate plans to ensure that a Family Member's employment does not conflict with this policy. If the situation cannot be resolved by a transfer, then the Senior Director or designee will deny the application for employment. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the Board in the event that The Cottonwood School 's best interests would be served by the employment of a Family Member.

The Senior Director or designee shall investigate reports of Nepotism and take appropriate action. Employees are required to disclose changes in their personal situations to the Senior Director or designee which may be covered by this policy. Supervisors may inquire about the family relationship between employees to determine the appropriateness of the working relationship under this policy. The Board shall make the final determination concerning potential conflicts with this policy involving the Senior Director.

Approved by The Cottonwood School Board of Directors on June 8, 2019.

Policy Regarding Inconsistent, Incompatible or Conflicting Employment, Activity or Enterprise by

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of The Cottonwood School that its officers and employees may not engage in any outside activity, employment, or enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible with, or in conflict with, his or her duties as an officer or employee of The Cottonwood School.

An officer's or employee's outside activity, employment, or enterprise for compensation shall be determined to be inconsistent, incompatible with, or in conflict with, his or her duties as an officer of employee of The Cottonwood School if any of the following apply:

1. It involves the use of The Cottonwood School time, facilities, equipment, supplies, or the officer's or employee's position or influence with The Cottonwood School, for private gain or advantage.
2. It involves receipt or acceptance by the officer of employee of any money or other consideration for the performance of an act that would otherwise be required within the scope of the officer or employee's duties with The Cottonwood School.
3. It involves the performance of an act as part of the outside activity that involves services performed for The Cottonwood School.
4. It affects the officer's or employee's work hours, interferes or conflicts with the officer's or employee's job duties, raise any ethical or conflict of interest concerns, or create any conditions that impact the officer's or employee's job performance.

Officers and employees may not use The Cottonwood School's name, logo, supplies, equipment or other property in connection with any outside activities.

PROCEDURE

In the event that an officer or employee believes that an outside activity for compensation may be inconsistent, incompatible with, or in conflict with, his or her duties as an officer or employee of The Cottonwood School, the officer or employee shall obtain a written determination of the Senior Director or his or her designee that the outside activity is not in violation of this policy before engaging in such activity.

Approved by The Cottonwood School Board of Directors on June 8, 2019.

Policy Confirming Restriction on the Provision of Funds or Other Thing of Value to Students, Parents or Guardians

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of The Cottonwood School that The Cottonwood School shall not provide any funds or thing of value to any student or his or her parent or guardian that a school district could not legally provide to a similarly situated student, or his or her parent or guardian. The Cottonwood School does not and shall not provide, for example, "sign up bonuses" to parents or guardians or other incentives unrelated to education.

Additionally, a student, parent or guardian shall not use his or her status as a student, parent or guardian with The Cottonwood School in order to obtain funds or thing of value from The Cottonwood School. For example, this policy prohibits an individual from utilizing his or her status as a parent or guardian to obtain a vendor contract with The Cottonwood School for compensation. It also prohibits an individual from utilizing his or her status as a parent or guardian to refer or encourage any students enrolled in The Cottonwood School, or their parents or guardians, to select that individual or his or her company or another provider of services, in connection with the student's education at The Cottonwood School, resulting in the individual's receipt of funds or thing of value from The Cottonwood School.

PROCEDURES

The prior approval of the Senior Director or his or her designee must be obtained for any of the following in order to ensure that it does not conflict with this policy:

1. Any funds or thing of value provided to a student, parent or guardian which has not previously been approved. This applies in any situation in which a student, parent or guardian would any funds or thing of value, whether in their capacity as a student, parent, guardian, vendor, service provider or other circumstance.
2. Any proposed incentive to be offered to students or parents.

In requesting approval, the educational purpose of any such funds, thing of value or incentive must be provided to the Senior Director or his or her designee.

Approved by The Cottonwood School Board of Directors on March 2, 2019.

Transportation Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School Board recognizes that School Bus transportation provided by school districts/charter schools in California is not mandated by State Law or the California Education Code. It is a privilege for pupils to ride the school bus. The following rules and information contained in this safety plan were developed to insure all students receive safe and dependable transportation. Pupils transported in a school bus or in a school pupil activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible to, the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across the street, highway or road. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not allow any pupil to leave the bus in route between home and school or other destination unless the pupil is given to the custody of a parent or any person designated by the parent or school. (CCR, Title 5, Section 14103) (CCR, Title 13, Section 1217)

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this School Transportation Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Define Student Instructions
2. Establish Bus Routes
3. Establish the Rules for Walking To and From School Bust Stopes
4. Outline Rules of Conduct At School Bus Loading Zones
5. Outline Rules and Regulations for School Bus Passengers for Safe-Riding Practices
6. Outline Rules for Red Light Crossing
7. Establish How to Determine if a Pupil Requires Escort
8. Establish the School Bus Danger Zones
9. Outline the Rules for Transportation for Field Trips
10. Outlines the Rules for using School Vehicles to Transport Students
11. Outlines the Rules for using Parent Vehicles to Transport Students
12. Outlines Bus Safety
13. Explain Notification to Parents of Transportation Provided
14. Explain the Procedures for Special Situations

1. **Student Instructions:** All Students who are transported in a school bus or activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety.
    - Each school year, the administrator or designee shall provide appropriate instruction to safe riding practices and emergency evacuation drills. Each student who receives home to school transportation in a school bus shall be required to receive this instruction. (CCR, Title 5, Section 14102).

- At least once each school year, all students in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th grade who receive home to school transportation shall receive safety instruction which includes, but is not limited to:
    - Proper loading and unloading procedures, including being escorted by the bus driver.
    - Proper passenger conduct.
    - Bus evacuation.
    - Location of emergency equipment.

As part of this instruction, students shall evacuate the school bus through emergency exit doors. Instruction may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit. Each time this instruction is given, the following information shall be documented:

- District Name
- School Name and Location
- Date
- Names of Supervisors
- Number of Students Participating
- Grade Levels of Students
- Subjects Covered
- Amount of time used
- Bus Driver's Name
- Bus Number

This document shall be kept on file at the The Cottonwood School Office for one year, and be available for inspection by the California Highway Patrol. (Ed.Code 38048)

2. **Bus Routes:** Regular home to school bus route schedules are available at the school offices prior to the first day of school in August. Any questions regarding bus stops or changes in the schedule should be directed to the Director of Transportation at (530) 696-2451. Each bus route schedule includes the name of the route, bus stops, time of arrival, driver's name and bus number. Students shall have a designated school bus stop.

3. **Walking To and From School Bust Stopes:** Students should be very careful when walking to and from school bus stops. Parents should accompany young children to the bus stop and assist in keeping order while waiting for the bus. Students should walk directly to and from the bus stop, using the safest route possible. Students are instructed to stay on sidewalks or on the road shoulder as far from the main traveled portion of the road as possible. Children need to pay close attention to traffic and weather conditions especially during reduced visibility. Students should never accept a ride from a stranger. Students need to leave home early enough to be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Students should always walk to and from bus stops facing traffic and out of the roadway. Crosswalks should always be used to cross a road when available. Children

should remain orderly at all times and refrain from any horseplay while walking to and from the bus stop.

4. **Rules of Conduct At School Bus Loading Zones:** Students should stand in line facing traffic so the bus can be seen approaching. Students should be at least six feet back from where the bus will stop. Students should not approach the bus until the bus comes to a full stop and the driver opens the door. Students should never go under the bus to retrieve papers or other objects they have dropped. They should always ask the driver for assistance. Destroying property, playing on the street, or any kind of horseplay at a bus stop is dangerous and prohibited. When waiting to load or unload the bus, students are the responsibility of the driver. They must follow the driver's directions. Students should never run after a bus they have missed. They need to inform a parent or guardian they missed the bus and obtain other means of transportation. Students need to plan on being at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the designated time. In the afternoon, students should wait for the bus in an orderly manner at the designated area at school. Teachers or aides on duty at the bus loading zone shall maintain order over students waiting for the bus. Students must maintain safe distances from the buses until they come to a full stop and the door is open.

5. **Rules and Regulations for School Bus Passengers for Safe-Riding Practices:** The Rules and Regulations for students shall include, but are not be limited to, all of the following:
   - Pupils are encouraged to arrive at their bus stop 5 minutes early.
   - Pupils shall use only their designated bus stop.
   - Pupils pre-kindergarten through 8th grade shall leave the bus only at their regular stop unless they have a note from a parent or guardian authorizing them to use a different bus stop.
   - Fighting, pushing or horseplay of any kind is prohibited on the bus at all times.
   - The use of profane language, obscene gestures, or excessive and unnecessary noise is prohibited at all times.
   - Pupils shall not throw any objects inside or out of the bus.
   - Pupils shall sit up in their seats, facing forward, with their feet on the floor and not obstructing the aisle.
   - Pupils shall not change seats while bus is in motion, or stand up and leave their seats until the bus has come to a full stop and the door is open.
   - Pupils shall keep all parts of their body, head, arms, hands, etc. inside the bus windows and emergency exits at all times.
   - Pupils shall not damage, deface or tamper with any equipment, radios, controls or emergency exits while on the bus.
   - Pupils are not allowed to eat, drink or use any type of tobacco products on the bus. On student activity trips only, the bus driver may allow students to eat and/or drink.
   - Pupils are not allowed to bring live animals, except service dogs on the bus.
   - Pupils shall obey the instructions of the driver at all times.

6. **Red Light Crossing:** The Cottonwood School bus drivers escort all students pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade who need to cross the street after departing the bus. Pupils shall inform the bus driver whenever they plan to cross the street so the bus driver can safely prepare the bus for crossing procedure. At this point, the driver sets the parking brake, secures the bus, checks traffic, turns on the red lights, takes the key, opens the door, and exits the bus first with a hand held stop sign. The students must remain in position next to the bus until the driver signals to them it is safe to cross. The driver then escorts them across the street. This crossing maneuver is considered dangerous and students must be aware, alert and follow the directions of the driver.

7. **Determining if a Pupil Requires Escort:** The bus driver, in conjunction with the school administration, the school, and the input of the student and/or parent or guardian shall determine if an escort is required to cross a street at a particular bus stop. Every stop requiring an escort will be clearly marked on the route sheet. (CVC 22112)

8. **School Bus Danger Zones:** The areas within 12 feet to the perimeter of the bus are called the danger zones. Students are directed to be no closer than 12 feet to the bus except when loading and unloading. The vast majority of school bus accidents and injury to students occur outside the bus in this danger zone. Students should never go under or near the bus to retrieve papers, lunch boxes, or other objects, as the driver may not be able to see a student in one of these locations.

9. **Field Trips:** School buses are the most highly regulated vehicles used for student transportation and school bus drivers are the most highly trained commercial drivers in California. School buses utilized for field trips are the safest means of transportation for the school district. School buses must be inspected and serviced by the district every 45 days or 3000 miles, whichever comes first. This inspection covers all mechanical, electrical and drive train equipment. Also, each bus must be inspected and re-certified by a California Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Inspector every 12 months. A certificate must be on the bus signed and dated by the CHP Inspector. The driver must also have a special driving certificate and a Class B license.

10. **School Vehicles:** No school vehicle (van, car, etc) shall be used for student transport.

11. **Parent Vehicles:** The use of parent vehicles for field trips shall strictly adhere to The Cottonwood School policy. All parents must show proof of appropriate insurance, be properly licensed and be registered with the school for such purposes. In no case shall a vehicle be used that seats more than 10 passengers including the driver. All passengers must be seat belted while in the vehicle.

12. **Bus Safety:** School bus operations shall be limited when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during regular home to school transportation service. Bus drivers for school activity trips shall have the authority to discontinue the bus

operation whenever they determine that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility. (CVC 34501.6) School buses and other vehicles used for pupil transportation shall not be operated whenever the number of passengers exceeds the seating capacity, except when necessary in emergency situations which require that students be moved immediately to insure their safety. Each school bus shall be equipped with at least one fire extinguisher and appropriate first aid kit which meets the standards specified by law. The administrator or designee shall review all investigations of bus incidents and accidents to develop preventative measures.

13. **Notifications:** Upon registration, the parents or guardians of all pupils not previously transported in a school bus or school pupil activity bus and who are in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, inclusive, shall be provided with written information on school bus safety. The information shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
    - A list of school bus stops near each pupil's home.
    - General rules of conduct at school bus loading zones.
    - Red light crossing instructions.
    - School bus danger zones.
    - Walking to and from school bus stops. (Ed. Code 38048)

14. **Special Situations:** If you encounter a student transportation safety situation that is not covered under this plan, please call the School Office at (530) 473-2550 or the School Bus Safety Officer of the California Highway Patrol at (530)-674-6141 direction. This Safety Plan shall remain on file at the The Cottonwood School Office and be made available for inspection by the California Highway Patrol.

Child Safety Alert System Policy

The Cottonwood School recognizes that transporting students is a regular occurrence at the charter school. Student transportation is necessary for meeting the needs of special education students, as well as for field trips and other school activities such as sports or band competitions. Such off-campus activities may supplement and enrich classroom learning and encourage new interests among students. Student safety is paramount as it relates to student transportation as it is with everything the charter school elects to undertake. The school

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Child Safety Alert System Policy to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Purpose of the Child Alert System
2. Establish the Mandatory Use of a Child Safety Alert System
3. Outline When a Child Alert System is Not Required
4. Establish a Transportation Safety Plan
5. Outline the Mandatory Notification of Department of Motor Vehicles Regarding Disciplined Bus Drivers

1. **The Purpose of the Child Alert System:** is to ensure student safety and specifically to ensure that all students exit the bus when transportation needs come to an end.

2. **Mandatory Child Safety Alert System:** All school buses, youth buses and child care motor vehicles shall be equipped with a child safety alert system. School pupil activity buses must be equipped with a child safety alert system unless all of the requirements below are met.

   If a school bus is equipped with a child safety alert system, upon movement of the vehicle, the child safety alert system shall be automatically activated. The system shall be mounted to the rearmost portion of the interior of the vehicle and will require manual activation to turn it off.

   Any malfunction of the child safety alert system shall be documented and retained by the operator of the vehicle for not less than two years. Documentation shall include a description of the malfunction, any repairs or adjustments made to restore correct functionality, and be made available for inspection upon the request of any authorized employee of the California Highway Patrol.

   In developing procedures for this policy for use by the School, the School Director or designee shall ensure that the policy reflects the direction and intent of Senate Bill 1072

(Chapter 721 Statutes of 2016) as it was written and the regulations written by the California Highway Patrol.

3. **When a Child Alert System is Not Required**: a child safety alert system is not required if all of the following apply:
   - The bus is not used exclusively to transport pupils;
   - The pupils are accompanied by at least one adult chaperone selected by a school official;
   - If the adult chaperone is not an employee, the chaperone shall meet the requirements for a school volunteer as established by school policy;
   - The adult chaperone has a list of every pupil and adult chaperone, including a school employee who is on the bus at the time of departure;
   - The driver has reviewed all safety and emergency procedures before the initial departure and the driver and adult chaperone have signed a form acknowledging review of the safety plan and procedures;
   - The adult chaperone takes and certifies a "head count" prior to each departure and the driver and adult chaperone sign a from verifying that all pupils are present or accounted for;
   - After pupils have exited a school bus and before driving away, the driver checks all areas of the bus after pupils have exited;
   - The driver shall sign a form with the time and date verifying that all required procedures have been followed and all required documentation shall be retained by the charter school for at least two years.

4. **Transportation Safety Plan:** The School Director or a designee shall develop a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of students to or from school or school activities. The plan shall be available for review by Board members and made available upon request to an officer of the California Highway Patrol.

5. **Mandatory Notification of Department of Motor Vehicles Regarding Disciplined Bus Drivers:** The School Director or a designee shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within five calendar days of taking disciplinary action against a driver for leaving an unsupervised pupil on a bus and when the School found the driver's action constituted gross negligence.

The Cottonwood School

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

SB 187 & SB 334 Compliance Document

2018-2019

Revised February, 2019

1740 Huntington Dr. #205
Duarte, CA 91010

This document is to be maintained for public inspection during business hours

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Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section A: General Information – School Safety - Includes Employee Fingerprint/Background Check - Ed Code 44237
Part 1: District Commitment to School Safety

The Cottonwood School is committed to ensuring that all enrolled students and all employees are safe and secure. The Cottonwood School believes that a beginning step toward safer schools is the development of a comprehensive plan for school safety by every school. The Cottonwood School intends that parents, students, teachers, administrators, counselors, classified personnel, and community agencies develop safe school plans as a collaborative process. The plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and proposed changes will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section A: General Information – School Safety - Includes Employee Fingerprint/Background Check - Ed Code 44237
Part 2: Legislative Requirements

The California Education Code (sections 35294-35294.9) outlines the requirements of all schools operating any kindergarten and any grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to write and develop a school safety plan relevant to the needs and resources of that particular school.

This requirement was presented in Senate Bill 187, which was approved by the Governor and chaptered in 1997. This legislation contained a sunset clause that stated that this legislation would remain in effect only until January 1, 2000. Senate Bill 334 was approved and chaptered in 1999 and perpetuated this legislation under the requirement of the initial legislation.

Comprehensive School Safety Plans are required under SB 187/SB 334 to contain the following elements:

Plans for Charter Schools must "identify appropriate strategies and programs that provide and maintain a high level of school safety and address the school's procedures for complying with existing laws related to school safety, *including but not limited to"* the following:

A. Employee Fingerprint/Background Check – Ed Code 44237
B. Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 & .6
C. Emergency/Disaster Plans – Ed Code 32287; CCR Title 8, Sec 3220; ADA
D. Suspension/Expulsion policies and procedures – Ed Code 48915
E. Procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils – Ed Code 49079
F. Discrimination and Harassment Policy (include hate crime reporting procedures and policies)*
G. Schoolwide Dress Code (if it exists - including prohibition of gang-related apparel)
H. Procedures for safe ingress and egress of pupils, parents, and school employees to and from school site (pick-up, drop-off, maps, etc.)
I. A safe and orderly environment conducive to learning at the school

The Comprehensive School Safety Plan will be reviewed and updated by March 1st every year. In July of every year, the school will report on the status of its school safety plan including a description of its key elements in the annual school accountability report card.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section A: General Information – School Safety - Includes Employee Fingerprint/Background Check - Ed Code 44237
Part 3: Maintaining a Safe and Orderly Environment

It is a priority of the administration and staff at The Cottonwood School that every student who attends our school will be provided with an environment in which the students not only feel physically safe, but that there is also a positive school climate in all activities.

Our administration and staff desire to provide an orderly, caring, and nondiscriminatory learning environment in which all students can feel comfortable and take pride in their school and their achievements.

Our administration encourages staff to teach students the meaning of equality, human dignity, and mutual respect, and to employ cooperative learning strategies that foster positive interactions among students from diverse backgrounds.

Students shall have opportunities to voice their concerns about school policies and practices and to share responsibility for solving problems that affect their school. Staff shall encourage and reward success and achievement, participation in community projects, and positive student conduct.

Our school network promotes nonviolent resolution techniques in order to encourage attitudes and behaviors that foster harmonious relations. Staff shall receive training which implements and supports conflict resolution (California Education Code Sections 32230-32239, 35160, 35160.1, 44806).

The Cottonwood School remains in compliance with existing laws related to school safety. This plan outlines several elements critical to maintaining a safe school environment.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section A: General Information – School Safety - Includes Employee Fingerprint/Background Check - Ed Code 44237
Part 4: Criminal Background Check

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

The Cottonwood School recognizes the importance of maintaining a safe workplace with employees who are honest, trustworthy, qualified, reliable, and nonviolent, and do not present a risk of harm to students, coworkers or others. The Cottonwood School will perform applicant background checks and employee investigations as required by Education Code section 47605 [b][f], which requires that "each employee of the school furnish the school with a criminal record summary".

All employees must have Live Scan fingerprint results on file with The Cottonwood School. Proof of Live Scan fingerprinting is a requirement of employment and the results must be provided to The Cottonwood School prior to the first day of work. Live Scan fingerprinting will be required of all job applicants, employees, and volunteers as required by California and federal law. Background checks may also be required of employees whose job duties involve care of students, handling of money, valuables or confidential information, or as otherwise deemed prudent by the school. These background checks are performed through a fingerprinting service coordinated by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Any and all information obtained by The Cottonwood School may be taken into consideration in evaluating one's suitability for employment, promotion, reassignment, or retention as an Employee.

The Cottonwood School shall also request subsequent arrest notification from the Department of Justice and take all necessary action based upon such further notification.

The Cottonwood School may occasionally find it necessary to investigate current employees, where behavior or other relevant circumstances raise questions concerning work performance, reliability, honesty, trustworthiness, or potential threat to the safety of coworkers, students or others. Employee investigations may, where appropriate, include credit reports and investigations of criminal records, including appropriate inquiries about any arrest for which the employee is out on bail. In the event that a background check is conducted, The Cottonwood School will comply with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and applicable state laws, including providing the employee with any required notices and forms. Employees subject to an investigation are required to cooperate with The Cottonwood School's lawful efforts to obtain relevant information, and may be disciplined up to and including suspension without pay and/or termination for failure to do so.

Employees with adverse background information (such as certain specific criminal conviction) may be ineligible for employment with The Cottonwood School.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

Child abuse reporting law (Penal Code Section 11166) requires that a The Cottonwood School employee who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse, report the incident to the proper authorities.

At The Cottonwood School, protecting children from child abuse is a major priority. Each year the administration sets aside time to meet with staff to discuss child abuse indicators and to remind teachers of the procedures to follow when abuse is suspected.

Employees of The Cottonwood School are familiar with Penal Code Section 11166 and understand the requirement that certificated and classified personnel report suspected child abuse immediately or as soon as practically possible to the Senior Director or to Children's Protective Services by telephone. They are aware that a call must be followed within at least 36 hours by a written report to the child protective agency.

All staff is aware of the location of a Child Abuse Information Folder that is kept on file and updated regularly. It includes informational literature, guidelines for recognizing abuse and specific directions for reporting it.

The determination as to who should be contacted will depend greatly upon the situation at hand. The local law enforcement agency will dispatch a unit to the school as soon as possible. Children's services may take much longer to respond. School personnel should always take into consideration the severity of the abuse and the extent to which the student's safety is at risk.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

The requirements of school personnel and the identification and reporting of known or suspected child abuse to a protective agency is mandated by the State of California Penal Code. In fact, failure to do so on the part of school personnel could lead to penalties which might be imposed on these individuals. The Cottonwood School board policies are continually updated to reflect appropriate legislation. Excerpts from the California Penal Code and The Cottonwood School Board Policy are presented below.

From California Penal Code Section 11166

…any child care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of a child protective agency who has knowledge or observes a child in his or her professional capacity within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse shall report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and shall prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

The Cottonwood School
– Child Abuse Prevention Programs

Recognizing that our responsibility to students includes the protection of their physical and mental well-being, the Governing Board desires to provide whatever opportunities or resources may be available for the prevention of child abuse.

The Board agrees with the Legislature that:

1. Child abuse and neglect is a severe and increasing problem in California.

2. School districts and preschools are able to provide an environment for training of children, parents, and all school district staff.

3. Primary prevention programs in the school districts are an effective and cost-efficient method of reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect and for promoting healthy family environments.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

The Cottonwood School
– Child Abuse Prevention Programs (Continued)

The Senior Director shall explore funding and assistance available for the establishment of programs directed toward preventing the occurrence of child abuse, including physical abuse, sexual assault, and child neglect, and reducing the general vulnerability of children, including coordination with and training for parents and school staff.

Parents shall be given notice of, and may refuse to have their children participate in, prevention training program.

The Cottonwood School
– Child Abuse and Neglect

Duty to Report
Certificated employees and classified employees trained in child abuse identification and reporting shall report known or suspected child abuse to a child protective agency by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible and in writing within thirty-six hours. The reporting duties are individual and cannot be delegated to another individual.

Definitions
1. "Child Abuse," as defined by law, pursuant to Penal Code 273 and 11165, and for purposes of this regulation includes the following:

    a. Physical abuse resulting in a non-accidental physical injury.
    b. Physical neglect, including both severe and general neglect, resulting in negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child.
    c. Sexual abuse including both sexual assault and sexual exploitation.
    d. Emotional abuse and emotional deprivation including willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment.
    e. Severe corporal punishment.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

2. "Mandated Reporters" are those people defined by law as "child care custodian," "medical practitioners" and non-medical practitioners" and include virtually all school employees. The following school personnel are required to report:

   Teachers, administrators, supervisors of child welfare and attendance, certificated pupil personnel employees, employees of a child care institution, head start teachers, school psychologists, licensed nurses, counselors, presenters of child abuse prevention programs and those instructional aides or other classified employees trained in child abuse reporting.

3. "Child Protective Agencies" are those law enforcements and child protective services responsible for investigating child abuse reports, including the local police or sheriff department, county welfare or juvenile probation department and child protective services.

4. "Reasonable Suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his/her training and experience, to suspect child abuse. (California Penal Code 11166)

Reporting Procedures

1. To report known or suspected child abuse, any employee (as defined above) shall report by telephone to the local child protective agency.

   The telephone report must be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible, upon suspicion. The verbal report will include:

   a. The name of the person making the report.
   b. The name of the child.
   c. The present location of the child.
   d. The nature and extent of any injury.
   e. Any other information requested by the child protective agency, including the information that led the mandated reporter to suspect child abuse.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

At the time the verbal report is made, the mandated reporter shall note the name of the official contacted, the date and time contacted, and any instructions or advice received.

2. Within thirty-six (36) hours of making the telephone report, the mandated reporter will complete and mail a written report to the local child protective agency.

   The written report shall include completion of the required standard Department of Justice form (DOJ SS 8572).

   The mandated reporter may request and receive copies of the appropriate form either from the school district or directly from the local child protective agency.

   Detailed instructions for completion of the form are on the back sheet of the form. Reporters may request assistance from the site administrator in completing and mailing the form; however, the mandated reporter is still responsible for ensuring that the written report is correctly filed.

3. Employees reporting child abuse to a child protective agency are encouraged, but not required, to notify the site administrator or designee as soon as possible after the initial verbal report by telephone. The site administration, when notified, shall inform the Superintendent.

   Administrators so notified shall provide the mandated reporter with any assistance necessary to ensure that the verbal or written reporting procedures are carried out according to state law and district regulations. If requested by the mandated reporter, the Senior Director may assist in the completion and filing of these forms.

Legal Responsibility and Liability

1. Mandated reporters have absolute immunity. School employees required to report are not civilly or criminally liable for filing a required or authorized report of known or suspected child abuse.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

2. A mandated reporter who fails to report an instance of child abuse, which he/she knows to exist or reasonably should know to exist, is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by confinement in jail for a term not to exceed six (6) months or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000) or both. The mandated reporter may also be held civilly liable for damages for any injury to the child after a failure to report.

3. When two (2) or more persons who are required to report jointly, have knowledge of suspected instance of child abuse, and when there is agreement, and a single report may be made and signed by the person selected. However, if any person who knows or should know that the person designated to report failed to do so, that person then has a duty to make the report.

4. The duty to report child abuse is an individual duty and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit such reporting duties. Furthermore, no person making such a report shall be subject to any sanction.

Release of Child to Peace Officer

When a child is released to a peace officer and taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, the Senior Director shall not notify the parent or guardian as required in other instances of removal of a child from school, but rather shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the child's parent or guardian.

It is the responsibility of the peace officer to notify the parent or guardian of the situation. Peace officers will be asked to sign an appropriate release or acceptance of responsibility form (cf. 5145.11 – Questioning and Apprehension).

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section B: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures - Penal Code 11165.5 &.6
Part 1: Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

When School Employees are Accused of Child Abuse
Regardless of who child abusers may be, the major responsibilities of mandated reporters are to (1) identify incidents of suspected child abuse, and (2) comply with laws requiring reporting of suspected abuse to the proper authorities. Determining whether or not the suspected abuse actually occurred is not the responsibility of the school employee. Such determination and follow-up investigation will be made by a child protective agency.

Parent/guardians or members of the public accusing school employees of child abuse should be made aware of the ramifications of making false reports and should be provided with information regarding child abuse and child abuse reporting.

Pending the outcome of an investigation by a child protective agency and prior to the filing of formal charges, the employee may be subject to reassignment or a paid leave of absence.

Disciplinary action resulting from the filing of formal charges or upon conviction shall be in accordance with district policies, regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements. The Senior Director or designee should consult with legal counsel in implementing either suspension or dismissal.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section C: Emergency/Disaster Plans - Ed Code 32287; CCR Title 8, Sec 3220 ADA
Part 1: General Information - Disaster

The Cottonwood School will take all necessary measures to keep students, staff and visitors safe in the event of a disaster. The following sections of this plan outline basic responsibilities for all staff for specific incidents

The The Cottonwood School has developed a Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Plan that outlines in more detail, specific responsibilities for Emergency Response Teams at this school.

This Emergency Action Plan is being developed to provide information to the staff at The Cottonwood School to ensure pertinent information is available in the case of an incident that warrants a response. It is written in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3220 which outlines the components required for a plan. There are also components of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System incorporated in this plan. The purpose for the inclusion is that while The Cottonwood School may not have students on site, it will serve as an Emergency Operations Center if a multi-site incident occurs and support is needed for school or local community. At that time, the role of The Cottonwood School would be to serve as a resource and clearinghouse for information.

The plan is developed with a multi-hazard perspective to make it applicable to the widest range of emergencies and disasters, both natural and human caused. However, Administrators retain the flexibility to modify procedures and/or organization structure as necessary to accomplish the emergency response and recovery missions in the context of a particular hazard scenario.

The individual(s) responsible for implementation of this plan or to contact for any clarification is:

Name: _____ Department: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Department: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Plan Approval:

_____ _____
Name of Responsible Party Title

_____ _____
Signature Date

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

Plan #	Office/Department	Representative	Signature

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FACILITY EMERGENCY NUMBERS

1) Emergency Operations Center (Managing Director's) — Insert Number

2) Alternate Location (Office cell phone #) — Insert Number

LOCAL AGENCIES/OTHERS

1) Local Police

2) Local Fire

3) American Red Cross

4) Electric Utility Company

5) Local Gas Company

6) Local Water Company

In the event of a major emergency or disaster, the 9-1-1 emergency system may not function because of traffic overload. If you have a situation requiring immediate aid from police, fire or medical personnel you should try to use the 9-1-1 number first for immediate aid.

INTRUSION AND/OR FIRE ALARMS

If an intrusion or fire alarm goes off the company responsible for monitoring the system is (name of company), (phone number).

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A key component to this plan is the Incident Command System (ICS). The five basic functions of: Management, Operations, Logistics, Planning/Intelligence and Finance/Administration must remain consistent, but the formation of the teams within those sections can be flexible to meet each school's needs.

To properly complete the EOP, the school needs to: (1) Assign roles for Management staff and Section Chiefs (2) form the site emergency teams, (3) provide the appropriate training for all staff (4) conduct exercises to test the plan, and (5) update the plans as needed.

Employees shall be offered training on the specifics of this plan when it is initially developed and when new employees are hired. Employees should be retrained when the plan changes due to a change in the layout or design of the facility, when new equipment, hazardous materials, or processes are introduced that affect evacuation routes, or when new types of hazards are introduced that require special actions. It would also be helpful to provide annual awareness training as a reminder. General training for employees should address the following:

- Individual roles and responsibilities.
- Threats, hazards, and protective actions.
- Notification, warning, and communications procedures.
- Emergency response procedures.
- Evacuation, shelter, and accountability procedures.
- Location and use of common emergency equipment.
- Emergency shutdown procedures.

Additional training may also need to be provided (i.e. first-aid procedures, portable fire extinguisher use, etc.) depending on the responsibilities allocated employees in the plan.

Once the emergency action plan has been reviewed with employees and everyone has had the proper training, it is a good idea to hold practice drills as often as necessary to keep employees prepared. Include outside resources such as fire and police departments when possible. After each drill, gather management and employees to evaluate the effectiveness of the drill. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of your plan and work to improve it.

ABOUT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Through the years, those agencies responsible for disaster response have come up with several different models for coordinating that response. Although these models differ, they share a common background: The Incident Command System (ICS). As a member of your school's emergency response team, you will need to be familiar with ICS and the emergency management systems used in California.

Incident Command System (ICS) Developed in the 1970's by Southern California Fire Protection Agencies, this system was designed to coordinate multi-jurisdictional response. The beauty of ICS is that it is based upon common terminology and on the division of response activities into five functional units that essentially eliminates the possibility of the duplication of efforts. ICS became the model for the state's system.

Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Developed in response to the lack of agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination during the Oakland Fires of 1991, SEMS became the state-wide standard for coordinated emergency response. All agencies involved in emergency response are legally required to use SEMS. In fact, the **STATE** reimbursement of local costs incurred for emergency response/recovery is tied to the use of SEMS.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) After the national tragedy on September 11, 2001, it became clear that the country needed an emergency response system to address incidents that affected the entire nation. The national government looked at the system used in California and used it as a model to develop a national response system called NIMS. It is a FEMA approved emergency response system and will become the national model. National compliance was expected by 2006 but is still in progress. **FEDERAL** funding for emergency response/recovery grants is tied to the use of NIMS.

SCHOOL RESPONSE

In 1994 the State of California legislators passed the Petris Bill. This bill ***requires*** schools (who are considered to be special districts) to use the SEMS model in planning for, and responding to, school emergencies and disasters. HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE HSPD-5, which mandated the development and implementation of NIMS, now requires schools to integrate that system into their plans as well.

WHAT SPECIFIC LAWS* APPLY TO SCHOOLS

THE FIELD ACT
(Garrison Act and Riley Act)

Sets building code standards for construction and remodeling of public schools and assigns the responsibility for assuring building code compliance to the Division of the State Architect.

THE KATZ ACT

Requires schools to establish an earthquake emergency system:

- Develop a disaster plan
- Conduct periodic drop and cover drills, evacuation procedures and emergency response actions—once each quarter in elementary schools and once each semester in secondary schools
- Provide training to students and staff in emergency response procedures
- Be prepared to have your school serve as a possible public shelter
- Take mitigation measures to ensure the safety of students and staff—such as securing equipment and furniture.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ARE DISASTER SERVICE WORKERS

California Government Code Section 3100

All school employees are considered disaster service workers when:

- A local emergency has been proclaimed
- A state emergency has been proclaimed

or,

- A federal disaster declaration has been made

NOTE: During a declared disaster, school employees are required, by law, to serve as disaster service workers and cannot leave their school site until formally released.

- Certificated employees risk losing their teaching credentials
- Classified employees may be charged with a misdemeanor

*****This is not a legal opinion, confirmation is required determine if your organization is exempt from any regulations targeting schools. The assumption is that the laws apply to all public schools.

POST-DISASTER SHELTERS

Schools are required by both federal statute and state regulation to be available for shelters following a disaster.

- The American Red Cross has access to schools to set up shelters
- Local governments have access to schools to set up shelters
- Plan and make arrangements in advance to assure that you are prepared.

THE PETRIS BILL

California Government Code Section 8607

Requires schools to respond to disasters using the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) by December 1996.

- ICS - (Incident Command System) organizing response efforts into five basic functions: Management, Operations, Logistics, Planning/Intelligence and Finance/Administration
- EOC - (Emergency Operations Center) setting up a central area of control using the five basic functions
- Coordinate all efforts with the operational area (county) EOC, city EOC and county office of education EOC
- Incorporation of SEMS into all school plans, training and drills
- Documentation of the use of SEMS during an actual emergency

HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE HSPD-5

February 28, 2003

On February 28, 2003, President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5). HSPD-5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS).

HSPD-5 requires Federal departments and agencies to make the adoption of NIMS by state and local organizations a condition for Federal preparedness assistance (grants, contracts and other activities) by Fiscal Year 2005.

NIMS training requirements: All school employees (as designated Disaster Services Workers) are to complete ICS100, ICS200 and IS700.)

USING SEMS AND NIMS IN YOUR SCHOOL - AN OVERVIEW

Within SEMS and NIMS, an emergency response organization, known as the Incident Command System, consists of five Sections:

Management: responsible for policymaking with respect to disaster planning and preparedness and for the overall coordination of emergency response and recovery activities. This section has four members, the EOC Director/Incident Commander (IC), the Public Information Officer (PIO), the Safety Officer, and the Liaison Officer (LO). In short: they are ***the leaders.***

Planning/Intelligence: responsible for creating the action plans and checklists that will be used by all of the sections during crisis response and recovery. The section is comprised of two teams: the Situation Status Team and the Documentation Team. During an emergency, these teams gather, analyze, disseminate, and record information critical to the functioning of the Management Section. Planning/Intelligence are often referred to as ***the thinkers***.

Operations: responsible for response preparedness of the Assembly/Shelter, Communications, Crisis Intervention, Light Search and Rescue, First Aid, Student Release/Staff Accounting, and Maintenance/Fire/Site Security Teams. During a disaster, this section directs response activities of all of these teams and coordinates that response with the Management Section. These folks represent ***the doers.***

Logistics: prior to a disaster, this section is in charge of creating a transportation plan, and ensuring that there are adequate supplies of food, water, and equipment for crisis response. During an emergency, the section's two teams, the Supplies/Staffing Team and the Transportation Team provide services, personnel, equipment, materials, and facilities, as needed. They are ***the getters.***

Finance/Administration: in charge of creating policies and procedures for documenting costs associated with emergency response. This section has one team, called the Recordkeeping Team. During a disaster, they activate contracts with vendors, keep time records, track receipts, and account for expenditures. Their efforts make it possible for schools to reclaim costs associated with response and recovery activities from the state. They also gather all paperwork and documentation at the end of the incident for inclusion in the After Action Report (AAR). They are called ***the payers***.

THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

During an emergency, the Management Section gathers together in an area/room to set-up a "command center" also known as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In the EOC, the Management Section makes decisions affecting response activities based upon information coming in from the Section Chiefs.

A Word About Unified Command

The control of and response to emergencies is the sole responsibility of the site teams *until* first responders arrive. Once they arrive, incident command transitions to ***"Unified Command."*** This transition is immediately facilitated by an on-site briefing of first responders by the Management Staff and Section Chiefs. Following the initial briefing, the site's Incident Commander will begin to work closely with representatives of each response agency to plan and carry out response activities. Other employees may be asked to participate as well, depending upon the incident at hand and the available staffing of emergency responders. All staff should be prepared to participate if necessary.

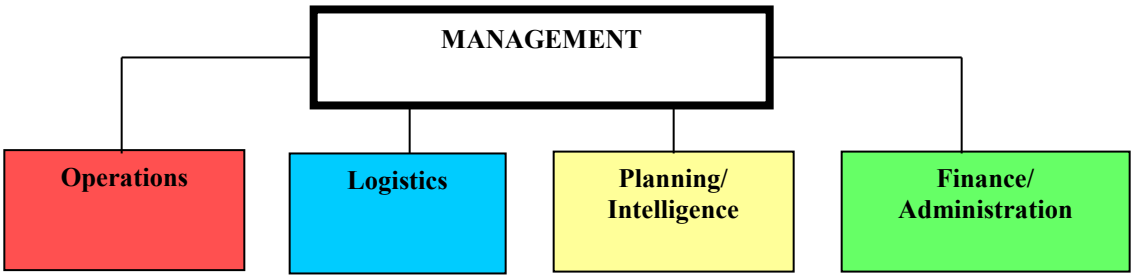
In the EOC, this means that first responder representatives will essentially be running response activities in consultation with the organization's Management Staff and Section Chiefs. In the field, Team Leaders and Team Members will work alongside first response teams, *unless* the EOC Director/Incident Commander has deemed it is too dangerous or unsafe for them to do so. *Remember,* first responders are professionals. Work with them and take your cues from them.

The Dual Role of the School Office

- The School must organize to respond to incidents that occur at their location
  - Ensure that the School has a functional Emergency Action Plan
  - Ensure that School staff are trained and well prepared

- The School office must also organize to provide support when the incident happens at school sites within the organization
  - Provide leadership
  - Provide assistance with response and recovery, when needed
  - Ensure that school staff are trained and well prepared
  - Ensure that each school has a functional Emergency Operations Plan

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM AND DIVISION OF LABOR



Divisions of Labor

Each one of the five functions have certain roles and responsibilities during a disaster or school emergency. The Management Section oversees response activities in consultation with the Chiefs of the Operations, Logistics, Planning/Intelligence, and Administration/Finance Sections. Each of these sections in turn, has a team or teams tasked with implementing very specific components of the emergency response plan.

INSERT SITE MAP

(include life and fire safety elements, i.e. fire extinguishers, first aid kits, emergency supplies, etc.)

INSERT STAFF ROSTER

The following Standard Operating Procedures have been developed to address a multitude of incidents that could occur at a school office or student location. This is a living document that should be updated and modified as additional information is acquired. A hazard assessment should be conducted to identify specific areas of concern for your location in order to maximize the number of response situations included in this plan.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Earthquakes, fire, bomb threats, hazardous chemical spill, or an incident on or near campus are just a few examples of an emergency incident situation that may require that portions of a building or an entire school building be evacuated.

The building Emergency Preparedness Committee should identify evacuation areas on site and alternative off-sites areas should it be necessary to evacuate.

A safe evacuation route must be able to accommodate moving a large number of people, while not exposing employees to danger. The location and type of emergency necessitates evaluation and possible adjustments to the usual evacuation routes. This evaluation will determine if the building should be evacuated in segments or if stationing a person at certain exits is necessary so that staff can be re-routed away from danger.

The movement of staff out of buildings requires accounting for every employee. In order to account for staff, work area supervisors must have available employee lists so that missing or extra staff can be reported immediately to the Command Posts (school; law enforcement; fire). When evacuating their work area, work site supervisors must bring with them the location roster and emergency supplies.

During an evacuation, the following procedures must be followed:

- ✓ Move staff to the designated Evacuation Area.
- ✓ Take roll by completing Staff Accountability Form
- ✓ Runners collect Staff Accountability Report from classroom or work areas.
- ✓ If employee has an assignment on Emergency Management Team Organizational Chart, report to the Command Post (CP) and sign in.
- ✓ Report to Incident Commander (IC) for briefing and assignment.

LOCKDOWN/REVERSE EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Some emergencies may prevent safe evacuation and require steps to isolate staff from danger by instituting a lockdown. Other emergencies may occur prior to the work day, during break or lunch periods, or after the work day. When staff may be outside the school building or work site, a reverse evacuation should be initiated.

All employees and must be familiar with the specific actions they must take during a lockdown or reverse evacuation. Discussions, training, and practice drills are essential to make these procedures workable.
In the event of a lockdown or reverse evacuation, work area supervisors must utilize the following procedures:

- ✓ If outside, move to the nearest building or room providing it is a safe route and that you are not moving in the direction of danger.
- ✓ If inside, stay inside.
- ✓ Lock door(s) to buildings and or work areas.
- ✓ If possible, quickly close all windows and then move away from the windows.
- ✓ Use caution when allowing late reporting staff to enter into a classroom.
- ✓ Have staff hide, if appropriate.
- ✓ Take roll using Staff Accountability Form.

Report any "extra" staff that sought cover in your work area. Take this form with you if you are directed by the Incident Commander to evacuate your work area at a later time.

- ✓ Await further instructions from the Incident Commander via public address system, phone or an e-mail notification to all staff.
- ✓ **DO NOT** use the telephone to call out as all lines must be keep open, unless there is a dire emergency in your work area.
- ✓ Remain in the room/office until a member of the Emergency Management Team or a law enforcement officer arrives with directions.

PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING A "SIZE-UP"

A ***"SIZE-UP"*** is a nine-step continual data gathering process that determines if it is safe to perform a certain emergency task, whether fire suppression, search and rescue, facilities assessment, etc. A size-up enables first responders to make decisions and respond appropriately in the areas of greatest need. The nine steps in a ***"size-up"*** are:

1. Gather Facts:
   - What has happened?
   - How many people are involved?
   - What is the current situation?
   - Does the time of day or week affect this situation?
   - Do weather conditions affect the situation (e.g. forecast, temperature, wind, rain)?
   - What type(s) of structures are involved?
   - Are buildings occupied? If yes, how many?
   - Are there special considerations involved (e.g. children, elderly, disabled)?
   - Are hazardous materials involved at or near the situation?
   - Are other types of hazards likely to be involved?

2. Assess and Communicate the Damage:
   - Take a lap around each building and try to determine what has happened, what is happening now, and what may happen next.
   - Are normal communications channels functioning (e.g. ICS, radios, e-mail, phones)?

3. Consider Probabilities:
   - What is likely to happen?
   - What is the worst-case scenario?

4. Assess Your Own Situation:
   - Are you in immediate danger?
   - Have you been trained to handle this situation?
   - What resources are available which can assist with your current situation?

5. Establish Priorities:
   - Are lives at risk? Remember, life safety is the first priority!
   - Can you and available resources handle this situation SAFELY without putting others at risk?
   - Are there more pressing needs at the moment? If yes, what are they?

6. Make Decisions:
   - Base decisions on the answers to Steps 1 through 3 and the priorities that your team has established.
   - Where will deployment of resources do the most good while maintaining an adequate margin of safety?

7. Develop an INCIDENT ACTION PLAN:
   - Develop a plan that will help you accomplish your priorities.

- Simple plans may be verbal, but more complex plans should always be written.
- Determine how personnel and other resources should be deployed.

8. Take Action:
   - Execute your plan, documenting deviations and status changes so that you can accurately report the situation to first responders, the Incident Command Post, the EOC, or other agencies that respond to the scene (e.g. fire, law enforcement, medical, media, coroner, parents).

9. Evaluate Progress:
   - At reasonable intervals, evaluate progress in accomplishing the objectives in the plan of action

(Incident Action Plan) to determine what is working and what changes you may have to make to stabilize the situation

BOMB THREAT

TELEPHONE BOMB THREAT

- During the call, complete the bomb threat checklist found on the next page.
- Stay on the line with the caller as long as possible, continuing to try and obtain more information about the threat.
- Have someone else call **911** (first 9 is to obtain outside line) and notify the School office.
- Without using portable radios or cell phones, organize a meeting with the school's Emergency Management Team (EMT). Radio and cell phone usage can resume once you are 300 feet away from school premises as a bomb could be hidden outside.
- If necessary, implement the ICS with only those positions deemed necessary.
- Assign a recorder to document events as they take place.
- Any search of the site should be done under the direction of law enforcement.
- The decision to evacuate the location is the responsibility of the Senior Director or his/her designee.
- If an evacuation is ordered, do not touch anything while leaving the building. Report any suspicious items to the Incident Commander.
- Follow off-site evacuation procedures.
- If the caller identifies a location where the device has been placed, avoid evacuating through the identified area.
- EMT members responsible for off-site evacuation and student accounting should begin making preparations for an orderly transition of the students/staff to the evacuation site.
- If an announcement is made over the school PA to evacuate, remind teachers and site supervisors to bring their class or work area rosters and emergency supplies.
- When the off-site evacuation location is reached, account for all students and staff. Report missing students/staff to the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will report missing students/staff to the law enforcement agency assisting with the evacuation.
- Re-entry onto the school campus can only take place at the direction of Incident Commander.

E-MAIL BOMB THREAT

- Save the e-mail message.
- Print a copy of the message and give to the Senior Director, law enforcement, and the Technology Department.

- Follow applicable procedures from above.

BOMB THREAT REPORT FORM:

School: _____
This form will help you obtain the necessary information from the caller. Keep this information near the phone.
Date: _____ Time: _____ AM____ PM____
Exact words of the person placing call:

_____
_____
_____
_____

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1.) When is the bomb going to explode? _____

2.) Where is the bomb right now? _____

3.) What kind of bomb is it? _____

4.) What does it look like? _____

5.) Why did you place the bomb? _____

6.) What will prevent you from doing this? _____

7.) What is your name? (He/she may inadvertently give it) _____

TRY TO DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING: (Circle all that apply)
Caller Description: Male Female Adult Juvenile Middle Aged Old
Voice: Loud Soft High-pitch Deep Raspy Pleasant Intoxicated
Accent: Local Non-Local Foreign Region Other: _____
Speech: Fast Slow Distinct Distorted Stutter Nasal Slurred Lisp
Language: Excellent Good Fair Poor Foul Other: _____
Manner: Calm Angry Rational Irrational Coherent Incoherent Deliberate Emotional
Righteous Laughing Intoxicated
Background Noises: Office Machines Factory Machines Trains Animals Music Quiet Voices
Airplanes Street Traffic Party Atmosphere Other: _____

NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S):_____
Do not panic and do not discuss the information you have received except with the above-named persons.
Person receiving the Bomb Threat: _____ _ at telephone

number_____.

Caller ID returned the following number:

_____.

Police contacted by: _____

Time: _____Date:_____

Search was made for the bomb: Y N Evacuation was conducted: Y N

FIRE/EXPLOSION

Apart from arson, major causes of fires include improper handling and storage of flammable liquids, overloaded electrical outlets, and excessive accumulation of rubbish.

FIRE DRILL PROCEDURES

- NO advance notice of fire drills should be given to building occupants.
- All drills shall be conducted using the same procedures that would be followed in case of an actual fire.
- Fire drills should be conducted at different hours of the day.
- An appropriate number of staff members should know how to reset the fire alarm.
- Immediately after the alarm has sounded for the drill, call the Fire Department non-emergency number to advise that this is only a drill.
- Keep documentation for each drill and record notable events for future consideration/improvement.

POSTING OF EVACUATION ROUTES

- A map, showing the primary and secondary evacuation routes shall be posted inside each room. The evacuation map shall have the office location highlighted and be placed on the wall so that an arrow indicating the exit route is pointing in the direction of the exit from the room.
- The map shall be labeled **"EVACUATION PLAN**" in bold letters and prominently posted in hallways, offices, bathrooms, cafeterias, lounges.

FIRE/EXPLOSION CHECKLIST

- If fire or smoke is detected, or a burning odor is sensed, pull the closest fire alarm to initiate building evacuation procedures.
- Call **911** to report all known information about the incident.
- Site administration should assign a recorder to begin documentation of the event.
- Before leaving a work area, the work area supervisor or their designee should make sure all windows are closed.
- Procedures for anyone with special-needs should be planned in advance and practiced.
- Administration should initiate the Incident Command System (ICS) and the designee assumes the role of the Incident Commander (IC) and establishes a Command Post staging area.
- Supervisors are to complete the Staff Accountability Report**.**
- Data collected from the **Staff Accountability Form** will determine if the Incident Commander needs to activate additional portions of the ICS, such as First Aid, Medical, Search and Locate/Rescue, etc.
- Establish contact with fire and law enforcement agencies.
- The fire department will give clearance to site administration when it is OK for staff to re-enter the building or an alternative plan if the building will not be able to be occupied.

EARTHQUAKE

An earthquake's effect on facilities will vary from building to building. Fire alarm or sprinkler systems may be activated by the shaking. Elevators and stairways will need to be inspected for damage before they can be used. Another major threat during an earthquake is from falling objects and debris. Injuries may be sustained during the earthquake while evacuating the building(s) or upon re-entry. Use the following guidelines/procedures to manage the incident:

IF INDOORS

- **DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON** by getting under a desk or table. Protect eyes, head and neck.
- Move away from windows and objects that could fall.
- Stay under desk or table until shaking stops.
- Listen for emergency instructions.
- Evacuate building if necessary and stay away from buildings, utility poles and large objects while transferring to the assembly area.
- Account for all staff using Staff Accountability Report.

IF OUTDOORS

- Move away from buildings, utility poles and large objects.
- Avoid all downed electrical lines.
- Do not touch any wire or any metal objects.
- Sit down in a safe area.
- Move to assembly area and begin accounting for all staff.

IN VEHICLE:

- Stop vehicle in a safe location away from power lines, overpasses or buildings.
- Stay in vehicle and establish radio contact with School office.

GENERAL GUIDELINES (AFTER THE QUAKE):

- Be prepared for aftershocks and ground motion.
- Evaluate immediate area for earthquake related hazards (fire, building collapse, gas leaks, downed electrical lines, wires, etc.).
- Account for all staff.
- Activate necessary portions of the ICS in collaboration with the site emergency team.
- Determine injuries and provide basic first aid via Medical/First Aid Group.
- Call **911** if there is a major emergency that is life threatening. You may not get a response from **911** if a major disaster has occurred affecting a large local area. **As we have been warned, we may be on our own for several hours or days.**
- Establish communication with your Supervisor and Incident Commander
- Assist any law enforcement or fire units that may respond to your site.
- Control internal and external communications, including contact with school sites and city agencies by use of telephones, cell phones, radios, runners, e-mail, text messages, or other means.
- Refer all media inquiries to the PIO.
- In communication with the school sites, assess the overall situation, how long students and staff might be at school, how supplies might be distributed and sheltering of students and staff.

SHOOTING/STABBINGS

No single warning sign can predict that a dangerous act will occur; however, certain warning signs may indicate that someone is close to behaving in a way that is potentially dangerous to self and/or others. Imminent warning signs usually are present as a sequence of overt, serious, or hostile behaviors or threats directed at peers, staff (usually more than one staff member), as well as the person's immediate family.

IMMINENT WARNING SIGNS REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE AND MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Physically fighting with peers or family members.
- Hostile interactions with law enforcement that involve a number of recorded incidents.
- Hostile interactions with staff and administration.
- Destruction of property (school, home, community).
- Severe rage for seemingly minor reasons.
- Detailed (time, place and method) threats (written and/or oral) to harm or kill others.
- Possession and/or use of firearms and other weapons.
- Self-injurious behaviors or threats of suicide.
- Is carrying a weapon, particularly a firearm, and has threatened to use it.

WHAT TO DO IF A SHOOTING/STABBING OCCURS AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

- The first indications of a shooting may include: sound of gunfire, loud cracking sounds, banging noises, windows shattering, glass exploding, bullets ricocheting or a report of a stabbing incident on campus.
- Call **911**. Identify your address, and succinctly explain the emergency incident and exact location. Stay on the line until the **911** dispatcher has all the information needed to respond to the situation.
- Activate Incident Command System (ICS) with Emergency Management Team.
- Establish Command Post and appoint Incident Commander and communicate location to law enforcement and fire/rescue units.
- Notify appropriate individuals, i.e. Administrators, Policy Group.
- Provide information, when practicable, about the incident to staff via PA system, e-mail or by phone.
- Account for all staff members by using phone or e-mail or other communication means. Attempt to determine if the shooter/stabber is still on the work site.
- Attempt to determine if the weapon has been found or secured.
- Attempt to determine if the shooter/stabber has been identified.
- Assign a liaison (preferably an administrator) to interface with law enforcement and fire department.
- Liaison can supply law enforcement with radio or phone communication, phone numbers, maps, keys, and other information deemed pertinent to the safe operation of the incident.
- Gather witnesses in secure room for law enforcement questioning. DO NOT allow witnesses to talk to one another (to protect the investigation). Assign staff to stay with witnesses until law enforcement arrives.
- Develop plan to evacuate staff to an off-site or alternate evacuation area should it be necessary to evacuate the building.
- Gather information of staff members involved in the incident.
- Prepare written statements for telephone callers and media in cooperation with law enforcement and the Senior Director. Can a message be placed on the website?
- Provide a liaison representative for family members for any injured staff members.
- Provide Crisis Response Team to provide counseling and to help deal with any psychological factors.

IF STAFF ARE OUTSIDE, THEY SHOULD BE TRAINED AND/OR INSTRUCTED TO

- Move or crawl away from gunfire, trying to put barriers between you and the shooter.

- Understand that many barriers may visually conceal a person from gunfire but may not be bulletproof.
- Try to get behind or inside a building. Stay down and away from windows.
- When reaching a relatively safe area, stay down and do not move. Do not peek or raise head.
- Listen for directions from law enforcement.
- Provide your name to work area supervisor who is accounting for all staff.
- Help others by being calm and quiet.
- Provide law enforcement with as much information as possible, such as:
  - ✓ Is suspect still on site and do you know current location?
  - ✓ Where was the specific location of occurrence?
  - ✓ Are there wounded staff members? How many?
  - ✓ Description of all weapons (hand gun, shotgun, automatic, dangerous objects, explosive devices, other).
  - ✓ Describe sound and number of shots fired.

SCENE OF INCIDENT

- The scene of an incident/crime shall be preserved.
- With the exception of rescue and law enforcement personnel, no one is allowed to enter the immediate area or touch anything.
- Any witnesses, including staff members, should be held near the area of the incident and be made available to law enforcement for questioning.
- Law enforcement responding to the incident will coordinate activities at the scene of the incident and finished, release the area to school officials when finished.

DEATH AND/OR SUICIDE

Death at a workplace is rare; however, you should be prepared in the event of a death whether it be caused by earthquake, explosion, building collapse, fire, choking, heart attack, seizure, or an incident such as a shooting/stabbing, fight, suicide, etc.
Organizations should also be prepared for the sudden, unexpected death of a staff member or a family member that does not occur on the school campus (automobile accident, sudden death, drive by shooting, gang violence, etc.).
Guidelines to utilize in the event of a death are outlined below.
DEATH OCCURS AT SCHOOL

- Call **911**. Identify your address and briefly outline the emergency and location on campus.
- Notify the school administration.
- Activate the Incident Command System if necessary and contact the school Emergency Management Team. Assign staff as needed.
- Notify the Managing Director's office.
- Isolate other staff from scene.
- If there is a death, do not move body. Law enforcement will contact the coroner's office so that the body can be removed, and any personal items of the victim can be returned to family or secured as evidence.
- DO NOT disturb or touch anything if the event is declared a crime scene.
- Secure area with yellow caution tape and assign staff to guard area.
- Gather all witnesses and place them in a secure location. Tell witnesses not to discuss any part of their observations until law enforcement arrives to interview or release them. Assign staff to monitor witnesses.
- Consider impact on staff. Activate the Crisis Response Team as appropriate.
- If the deceased is an employee, the Senior Director must notify Cal-OSHA within the 8-hour time requirement. Law enforcement or fire department may inform you they will contact Cal-OSHA; however, the School still must make certain it calls Cal-OSHA.
- Monitor staff emotional responses. Following a death there may be:
    - ✓ Self-referrals
    - ✓ Parent referrals
    - ✓ Reports and concerns expressed by relatives or good friends
    - ✓ Students who have experienced a recent loss.
- Develop a list of students and staff members that are having emotional symptoms.

HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

In any hostage situation, the primary concern must be the safety of staff.

Individuals who take hostages are frequently disturbed and the key to dealing with them is to make every attempt to avoid antagonizing them. Communication and demeanor with a hostage taker must be handled in a non-threatening, non-joking manner, always remembering that it may take very little to cause an individual to become violent.

IF THE OFFICE IS TAKEN HOSTAGE

- Do not use words such as "hostage," "captives," or "negotiate."
- Stay calm.
- No heroics, challenges or confrontation.
- Obey all commands.
- When safe, call **911**. Identify your work site and give the exact location in the building of the incident. Stay on the phone until law enforcement arrives to assume control of the situation.
- If possible, assign another staff member to notify the Site administrator.
- If possible, initiate a work site lockdown to stabilize areas around the incident and make for an easier evacuation.
- The work site emergency team shall activate the Incident Command System and make needed assignments including staging a Command Post (CP) and appointing an Incident Commander (IC).
- If possible, the emergency team should provide law enforcement with a liaison from the work site. The liaison can assist in providing name of IC, location of CP and obtaining maps, keys, radio and phone numbers, etc.
- Keep all radios, television sets, and computers turned off to minimize any possibility that suspect can hear or see "NEWS REPORTS."
- Make an effort to establish rapport with suspect. Provide your first name. Find out his/her first name and use first names, including those of other staff members involved in the situation. If you do not know first names, refer to the hostages(s) as men, and women.
- Be calm and patient and wait for help. Keep in mind that the average hostage incident lasts approximately six (6) to eight (8) hours, and the average barricade incident lasts approximately three (3) hours. TIME IS ON YOUR SIDE.
- Anticipate a point of law enforcement entry, rescue and how suspects will be apprehended.

WHEN THE HOSTAGE LOCATION IS OTHER THAN AN OFFICE

- Immediately call **911**. Identify your address and the situation, providing the exact location of the incident. STAY ON THE LINE UNTIL LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES.
- While on the phone with the **911** dispatcher report the following if known:
  - ✓ Number of suspect(s)
  - ✓ Names(s) of suspect(s) (if known)
  - ✓ Description of suspect(s):
    - ➢ Male or Female
    - ➢ Race
    - ➢ Weight (Light; Lean; Heavy; Obese) stay away from using lbs.
    - ➢ Height (short; medium; tall) avoid using feet/inches
    - ➢ Hair
    - ➢ Eyes

- ➢ Approximate age
- ➢ Description of clothing
- ➢ Anything special or unusual, like:
    - o Scars
    - o Tattoos
    - o Burn marks
    - o Birthmarks
    - o Pierced body parts
    - o Jewelry

✓ Exact location of suspect (building, room) and include North, South, East or West in your directions.
✓ Approximate number of staff in hostage area.
✓ Are weapons or explosive devices involved?
✓ Have any shots been fired? If yes, describe sound and number of shots fired.
✓ Are there reports of any injuries or emergency medical needs (medication)? Describe exact location and condition of victim(s).
✓ Are there any demands the suspect has made?
✓ Is there any other background information, past problems with suspect, demeanor, possible motive, or vendettas against staff or particular staff member?

If the hostage situation is on one side of the building, law enforcement will likely want to enter from the other side. Inform law enforcement exactly where the "Hostage Situation" is located and advise law enforcement what you consider to be the best "other side" entrance for law enforcement response.

- If possible, assign another staff member to notify the Site Administrator.

WHILE WAITING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

- If you can safely communicate to other offices by phone, implement lockdown procedures. For this situation, **DO NOT** set off any alarms as the bell may cause staff to panic and rush into a dangerous area.
- **DO NOT EVACUATE** until instructed or escorted by law enforcement.
- Complete Staff Accountability Report.

ONCE LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Law enforcement will need assistance in identifying witnesses. Gather witnesses in a secure location but do not let them talk with one another (to protect the investigation).

THE SITE EMERGENCY TEAM SHOULD MAKE PLANS TO

- Establish their Command Posts and assignment of necessary personnel.
- Record all events.
- Account for all staff.
- Prepare for a possible off-site evacuation route and location.
- Establish a media staging area.
- Alert Crisis Response Team for possible counseling of staff.

HOSTILE VISITOR

A hostile visitor could be an irate parent, a staff member, a neighbor, or an acquaintance of a staff member. The situation may begin in the front office; however, the individual may bypass the office and go directly to the target

of his/her hostility. It is the responsibility of staff to protect staff, attempt to defuse the situation, and, if necessary, notify law enforcement.

UNDERSTANDING NONVERBAL MESSAGES

Body language plays a role in communication. Nonverbal cues are especially crucial when dealing with a person who is upset and potentially violent. Pay attention to signs that a person is angry or frightened. These include:

- Trembling
- Sweating
- A red face
- Crossed arms
- Clenched jaw or fists
- Shallow breathing
- Glaring or avoiding eye contact
- Pacing the floor
- Sneering
- Crying
- Ranting

SEND THE RIGHT NONVERBAL MESSAGES

Don't get too close. An angry or upset person feels threatened by someone who stands too close. Give the person two to four feet distance from you.

Avoid doing any of the following:

- Glaring or staring at the visitor
- Threatening mannerisms such as clenched fists and a raised voice.
- Getting angry

Consider doing the following:

- Be courteous and confident
- Do not touch the individual
- Protect yourself at all times
- Find another staff member to join you or keep the meeting in an open area
- Listen to the visitor, giving him/her the opportunity to vent
- Do not disregard the person's opinion or blame the person.

ATTEMPT TO USE PHRASES SUCH AS:

- What can we do to make this better?
- I understand the problem and I am concerned.
- We need to work together on this problem.

WHAT TO DO:

- As soon as possible, call **911** and stay on the line. State your address, and exact location of hostile visitor. Identify building by letter (A, B, C, D, etc.) or number and use directions (North, South, East or West) for law enforcement as they enter the grounds. Give a description of the hostile visitor.
- If possible, assign a staff member to meet law enforcement and direct them to the location.
- The staff member should unlock any gate that makes access to campus easier and faster.
- If possible, notify the Site Administrator.
- If necessary, activate the Incident Command System, using only those parts of ICS as determined by the information at hand. Expand ICS as needed.

- Use staff members to keep staff away from the location of the hostile visitor.

CHEMICAL RELEASE/ HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL

A chemical release or hazardous material spill could affect one classroom, an entire worksite or larger area.

HOW SHOULD THE SCHOOL OFFICE PREPARE?

- The Emergency Management Teams should discuss and review plans to "Shelter in Place" or to "Evacuate the Area" using an alternative evacuation staging area.
- Staff should be trained to know what type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and clothing to wear when handling hazardous material. The type of PPE to be worn, if any, is contained in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Staff utilizing or handling any hazardous material, should know the symptoms of exposure, emergency first aid and treatment for exposure.
- All hazardous materials should be stored in a manner prescribed on the SDS.

HOW SHOULD THE SCHOOL OR DISTRICT RESPOND?

- If a hazardous spill or chemical release occurs within any area of the School office, immediately notify **911**. Inform the dispatcher of your school/address and a brief summary of the problem including the name of the hazardous material/chemical, location of the spill and a report of any injuries, illnesses, fire, explosion, etc.
- Approach incident from upwind.
- Stay clear of all spills (vapors, fumes, smoke, fire, possibility of explosion, other).
- Notify Site Administrator.
- Activate necessary portions of Incident Command System (ICS) and appoint Incident Commander. Expand ICS as needed and make necessary assignments appropriate to incident.
- Begin documentation of events.
- The situation or advice from law enforcement, fire department or a hazardous materials unit deployed to the scene of the spill will determine whether to "Shelter-In-Place" or to "Evacuate" the building. If evacuation is ordered, instruct staff to always move crosswind and upwind. Never move downwind into a chemical. To check wind direction, look at movement of trees or flag.
- If "Sheltering-In-Place" and, if possible, shut off all air-conditioning and heating units. Close all windows and door openings and try to seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet cloth or towels.
- Close all shades or drapes. Instruct staff to stay away from windows.
- If gas or vapors have entered the building, take shallow breaths through a cloth or towel.
- Keep telephones lines clear for emergency calls.
- If an evacuation is ordered, follow all instructions.
- Upon reaching alternative evacuation area, take head count and report missing or ill staff to Incident Commander and/or law enforcement.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Occasionally a medical emergency will occur, and personnel must be prepared to respond quickly, effectively, and efficiently.

SOME EMERGENCY PREVENTION/PREPAREDNESS GUIDELINES

- Insist that all accidents be reported, even if no visible harm or injury occurred.
- Follow established procedures for issuing medication.

WHAT TO DO IF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY OCCURS

- Assess seriousness of injury and/or illness by doing START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment, commonly called Thirty-Two-Can Do). If a staff member fails any of the three simple tests (Respirations, Perfusion, and Mental), their medical status is IMMEDIATE (RED). Administer first aid or CPR as needed.
- Call **911** and be prepared to provide:
  - ✓ Your address, building letter (A, B, C, D, etc.), room or floor number
  - ✓ Describe illness or type of injury
  - ✓ How the illness or type of injury occurred
  - ✓ Age of ill or injured staff member
  - ✓ Quickest way for ambulance to enter location on site
- Notify the Senior Director.
- Assign a staff member to meet and direct rescue services to location of injured party.
- Notify staff member's family of situation, including type of injury/illness, medical care being given and location where staff has been transported.
- When appropriate, advise other staff of situation.
- Follow-up with staff member's family.

GAS ODOR/LEAK

Natural gas has an additive that gives off a distinct odor allowing you to detect (smell) a leak. In most cases, handling a gas leak involves:

- Isolating the area and moving staff to safety.
- Eliminating potential ignition sources.
- Securing the leak.

The primary responsibility of the worksite staff is to determine how to safely house or evacuate staff and to protect property. The following agencies should be contacted:

- Fire Department (Call **911)**
- Site Administrator. Have a phone number for a point of contact if a leak is detected after business hours. (see emergency contact list)
- Local Gas Company

GAS ODOR OR LEAK INSIDE A BUILDING

- Evacuate the building(s) and move to a safe assembly area as far away as possible from the targeted building.
- Assign Emergency Management Team members to direct staff evacuating other buildings to stay away from the building with odor/leak.
- If necessary, activate the Incident Command System and establish Command Post.
- Begin completing Staff Accountability Report.
- Report any missing students and staff to Command Post.
- Assign a liaison to interact with Fire Department, Gas Company or law enforcement.

IF GAS ODOR OR LEAK IS DETECTED OUTSIDE THE BUILDING

- It may not be necessary to evacuate the building. Evacuation is called for only if odor seeps into a building.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE PROCEDURES

Why You Might Need to Shelter-In-Place

Chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally or intentionally into the environment. Should this occur, information will be provided by local authorities, TV or radio on how to protect staff. Because information will most likely be provided on television and radio, it is important to keep a TV or radio on, even during the workday or instructional time. The important thing is for you to follow instructions of local authorities.

Following Are Actions to Follow at Your Worksite:

- Follow reverse evacuation procedures to bring students and staff indoors.
- If there are visitors in the building, provide for their safety by asking them to stay. When authorities provide directions to "shelter-in-place", they want everyone to take those steps now, where they are, and not drive or walk outdoors.
- Provide for answering telephone inquiries by having at least one telephone available in the room selected to provide shelter for the Office Manager, or the person designated to answer these calls. This room should also be sealed. There should be a way to communicate among all rooms where staff are sheltering-in-place.
- Ideally, provide a way to make announcements over the public address system from the room where the site administrator takes shelter.
- Provide directions to close and lock all windows, exterior doors and any other openings to the outside.
- If there is danger of an explosion, direct that window shades, blinds, or curtains be closed.
- Have employees familiar with the building's mechanical system turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems. Some systems automatically provide for exchange of inside air with outside air – these systems, in particular, need to be turned off, sealed, or disabled.
- Gather essential disaster supplies, such as nonperishable food, bottled water, battery-powered radios, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, duct tape, plastic sheeting and plastic garbage bags.
- Designate interior rooms(s) above the ground floor with the fewest windows or vents. The room(s) should have adequate space for everyone to be able to sit in. Avoid overcrowding by selecting several rooms if necessary. Large storage closets, utility rooms, meeting rooms, or conference room without exterior windows will also work well.
- Call emergency contacts and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition.
- Bring everyone into the rooms that have been designated. Shut and lock the door.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the doors and any vents into the room. Consider precutting plastic sheeting to seal windows, doors, and vents. Each piece should be several inches larger than the space you want to cover so that it lies flat against the wall or ceiling/. Label each piece with the location of where it fits.

EXTENDED POWER LOSS

In the event of extended power loss to a facility certain precautionary measures should be taken depending on the geographical location and environment of the facility:

- Unnecessary electrical equipment and appliances should be turned off in the event that power restoration would surge causing damage to electronics and effecting sensitive equipment.
- Facilities with freezing temperatures should turn off and drain the following lines in the event of a long-term power loss.
    - Fire sprinkler system
    - Standpipes
    - Potable water lines
    - Toilets
- Add propylene-glycol to drains to prevent traps from freezing
- Equipment that contain fluids that may freeze due to long term exposure to freezing temperatures should be moved to heated areas, drained of liquids, or provided with auxiliary heat sources.

Upon Restoration of heat and power:

- Electronic equipment should be brought up to ambient temperatures before energizing to prevent condensate from forming on circuitry.
- Fire and potable water piping should be checked for leaks from freeze damage after the heat has been restored to the facility and water turned back on.

GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA

When speaking to the media about emergencies, it is extremely important to adhere to the following guidelines:

- **READ** all press statements
- **Re-state** the nature of the incident; its cause and time of origin
- **Describe** the size and scope of the incident
- **Report on** the ***current*** situation
- **Speak about the resources** being utilized in response activities
- **Reassure** the public that everything possible is being done
- **DO NOT release any names**
- **When answering questions** be truthful; but consider the emotional impact the information could have upon listeners
- **Avoid speculation**; do not talk "off the record"
- **Do not use** the phrase "no comment"
- **Set up** press times for updates
- **Control** media location

****SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE****

Event: EARTHQUAKE **Date: MARCH 1, xxx**

Release #: 001 **Time: 8:00 A.M.**

TITLE OF RELEASE: LARGE EARTHQUAKE CAUSES MODERATE DAMAGE TO SCHOOL OFFICES IN GENERIC COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXAMPLE…….At 5:25 a.m. on March 1, 2006 an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter Scale caused moderate damage to the NAME OF SCHOOL located at 1234 Anywhere Blvd. in Our Town, CA. There are no reports of injuries available. Search and Rescue crews are searching the building at this time. Roadways leading to the location have been damaged and an overpass on Hwy. 101 leading to the location has been damaged and is closed. The public is asked to remain clear of the area to allow emergency responders to access the site. Parents are asked NOT to go to the location as this will hamper rescue efforts.

School Districts throughout the county are instructed to call in to the County Office of Education at -(XXX) XXX-XXXX - to report any damage or injuries to their own buildings or their school sites following established school closure procedures.

Due to the magnitude of the earthquake and the damage throughout the county, the County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center has been activated. Additional information can be obtained by called the Op Area Public Information Hotline at XXX-XXXX.

Further details will be provided when available.

Next Scheduled Release: As needed

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Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section C: Disaster Procedures
Part 2: Biological/Chemical Weapons Assault

Biological and chemical weapons are unconventional warfare tactics that can be deployed upon the public with little or no notice. Such weapons typically involve microscopic materials that may be organic or synthetically manufactured in laboratories. Biological or chemical weapons can be in powder form, liquid, or vaporous. Agents used in biological/chemical attacks include, but are not limited to: anthrax, smallpox, other harmful viruses, various forms of nerve gas, tear gas, and other vaporous irritants. Pranks using stink bombs should also be considered a chemical weapons attack.

There are several possible dispersion techniques to deliver biological and chemical agents. The following procedures should be utilized in the event of an assault involving biological or chemical weapons.

Any possible biological/chemical weapons assault should be reported immediately to the Senior Director.

The Senior Director should notify law enforcement authorities immediately.

As necessary alert all site employees of the situation by intercom.

If the agent is delivered via aircraft:

- All staff and students should be moved indoors.
- Keep students inside and take roll.
- Close and secure all doors and windows.
- Ensure that the HVAC is shut down.
- Cover vents with plastic or thick paper using tape to create a seal.
- Inspect all windows and doors for cracks, gaps, or holes. Cover any with plastic or thick paper using tape to create a seal.
- Remain in this area until notified to leave by the Senior Director, Senior Director's designee or officers of emergency response agencies.
- Immediately report any injuries or illnesses to the Senior Director, Senior Director's designee or officers of emergency response agencies.

If the agent is delivered via dispersion device that is outdoors:

- All staff and students should be moved indoors.
- Keep students inside and take roll.
- Close and secure all doors and windows.
- Ensure that the HVAC is shut down.
- Cover vents with plastic or thick paper using tape to create a seal.
- Inspect all windows and doors for cracks, gaps, or holes. Cover any with plastic or thick paper using tape to create a seal.
- Remain in this area until notified to leave by the Senior Director, Senior Director's designee or officers of emergency response agencies.
- Immediately report any injuries or illnesses to the Senior Director, Senior Director's designee or officers of emergency response agencies.

If the agent is delivered via dispersion device that is indoors:

- All staff and students should be evacuated to the school's normal outdoor evacuation assembly area unless that area may be affected by the assault. Role should be taken.
- Remain in this area until notified to leave by the Senior Director, Senior Director's designee or officers of emergency response agencies.
- The HVAC system should be shut down.

If the agent is delivered via the school's HVAC system:

- All staff and students should be evacuated to the school's normal outdoor evacuation assembly area unless that area may be affected by the assault. Role should be taken.
- Remain in this area until notified to leave by the Senior Director, Senior Director's designee or officers of emergency response agencies.
- The HVAC system should be shut down.

In any situation involving biological or chemical weapons the Senior Director and staff must follow all instructions given by officers of emergency response agencies. The Cottonwood School EOC will develop an action plan to handle telephone inquiries, rumor control, media relations, public information, employee/student crisis counseling, and facility damage assessment/control

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Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 3: Bomb Threat Procedures

If you observe a suspicious object or potential bomb on property, DO NOT HANDLE THE OBJECT, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY 911.

1. Receiving the Call

Make every attempt to keep the caller on the phone as long as possible to gain information. Try if possible, to determine the gender and age of caller. Try if possible, to get the caller to tell you the exact location of the bomb and the time of threatened detonation.

2. Notification Procedures

School Location communicate the above information to the following in this order:

- School Senior Director/Administrator
- Assistant Senior Directors or Deans
- Regional Coordinators
- Director of Student Activities

The Senior Director/Administrator will notify local law enforcement and The Cottonwood School District office.

District Office will communicate the above information to the Executive Director's Office. The Executive Director's office will notify local law enforcement.

Strictly follow the above notification procedures and do not discuss or notify others of the bomb threat since this may create an unwarranted panic response at the facility.

3. Action Plan Procedures

If required to develop an action plan, the Senior Director/administrator may consult with the following: Senior Directors and other administrators utilizing their expertise.

If the location of the bomb is not specifically designated, students will be kept in a secure location.

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Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 3: Bomb Threat Procedures

The Senior Director will make the decision to evacuate the building. However, if possible, this decision should be made in conjunction with law enforcement authorities after they arrive at the location.

The decision to search the building will be made in conjunction with law enforcement authorities and performed by them.

Reoccupation of an evacuated building will be authorized by the Senior Director only after consulting with law enforcement authorities.

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The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 4: Chemical or Hazardous Material Incident

If a hazardous material incident occurs off site, stay indoors and close all doors and windows (referred to as taking “Shelter in Place”).

Notify **911** of the Chemical or Hazardous Material Incident.

If possible, determine the location of the spill in relation to facility buildings and wind direction.

Do not evacuate buildings until you are sure you will not be evacuating into an area which may be more hazardous.

Follow all instructions given by the Fire Department when they arrive at the facility.

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The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 5: Earthquake Procedures

Indoors
DUCK, COVER, AND HOLD.
Get under desk or table. Move away from windows and objects that could fall. Stay under desk or table until shaking stops.

Outdoors
Move away from building, utility poles and vehicles. Avoid all down wires or electrical lines. Do not run.

In School Bus
Stop vehicle in safe location away from power lines, overpasses or large buildings. Stay in vehicle and establish radio contact with Transportation and/or District E.O.C.

General
Be prepared for immediate aftershocks and ground motion

Evaluate immediate area for earthquake related hazards (fire, building collapse, gas leaks, broken electrical lines, wires etc.)

Evaluate immediate area (classroom, bus, etc.) for injuries or medical aid situations.

Call 9-1-1, if you have an immediate emergency such as a fire or serious injury.

Assist injured with First Aid treatment

Do not evacuate buildings or vehicles unless you have a hazard-related reason to do so.

Conduct a headcount to account for all personnel and students

Establish communications with your supervisor, Senior Director or District EOC and follow emergency checklist and procedures.

Assist any police or fire units that respond to your location.

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The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 6: Explosion, Aircraft Crash or Similar Incident

If possible, Duck and Cover under a desk or table.

Notify **911** of the explosion or crash

Assist any injured requiring first aid treatment

If necessary because of fire, building damage etc., evacuate building

Assist any persons who would have physical problems evacuating the building.

Go to an outdoor evacuation/assembly area which is hazard free and not affected by the explosion or crash.

Keep fire lanes, streets and walkways open for emergency responders.

Stay in assembly area and account for all personnel and students.

Do not return to buildings until authorized by fire department or Senior Director

Information is provided to students at times of state testing, ingress and egress, safety

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 7: Fire Procedures

Call **911** to report a fire, stay one line and give specific information (name, address of school or facility).

Utilize manual pull station to activate building alarm system and evacuate building when you hear an alarm.

In the event of a small fire, notify **911** and then use the nearest fire extinguisher to control the fire if you have been trained in their use.

Do not attempt to fight large fires, call **911** and evacuate building.

Assist students in building evacuation and proceed to outdoor school evacuation area or areas.

When evacuating buildings walk, do not run.

Do not use elevators for building evacuation or in an emergency.

If heavy smoke is present, crawl or stay near floor for breathable air.

Assist any individuals who would have physical problems evacuating the building.

Stay in the designated assembly area and account for all personnel and students.

Do not block fire lanes or areas used by the fire department

Do not re-enter building until authorized by fire department or the Senior Director.

If the fire is off site, wait for instructions from the Senior Director or District SENIOR DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

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Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 8: Flood Procedures

If a flood warning is received by a District school or location, notify The Cottonwood School Senior Director immediately.

If a major flood warning is received at The Cottonwood School Office, The Cottonwood School EOC should be activated.

Based upon the specific threat, The Cottonwood School EOC in conjunction with the Operational Area EOC and SEMS system will develop an action plan to protect personnel, students and facilities.

Evacuation of specific schools, facilities or areas will be directed by The Cottonwood School EOC in coordination with SEMS.

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The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 9: Lockdown/Civil Unrest Procedures

Any threatening disturbance should be reported immediately to the Senior Director/Administrator.

If the disturbance is affecting normal school or facility operations, the Senior Director/Administrator should notify law enforcement authorities immediately.

As necessary, alert all site employees of the situation by intercom, Site staff must follow the instructions below:

If you are inside:

- Close and lock all doors and windows immediately upon notification of situation
- Keep all students inside and take roll
- If feasible, move all students to a center point and keep low to the ground. Stay away from all doors and windows.
- Never open the door or window to anyone
- Keep students inside classroom, regardless of lunch or recess until you are told by the Senior Director or Senior Director's designee that the situation has been resolved.

If you are outside:

- Immediately have students and staff seek shelter if it is safe to do so. Drill with students and staff to go to the nearest room to them.
- If shelter is not available, ensure students lie flat on the ground immediately.
- Children in restrooms should be instructed to stay there until directed to exit by the Senior Director or Senior Director's designee.

If situation is violent and may include the use of firearms, the Senior Director or Senior Director's designee should instruct all staff and students to lie face down on the floor and remain immobile.

Senior Director and staff must follow all instructions given by responding law enforcement.

If the event is major, the Senior Director will activate The Cottonwood School EOC to develop an Action Plan to deal with the situation as well as the following:

A. Telephone inquiries and rumor control
B. Media relations and public information
C. Employee/Student crisis counseling
D. Facility damage assessment/control

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 10: Severe Windstorm Procedures

If a severe wind warning is received at District location, notify The Cottonwood School Senior Director immediately.

If a severe wind warning is received at The Cottonwood School Office, The Cottonwood School EOC should be activated.

Based upon the specific threat, The Cottonwood School EOC in conjunction with the Operational Area EOC or City EOC will develop an action plan to protect personnel, students and facilities.

In general, if severe winds are affecting a school or facility, employees and students should be moved to the interior core area of the building (inside wall on the ground floor) away from outside windows and doors.

Close all windows and blinds and avoid auditoriums, gymnasiums and other building locations that have large roof areas or spans.

Avoid all areas that have large concentrations of electrical equipment or power cables.

Evacuation of specific schools, facilities or areas will be directed by The Cottonwood School EOC in coordination with SEMS.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 11: Suspicious Mail/Packages

All incoming mail and packages should be handled with caution.

Below are Indicators of suspicious mail and steps to take in the event that suspicious mail is received.

Mail that …
… is unexpected or from an unfamiliar source
… has excessive postage
… is addressed to someone who no longer works in The Cottonwood School
… is addressed to a current employee but with the wrong title
… contains several misspelled words on the envelope
… marked with restrictive endorsements such as “Personal” or “Confidential”
… has no return address or an address that cannot be verified
… mail that is from a foreign country
… shows a city or state in the postmark that doesn’t match the return address
… is lopsided, oddly shaped, or has an unusual weight, given its size
… has protruding wires, strange odors or stains
… has powdery substance on the outside
… has an unusual amount of tape on it
… is ticking or making unusual sounds

Not all mail comes perfectly packaged or with accurate information on it, so it is important that employees handling mail remain sensible in the screening of mail. However, prudent scrutiny conducted in a reasonable manner can greatly reduce the school’s chances of becoming the victim of attack by mail.

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Section 3: Disaster Procedures
Part 11: Suspicious Mail/Packages

What to do with suspicious mail (general response):

- Do not try to open the package or envelope.
- Do not sniff, taste or shake the package.
- Isolate the package.
- Evacuate the immediate area; close the door.
- Contact your supervisor and call **911**.

Response to mail suspected of delivering biological/chemical agents in powder form:

- Do not open an envelope or package with powder on the outside.
- If powder is spilled from an envelope or package, do not try to clean up the powder.
- Cover the spilled contents immediately with anything (clothing, paper, trash can).
- Do not remove this cover.
- Leave the room and close the door or otherwise prevent access to the room.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water.
- Ensure that everyone who had contact with the piece of mail washes his/her hands with soap and hot water.
- Notify your supervisor.
- Supervisor should immediately contact the local police (**911**) or the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (626-405-1200).
- Supervisor should notify The Cottonwood School s Office.
- Remove heavily contaminated clothing as soon as possible and place inside a plastic bag or some other container that can be sealed. This clothing should be given to the responding emergency response units.
- Shower with soap and water as soon as possible. Do not use bleach or other disinfectant on your skin.
- Make a list of all the people who were in the room or area, especially those who had contact with the envelope or package. Provide this list to the emergency response teams investigating the incident.
- Investigators will remove the envelope or package and conduct a thorough check of the area for contamination.
- If you are prescribed medicine as a result of this exposure, take it until instructed or until it runs out.

NOTE: Contacting the U.S. Postal Service is less likely to create a media event than the local police but their response may be slower.

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The Cottonwood School
Section D: Suspension/Expulsions Policies and Procedures - Ed Code 48915
Part 1: Definitions/Due Process/Rules and Procedures of School Discipline/Process and Procedures

The Cottonwood School
– Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Rules and Procedures of School Discipline

Note on Education Code: This requirement refers to EC 35291.5. This section reads:

35291.5. (a) On or before December 1, 1987, and at least every four years thereafter, each public school may, at its discretion, adopt rules and procedures on school discipline applicable to the school. For schools that choose to adopt rules pursuant to this article, the school discipline rules and procedures shall be consistent with any applicable policies adopted by the governing board and state statutes governing school discipline. In developing these rules and procedures, each school shall solicit the participation, views, and advice of one representative selected by each of the following groups: (1) Parents. (2) Teachers. (3) School administrators. (4) School security personnel, if any. (5) For junior high schools and high schools, pupils enrolled in the school... (b) The governing board of each school district may prescribe procedures to provide written notice to continuing pupils at the beginning of each school year and to transfer pupils at the time of their enrollment in the school and to their parents or guardians regarding the school discipline rules and procedures adopted pursuant to subdivision (a)…(d) The governing board may review, at an open meeting, the approved school discipline rules and procedures for consistency with governing board policy and state statutes.

The Cottonwood School includes rules and guidelines in the: Student/Parent Handbook. Given to all families upon enrollment.

Board Policy for Suspensions and Expulsions

Philosophy of Student Discipline

Our focus for all students is to be respectful and supportive of each other.

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Process and Procedures

Level I - Immediate Redirection and Verbal Reprimand

Minor issues that are resolved by the supervising adult; behavior is seen as a learning opportunity and is expected to be corrected with no additional interventions; office referral is only needed if the student fails to correct behavior (mostly classroom managed behavior)

Level II - Learning Opportunity~Office Referral, Parent contact, Counselor

Common misbehaviors needing redirection; again seen as a learning opportunity to be handled between the student and supervising adult; in some cases office referral and parent notification is required (mostly managed with teacher)

Level III – Immediate Administrative referral; Parent Contact/Written Documentation, suspensions, Law Enforcement

Severe misbehaviors with potentially strong consequences including school suspensions and legal involvement; supervising adult is not expected to engage in any learning, but rather immediately refer student to the office and insure the safety of staff and students (managed by director)

Administrative Referral

In some cases, student behaviors do not get corrected, or are so severe that they do not allow for a safe and purposeful learning environment. By referring a student to an administrator, the teacher is seeking additional resources to assist in the correction of the behavior. At this point, parents and school administration join the teacher in attempts to meet the behavioral needs of the student.

The following process will be used for all office referrals:

- Student is referred to Administration by supervising adult
- Student completes reflection questions related to incident
- Referral form is returned to the teacher for comments
- Parental contact is made by the student or staff member to explain incident and schedule detention
- Referral form is returned to the Senior Director or designee
- Student conference with the Senior Director is scheduled

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- Follow-up phone call from Administration is made when necessary
- Harassment Complaints- Students are occasionally the victim of bullying or harassing behaviors. While common in the school setting, such behaviors are not acceptable and will not be tolerated at any function of our school community.

The following process is designed to assist students who believe they are the victim of such behaviors:

- Student informs teacher or staff person of situation
- Student reports to the office to complete a confidential "Harassment Complaint Form"
- Administrator investigates allegations

Typical consequences for a bully/harasser are as follows:

Warning- conference with Senior Director or designee discussing allegations, perceived intentions and future consequences; student is informed that such behavior, as well as any retaliation, will not be tolerated.

Parental Conference- Sharing the dangers of bully/harassing behaviors for both parties.

Suspension- To insure the safety of staff and students, various forms of suspension may be used in efforts to correct student behavior.

Expulsion- If bullying/harassment continues or if any given incident is so severe that a safe learning environment cannot exist, the Senior Director will recommend the expulsion of the offending student.

– The Cottonwood School is committed to promoting learning and protecting the safety and well-being of all students at the Charter School. In creating this policy, the Charter School has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* which describes the non-charter schools' list of offenses and procedures to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions and expulsions. The language that follows closely mirrors the language of Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* The Charter School is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion.

The purpose of the – The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Suspension and Expulsion Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Responsibility of the Charter School
2. Identify the Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students
3. Identify Enumerated Offenses

4. Outline Suspension Procedures
5. Outline the Authority to Expel
6. Outline Expulsion Procedures
7. Outline Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses
8. Identify the Record of Hearing
9. Identify the Presentation of Evidence
10. Outline the Written Notice to Expel
11. Outline the Maintenance of Disciplinary Records
12. Identify a Student's Right to Appeal
13. Outline Expelled Students/Alternative Education
14. Outline Rehabilitation Plans
15. Outline the Readmission Process

1. **Responsibility of the Charter School:** When the policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from the Charter School. This policy shall serve as the Charter School's policy and procedures for student suspension and expulsion and it may be amended from time to time without the need to amend the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements. Charter School staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. This Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed as part of the Parent-Student Handbook and will clearly describe discipline expectations. Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the Policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff, or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

The Charter School administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline policies and procedures.

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

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A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom the Charter School has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEIA") or who is qualified for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to general education students except when federal and state law mandates additional or different procedures. The Charter School will follow all applicable federal and state laws including but not limited to the California Education Code, when imposing any form of discipline on a student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom the Charter School has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in according due process to such students. Additional detail follows below.

2. Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students: A student may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any time including but not limited to: a) while on school grounds; b) while going to or coming from school; c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

3. Enumerated Offenses:

- Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:
- Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
- Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

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- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.

- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.

- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.

- Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited, to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a student.

- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.

- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.

- Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.

- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

- Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.

- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.

- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.

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- Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

- Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, “hazing” means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause

serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

- Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars ($1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.

- Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

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- Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.

1. "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.

ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.

iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.

iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.

2. "Electronic Act" means the transmission by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

i. A message, text, sound, or image.

ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:

a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.

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b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.

c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.

iii.Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

· A student who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a student who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1).

· Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

- Non-Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

  - Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

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- Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students may be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

· Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.

· Willfully used force of violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.

- Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.

- Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.

- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.

- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.

- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.

- Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of his or her own prescription products by a student.

- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.

- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.

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- Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties.

- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

- Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.

- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4.

- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.

- Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.

- Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

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Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars ($1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family.

- Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Caused, attempted to cause, threaten to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading student rights by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.

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1. "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including acts one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

   i.Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.

   ii.Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.

iii.Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.

iv.Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.

2. "Electronic Act" means the transmission by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

i.A message, text, sound, or image.

ii.A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:

a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.

b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.

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c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.

iii. Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

· A student who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a student who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1).

· Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

- Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students must be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined pursuant to the procedures below that the student:

· Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the students had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Director or designee's concurrence.

If it is determined by the Board of Directors that a student has brought a fire arm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or dangerous device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

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The term "firearm" means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.

The term "destructive device" means (A) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including but not limited to: (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

4. Suspension Procedure: Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

· Conference: Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Director or the Director's designee with the student and his or her parent and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the student to the Director or designee.

The conference may be omitted if the Director or designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An "emergency situation" involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or Charter School personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present his or her version and evidence in his or her defense. This conference shall be held within two school days, unless the student waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a student for failure of the student's parent or guardian to attend a conference with Charter School officials. Reinstatement of the suspended student shall not be contingent upon attendance by the student's parent or guardian at the conference.

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Notice to Parents/Guardians: At the time of the suspension, an administrator or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If Charter School officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

· Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion: Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension. Upon a recommendation of Expulsion by the Director or Director's designee, the student and the student's guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the student should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. This determination will be made by the Director or designee upon either of the following: 1) the student's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the student poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the student's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

2. **Authority to Expel:** A student may be expelled either by the Charter School Board following a hearing before it or by the Charter School Board upon the recommendation of an Administrative Panel to be assigned by the Board as needed. The Administrative Panel should consist of at least three members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the student or a Board member of the Charter School's governing board. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense.

6. **Expulsion Procedures:** Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Director or designee determines that the Student has committed an expellable offense.

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In the event an Administrative Panel hears the case, it will make a recommendation to the Board for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session (complying with all student confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the Student makes a written request for a public hearing three (3) days prior to the hearing.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least ten (10) calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the student. The notice shall include:

1. The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
2. A statement of the specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
3. A copy of the Charter School's disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
4. Notification of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to provide information about the student's status at the Charter School to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
5. The opportunity for the student or the student's parent/guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel or a non-attorney advisor;
6. The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
7. The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
8. The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf including witnesses.

7. **Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses:** The Charter School may, upon a finding of good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations that shall be examined only by the Charter School or the hearing officer. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the student.

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The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of his/her right to (a) receive five days' notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of his/her choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.

· The Charter School must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.

· At the discretion of the entity conducting the expulsion hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.

· The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.

· The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.

· Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the person presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting

the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.

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If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, the Charter School must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to the Charter School. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising his or her discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.

· The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.

· Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in public at the request of the student being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have his/her testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by means of closed-circuit television.

· Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard absent a determination by the person conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstance can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an

opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

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8. **Record of Hearing:** A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

9. **Presentation of Evidence:** While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board or Administrative Panel determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

If, due to a written request by the expelled student, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have his or her testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board who will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the Board shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, the student shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

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10. **Written Notice to Expel:** The Director or designee, following a decision of the Board to expel, shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Board's adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following: (a) Notice of the specific offense committed by the student; and (b) Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the Charter School.

The Director or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the authorizer. This notice shall include the following: (a) The student's name; and (b) The specific expellable offense committed by the student.

11. **Disciplinary Records:** The Charter School shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at the Charter School. Such records shall be made available to the authorizer upon request.

12. **Right to Appeal:** Per AB 1360, a student being expelled or suspended will be provided "oral or written notice of the charges against the student," "an explanation of the evidence that supports the charges and an opportunity for the student to present his or her side of the story," and/or the opportunity for "a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within a reasonable number of days at which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate." Moreover, for any non-voluntary removal, the student's parent or guardian will be given written notice of intent to remove the student no less than 5 school days in advance, and the parent/guardian will be given the right to challenge the non-voluntary removal under the same procedures as an expulsion.

13. **Expelled Students/Alternative Education:** Students who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs including, but not limited to, programs within the County or their school district of residence. The Charter School shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during expulsion.

14. **Rehabilitation Plans:** Students who are expelled from the Charter School shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by the Board at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one year from the date of expulsion when the student may reapply to the Charter School for readmission.

15. **Readmission:** The decision to readmit a student or to admit a previously expelled student from another school district or charter school shall be in the sole discretion of the Board following a meeting with the Director or designee and the student and guardian or representative to determine whether the student has successfully completed the rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the student poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Director or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board following the meeting regarding his or her determination. The student's readmission is also contingent upon the Charter School's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section E: Procedures to Notify Teachers of Dangerous Pupils - Ed Code 49079
Part 1: Notifying Teachers of Dangerous Pupils

When the Senior Director at The Cottonwood School is aware that a student has caused or tried to cause another person serious bodily injury, or any injury that requires professional medical treatment, a separate and confidential file is created for that child. Information based upon written District records or records received from a law enforcement agency are contained in the file.

When such a student is assigned to a teacher, the Senior Director shall provide the teacher with written notification. The teacher is asked to review the student's separate and confidential file in the office. Teachers are informed that such information is to be kept in strictest confidence and is to disseminate no further.

Excerpts from the California Education Code and the California Penal Code are presented below.

From California Education Code Section 49079

(a) A school district shall inform the teacher of every student who has caused or who has attempted to cause serious bodily injury to another person, as defined in paragraphs (5) and (6) of subdivision (e) of Section 243 of the Penal Code, to another person. The Cottonwood School shall provide the information to the teacher based on any written records that The Cottonwood School maintains or receives from a law enforcement agency regarding a student described in this section.

(b) No school district shall be liable for failure to comply with this section if, in a particular instance, it is demonstrated that The Cottonwood School has made a good faith effort to notify the teacher.

(c) The information provided shall be from the previous three (3) school years.

(d) Any information received by a teacher pursuant to this section shall be received in confidence for the limited purpose for which it was provided and shall not be further disseminated by the teacher.

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The Cottonwood School
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Part 1: Notifying Teachers of Dangerous Pupils

From California Penal Code Section 243(e) – Paragraphs 5 and 6

(5) … "Injury" means any physical injury which requires professional medical treatment.

(6) …"Custodial Officer" means any person who has the responsibilities and duties and who is employed by a law enforcement agency of the city or county or who performs those duties as a volunteer.

The Cottonwood School – Employee Security

Notice Regarding Student Crimes and Offenses

The Senior Director or designee shall inform the teacher of every student who has engages in, or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in, any act during the previous three years which could constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion, with the exception of the possession or use of tobacco products. This information shall be based upon written district records or records received from a law enforcement agency. (California Education Code 49079).

When informed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 828.1 that a student has committed crimes unrelated to school attendance which do not therefore constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion, the Senior Director or designee may so inform any teacher, counselor or administrator whom he/she believes needs this information in order to work with the student appropriately, avoid being needlessly vulnerable, or protect others from needless vulnerability. The Senior Director or designee shall consult with the Senior Director of the school which the student attends in order to identify staff that should be so informed. (California Welfare and Institutions Code 828.1).

Teachers shall receive the above information in confidence and disseminate it no further.
(California Education Code 49079, California Welfare and Institutions Code 828.1).

The Senior Director or designee shall maintain the above information in a separate confidential file for each student. When such a student is assigned to a class/program, the Senior Director or designee shall notify the teacher in writing and ask the teacher to initial this notice, return it to the Senior Director or designee, and review the student's file in the school office. This notification shall not name or otherwise identify the student.

The Senior Director or designee shall notify all certificated personnel who are likely to come into contact with the student, including the student's teachers, special education teachers, coaches and counselors.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section E: Procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils - Ed Code 49079
Part 1: Notifying Teachers of Dangerous Pupils

From The Cottonwood School Employee Security (Continued)

The teacher shall initial the student's file when reviewing it in the school office. Once The Cottonwood School has made a good faith effort to comply with the notification requirement of Education Code 49079, a teacher's failure to review the file may be construed as a waiver of The Cottonwood School's liability.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School

Section F: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy

Part 1: General Information

The administration, teachers and staff at The Cottonwood School actively strive to eliminate acts of discrimination and sexual harassment at the school. All personnel are aware of the mandates from the State of California, the California Department of Education, and the Board of Education of the The Cottonwood School and support them fully. All personnel have received instruction regarding the recognition, prevention, and reporting of acts of discrimination and sexual harassment. It is important that parents understand the provisions regarding sexual harassment and, in particular, student-to-student harassment.

The Cottonwood School is committed to ensuring a professional work and learning environment without discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of race, religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (including language use restrictions), immigration status, citizenship status, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, military and veteran status, or association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned characteristics or any other legally protected category.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section F: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy
Part 2: Sexual Harassment – All Personnel

The Cottonwood School
– Sexual Harassment

The Governing Board prohibits sexual harassment in the working environment of district employees or applicants by any person in any form.

Employees who permit or engage in such harassment may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Any employee or applicant for employment who feels that he/she or another individual at The Cottonwood School is being sexually harassed should immediately contact his/her supervisor, Senior Director, other district administrator, or the Senior Director or designee in order to obtain procedures for reporting a complaint.

Any supervisor who receives a harassment complaint shall notify the Senior Director or designee, who shall ensure that the complaint is appropriately investigated.

The district prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process. Each complaint of sexual harassment shall be promptly investigated in a way that respects the privacy of all parties concerned.

The Cottonwood School - 4119.11, 4219.11, 4319.11 – Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment based on sex, including sexual harassment, gender harassment and harassment based on pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. It generally involves unwanted sexual advances, or visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This definition includes many forms of offensive behavior and includes gender–based harassment of a person of the same sex as the harasser. The following is a partial list of violations:

- Unwanted sexual advances
- Offering educational benefits in exchange for sexual favors
- Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances
- Visual conduct: Leering, making sexual gestures, displaying of suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons or posters
- Verbal conduct: Making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs and jokes
- Verbal sexual advances or propositions
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations

- Physical conduct: Touching, assault, impeding or blocking movements

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the work or educational setting when:

1. Submission to the conduct is made either expressly or by implication in terms or condition of any individual's employment.

2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the individual.

3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment, or of adversely affecting the student or employee's performance, evaluation, advancement, assigned duties, or any other condition of education, employment or career development.

4. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

Other examples of sexual harassment, whether committed by a supervisor or any other employee, are:

1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations or propositions.

2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions.

3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body, or overly personal conversation.

4. Sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures, or gestures.

5. Spreading sexual rumors.

6. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way.

7. Cornering or blocking of normal movements.

8. Displaying sexually suggestive objects in the educational or work environment.

9. Any act of retaliation against an individual who reports a violation of The Cottonwood School's sexual harassment policy or who participates in the investigation of a sexual harassment.

Each Senior Director and supervisor has the responsibility of maintaining an educational and work environment free of sexual harassment. This responsibility includes and/or discussing The Cottonwood School's sexual harassment policy with his/her students and/or employees and assuring them that they are not

required to endure sexually insulting, degrading, or exploitive treatment or any other form of sexual harassment.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section F: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy
Part 2: Sexual Harassment – All Personnel

Notifications

A copy of The Cottonwood School's policy on Harassment in Employment shall:

1. Be available, accessible, and displayed in a prominent location in the School's digital manual.
2. Be provided to all staff members at the beginning of the first semester of the school year, or whenever a new employee is hired.
3. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct.

All employees shall receive either a copy of information sheets prepared by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing or a copy of district information sheets that contain, at a minimum, components on:

1. The illegality of sexual harassment.
2. The definition of sexual harassment under applicable state and federal law.
3. A description of sexual harassment with examples.
4. The district's complaint process available to the employee.
5. The legal remedies and complaint process available through the Fair Employment and Housing Department and Commission.
6. Direction on how to contact the Fair Employment and Housing Department and Commission.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section F: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy
Part 3: Sexual Harassment – Students

The Cottonwood School
– Sexual Harassment:

The Governing Board prohibits unlawful sexual harassment of or by any student by anyone in or from The Cottonwood School.

Teachers shall discuss this policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of sexual harassment.

Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in or from The Cottonwood School may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any employee who permits or engages in sexual harassment may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The Board expects students or staff to immediately report incidents of sexual harassment to the Senior Director or designee or to another district administrator.

Any student who feels that he/she is being harassed should immediately contact the Senior Director or designee or another district administrator in order to obtain a copy of AR 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures. Complaints of harassment can be filed in accordance with these procedures.

The district prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint process. Each complaint of sexual harassment shall be promptly investigated in a way that respects the privacy of all parties concerned.

The Cottonwood School
Sexual Harassment (5145.7)

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct or a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic status or progress.

2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting the individual.

3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the individual's academic or work performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment.

4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the school.

Other types of conduct which are prohibited in The Cottonwood School and which may constitute sexual harassment include:

1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations or propositions.

2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions.

3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body, or overly personal conversation.

4. Sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures, or gestures.

5. Spreading sexual rumors.

6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class.

7. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way.

8. Purposefully limiting a student's access to educational tools.

9. Cornering or blocking of normal movements.

10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects in the educational environment.

11. Any act of retaliation against an individual who reports a violation of the district's sexual harassment policy or who participates in the investigation of a sexual harassment complaint.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section F: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy
Part 3: Sexual Harassment – Students

Notifications

A copy of The Cottonwood School's sexual harassment policy shall:

1. Be included in the notifications that are sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year.
2. Be available, accessible, and displayed in a prominent location in the School's digital manual.
3. Be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new students at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session.
4. Appear in any school or district publication that sets forth the school or district's comprehensive rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct.

Enforcement

The Senior Director or designee shall take appropriate actions to reinforce The Cottonwood School's sexual harassment policy. These actions may include:

1. Removing vulgar or offending graffiti.
2. Providing staff in service and student instruction or counseling.
3. Taking appropriate disciplinary action as needed.

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Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section G: School Dress Code, if it exists. CA Ed Code: Sections 32280-32289
Part 1: Non-classroom based program does not have a dress code.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section H: Safe Ingress and Egress
Part 1: General Information

The Cottonwood School – Safe Ingress and Egress

The Cottonwood School takes pride in providing a safe environment for all students, parents, and school employees. Our School will take measures to ensure safe ingress and egress to and from school activities and functions for pupils, parents, and school employees. Safe ingress and egress will be maintained by periodic reviews of the procedures for ingress and egress. The school will ensure that all passageways to and from our buildings, corridors within buildings and emergency exits remain clear of all obstruction to allow flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The school will also ensure that potential obstructions and hazards are removed from such areas. To achieve this goal, the school works closely with local law enforcement agencies and the local city government to ensure that the school's immediate community is safe.

Through the joint efforts of The Cottonwood School office, site administrators, faculty, Safety Committee, PTSA, and other organizations, including consultants, The Cottonwood School has developed a plan to ensure the safe arrival and departure of students, staff, and visitors. The Cottonwood School encourages input from our community and reviews this plan on an annual basis.

Any problems associated with safe ingress and egress will be addressed immediately.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section H: Safe Ingress and Egress
Part 2: Safe Ingress and Egress

The Cottonwood School – Safe Ingress and Egress

The following is a template to be completed by each local location.

There are X entrances and X exits at [Enter Information].

	Open	Close	Open	Close
Front of Location	6:30 am			6:00 pm

All adults are to enter from the front of the location. All visitors to the location must wear a badge to identify themselves as visitors.

Whenever a safety issue is pending, all doors are locked immediately. For emergency situations, staff have door keys to lock or unlock doors closest to them.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section I: Bullying and Intimidation
Part 1: Anti-Intimidation Policy

The Cottonwood School – Bullying and Intimidation

The The Cottonwood School's Board believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. To that end, The Cottonwood School, schools and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance. The Cottonwood School will not tolerate any act of intimidation including direct physical contact, gestures, comments, threats or actions, either written, verbal or physical, which cause, threaten to cause or are likely to cause bodily harm, social isolation, manipulation, or personal degradation on any District campus, at any school activity whether on or off campus, while traveling to and from school or a school sponsored activity, or during the lunch period, whether on or off campus.

The consequences of these actions may include a broad range of disciplinary measures as appropriate; however, every effort will also be taken to provide or locate appropriate assistance for both the victim and the offender.

From The Cottonwood School Administrative Regulation 5131 - Conduct

Bullying occurs when one or more students threaten, harass, or intimidate another student through words, or actions including continual direct physical contact such as hitting or shoving intentionally.

These incidents will be acted upon when they occur on the school grounds at any time, en route to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period whether on or off campus.

A "school-related" or "school-sponsored" activity is an activity that is approved by the Senior Director or his/her designee and supervised by assigned school personnel.

For the purpose of this administrative regulation, bullying is, but is not limited to, making unsolicited and unwelcome written, verbal, physical and/or threatening visual gestures or contact.

Written – intimidating/threatening letters, notes, or messages
Verbal – intimidating/threatening comments, slurs, innuendos, teasing, jokes, or epithets
Visual – threatening gestures
Physical – hitting, slapping and/or pinching

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section I: Bullying and Intimidation
Part 1: Anti-Intimidation Policy

The Cottonwood School – Bullying and Intimidation

From The Cottonwood School - Conduct

Making reprisals, threats or reprisal, engaging in coercive behavior to negatively control, influence or affect the health and well-being of a student.

Initial Response and Reporting Expectations
The District expects all employees, if they observe or become aware of an act of intimidation, to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene.

If, in the opinion of the employee, the matter has not been resolved, then the situation shall be reported to an administrator for further investigation.

The Cottonwood School encourages students, parents and other community members who observe or become aware of a serious act of intimidation to report this act to a school administrator for further investigation.

Investigation and Response
Any incident, which may constitute an act of intimidation and is reported to the Senior Director, shall be thoroughly investigated by the site administrator or designee. Consequences shall be commensurate with the results of the investigation. This may include, but is not limited to, counseling, parent conference, detention, involuntary transfer, a formal suspension and/or expulsion of the offender. The parent or guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to attend a conference with school officials.

If the parent or guardian does not attend the conference, the site administrator shall send a letter informing the parent of the actions under consideration and notifying parent of all data pertinent to the action.

Depending on the severity of the incident, the administrator shall take appropriate steps to insure campus safety. This may include any or all of the following: Implement an immediate safety plan; isolate and supervise involved students; provide staff support for involved students as necessary; report incident to law enforcement if appropriate; notify the parents/guardians of both the offender and the victim and develop supervision plan with parents.

If the act of intimidation is deemed to warrant a suspension, expulsion, or involuntary transfer to another school, then the matter will be processed in accordance with the board policies and [Enter Applicable Administrative Regulation] pertaining to the suspension/expulsion due process.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section I: Bullying and Intimidation
Part 1: Anti-Intimidation Policy

The Cottonwood School – Bullying and Intimidation

Assessment and Intervention
An administrative contact will be made with the victim and offender prior to resuming regular schedule of classes. If deemed necessary, the administrator or designee may convene a multidisciplinary team to further assess and determine the need for ongoing support for the victim of the offender.

Depending upon the severity of the intimidation, an investigation may include a review of school records, identification of parent/family issues, and interview with students, parents, and school staff. A multi-disciplinary team consisting of school staff, counselor/psychologist, parent, student, and other agency personnel as appropriate, shall develop a behavior support plan.

The support plan may include any or all of the following: a case manager (special education staff), counseling services (site, and/or community resources), parenting skills classes, and other additional support services as deemed appropriate. The case manager will maintain a record of the services provided.

Each site will identify community resources to be used before, during and after incidents of intimidation.

School Follow-up
The case manager has a responsibility to follow up and evaluate the behavior support plan. The case manager will compile a report to the site administrator on the process, resources used, and the follow up procedure involving the victim and the offender.

A copy of the behavior plan and follow-up report will then be forwarded to the Coordinator of Pupil Services.

Retaliation Prohibited
Retaliation against a student who reports or witnesses bullying is strictly prohibited and is ground for discipline.

Mandated Notification
At the beginning of the school year, each student shall receive an age-appropriate summary of the board policy prohibiting intimidation.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section I: Bullying and Intimidation
Part 1: Anti-Intimidation Policy

The Cottonwood School The Cottonwood School – Bullying and Intimidation

An age-appropriate summary of the anti-intimidation board policy shall be part of new student orientation programs and included in student handbooks or informational packets.

A summary of the anti-intimidation board policy shall be included as part of The Cottonwood School's annual notification of parents.

Each staff member shall be notified of The Cottonwood School's anti-intimidation board policy .

The District's anti-intimidation board policy shall be included in each school's comprehensive school safety plan.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 1: Mental Health Guidelines

Mental Health Guidelines

The Governing Board of recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth and that an even greater amount of youth consider (17 percent of high school students) and attempt suicide (over 8 percent of high school students) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015).

The possibility of suicide and suicidal ideation requires vigilant attention from our school staff. As a result, we are ethically and legally responsible for providing an appropriate and timely response in preventing suicidal ideation, attempts, and deaths. acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which works to create a safe and nurturing culture that minimizes suicidal ideation in students.

Recognizing that it is the duty of to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its students, this policy aims to safeguard students and staff against suicide attempts, deaths and other trauma associated with suicide, including ensuring adequate supports for students, staff, and families affected by suicide attempts and loss. As it is known that the physical, behavioral and emotional health of students greatly impacts school attendance and educational success, this policy shall be paired with other practices that support the emotional and behavioral wellness of students.

In an attempt to reduce suicidal behavior and its impact on students and families, the Senior Director or designee shall develop strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and post-intervention, and the identification of the mental health challenges frequently associated with suicidal thinking and behavior. These strategies shall include professional development for all school personnel in all job categories who regularly interact with students or are in a position to recognize the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, including substitute teachers, volunteers, expanded learning staff and any other individuals in regular contact with students.

The Senior or designee shall develop and implement preventive strategies and intervention procedures that include prevention, staff development, developmentally - appropriate programs, intervention, assessment and referral, and parent/ student notification.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

- **Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol**

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The Senior or designee shall develop and implement preventive strategies and intervention procedures that include the following:

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

- Policy Implementation

A district level suicide prevention coordinator shall be designated by the Executive. This may be an existing staff person. The district suicide prevention coordinator will be responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of these regulations for .

The district suicide prevention coordinator shall designate a school program suicide prevention coordinator to act as a point of contact in each school/program for issues relating to suicide prevention and policy implementation. This may be an existing staff person. All staff members shall report students they believe to be at elevated risk for suicide to the school suicide prevention coordinator.

Staff Professional Development:

All staff will receive annual professional development to include, but not limited to: risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention, and resources regarding youth suicide prevention.

The professional development will include additional information regarding groups of students at elevated risk for suicide. These groups include, but are not limited to the following: those living with mental and/ or substance use disorders, those who have suffered traumatic experiences, those who engage in self harm or have attempted suicide, those in out-of-home settings, those experiencing homelessness, American Indian/Alaska Native students, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) students, students bereaved by suicide, and those with medical conditions or certain types of disabilities. Additional professional development in risk assessment and crisis intervention will be provided to school employed mental health professionals and school nurses.

Youth Suicide Prevention Programming:

Developmentally-appropriate, student-centered suicide prevention education may be incorporated into classroom curricula. The content of these age-appropriate materials may include, but is not limited to: the district's suicide prevention, intervention, and referral procedures, the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others, help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help. In addition, schools may provide supplemental small group suicide prevention programming for students.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

Publication and Distribution:

The administrative regulations will be distributed annually and included in all student and teacher handbooks and on the school website.

Employee Qualifications and Scope of Services

Employees of must act only within the authorization and scope of their credential or license. While it is expected that school professionals are able to identify suicide risk factors and warning signs, and to prevent the immediate risk of a suicidal behavior, treatment of suicidal ideation is typically beyond the scope of services offered in the school setting. In addition, treatment of the mental health challenges often associated with suicidal thinking typically requires mental health resources beyond what schools are able to provide.

Specialized Staff Training (Assessment)

Additional professional development in suicide risk assessment and crisis intervention shall be provided to mental health professionals including, but not limited to the following: school counselors, school psychologists, social workers and nurses employed by .

Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers Participation and Education

To the extent possible, parents/guardians/caregivers should be included in all suicide prevention efforts. At a minimum, the suicide prevention policy shall be prominently displayed in the parent handbook.

All parents/guardians/caregivers should have access to suicide prevention training that includes, but is not limited to the following: suicide risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors, How to talk with a student about thoughts of suicide, how to respond appropriately to the student who has suicidal thoughts.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

Intervention, Assessment, Referral

Staff

When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal, i.e., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factors such as agitation or intoxication, the act of self-harm occurs, or a student self-refers, the school suicide prevention coordinator will be notified immediately. The student will be seen by the school suicide prevention coordinator as soon as possible. If the school suicide prevention coordinator is not available, the district suicide prevention coordinator will be contacted. If there is no mental health professional available, a school administrator will fill this role until a mental health professional can be brought in. The student will be seen by a school employed mental health professional (school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or nurses) within the same school day to assess risk levels and facilitate referral if needed.

Risk Level I (Low):
Definition: Does not pose imminent danger to self; insufficient evidence for suicide potential.
Indicators: Passing thoughts of suicide; no plan;no previous attempts;no access to weapons or means;no recent losses;support system is in place;no alcohol/substance abuse;some depressed mood/affect;evidence of thoughts found in notebook,internet postings,drawings;sudden changes in personality/behavior (e.g., distracted, hopeless,academically disengaged)

Risk Level II (Moderate)
Definition: May pose imminent danger to self, but there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate a viable plan of action to do harm.
Indicators: Thoughts of suicide; plan with some specifics; unsure of intent; previous attempts and/or hospitalization; difficulty naming future plans; past history of substance use, with possible current intoxication; self injurious behavior; recent trauma (e.g., loss, victimization)

Risk Level III (High):
Definition: Poses imminent danger to self with a viable plan to do harm; exhibits extreme and/or persistent inappropriate behaviors; sufficient evidence for violence potential; qualifies for immediate arrest or hospitalization.
Indicators: Current thoughts of suicide; plan with specifics, indicating when, where and how; access to weapons or means in hand; finalizing arrangements (e.g., giving away prized possessions, good bye messages in writing, text, on social networking sites); isolated and withdrawn; current sense of hopelessness; previous attempts; no support system; currently abusing alcohol/substances; mental health history; precipitating events, such as loss of loved one, traumatic event or bullying.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Risk Level Interventions and Follow-Up

DO NOT LEAVE THE STUDENT UNSUPERVISED

RL I Action (Low):
1. CONSULT WITH A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.
2. Contact parent/guardian/caregiver and give resources when appropriate.
3. Implement Interventions I.E., Student no harm promise and Plan, identify support systems on and off campus.
4. Document student and parent contact and place in confidential file.
5. Contact CPS if suspected abuse.
6. Complete confidential Suicide assessment risk form.
7. Consider whether student may have a disability and/or may need referral for additional services.

RL II Action (Moderate):
1. CONSULT WITH A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.
2. Notify and/or hand off student ONLY to parent/guardian/caregiver who commits to seek an immediate mental health assessment or to law enforcement if parent is unavailable or uncooperative. Consider any suspected child abuse or neglect prior to contacting parent/guardian.
3. If parent transports students to mental health facility have parent sign Parent Notification Form.
4. Document student and parent contact and place in confidential file.
5. Complete follow-up with student and parent when student returns.
6. Contact CPS if suspected abuse.
7. Complete confidential Suicide assessment risk form.
8. Consider whether student may have a disability and/or may need referral for additional services.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

RL III Action (High):
1. CONSULT WITH A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.
2. Notify and/or hand off student ONLY to parent/guardian/caregiver who commits to seek an immediate mental health assessment or to law enforcement if parent is unavailable or uncooperative. Consider any suspected child abuse or neglect prior to contacting parent/guardian.
3. Contact law enforcement. Law enforcement will determine if the parent will transport student to mental health evaluation center or police may arrange for transportation to the mental health evaluation center.
3. Complete mental health evaluator form.
4. If parent transports students to mental health facility have parent sign Parent Notification Form.
5. Complete confidential Suicide assessment risk form.
6. If police arranges for transport, notify site administrator.
7. Document student and parent contact.
8. Consider whether student may have a disability and/or may need referral for additional services.
9. Contact CPS if suspect abuse.
10. Follow procedures for re-entry to School After a Suicide Attempt.

As appropriate, consider an assessment for special education or a 504 Accommodation plan for a student whose behavioral and emotional needs affect their ability to benefit from their educational program.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Document all actions

The suicide prevention coordinator shall maintain records and documentation of actions taken at the school for each case.

Notes, documents and records related to the incident are considered confidential information and remain privileged to authorized personnel. These documents should be kept in a confidential file separate and apart from the students cumulative records.

If the student transfers to a school within or outside the sending school may contact the receiving school to share information and concerns, as appropriate, to facilitate a successful supportive transition.

Supporting Students after a Mental Health Crisis

It is crucial that careful steps are taken to help provide the mental health support for the student and to monitor their actions for any signs of suicide. The following steps should be implemented after the crisis:

Treat every threat with seriousness and approach with a calm manner; make the student a priority.

Listen actively and non-judgmental to the student. Let the student express his or her feelings.

Acknowledge the feelings and do not argue with the student.

Offer hope and let the student know they are safe and that help is provided. Do not promise confidentiality or cause stress.

Explain calmly and get the student to a trained professional, school psychologist, school counselor, or designated staff to further support the student.

Keep close contact with the parents/guardians/caregivers and mental health professionals working with the student.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Students

Each school site and program within shall identify, disseminate and prominently display a process for students to safely notify a staff member when they are experiencing emotional distress or suicidal ideation, or when they suspect or have knowledge of another student's emotional distress, suicidal ideation, or attempt.

Parental Notification and Involvement

Each school within shall identify a process to ensure continuing care for the student identified to be at risk of suicide. The following steps should be followed to ensure continuity of care:

After a referral is made for a student, school staff shall verify with the Parent/guardian/caregiver that follow-up treatment has been accessed. Parents/guardians/caregivers will be required to provide documentation of care for the student prior to returning to school.

If parents/guardians/caregivers refuse or neglect to access treatment for a student who has been identified to be at-risk for suicide or in emotional distress, the suicide prevention coordinator, administrator or other mental health professional will meet with the parents/guardians/caregivers to identify barriers to treatment (e.g., cultural stigma, financial issues) and work to rectify the situation and build understanding of the importance of care. If follow-up care for the student is still not provided, school staff should consider contacting Child Protective Services (CPS) to report neglect of the youth.

A written authorization to exchange/release information should be completed by the parents/guardians/caregivers and appropriate school staff (e.g., school psychologist, school counselor and/or nurse) should consult with outside mental health or medical treatment team.

Action Plan for In-School Suicide Attempts

Each school site and program within shall follow the following action plan to immediately address in school suicide attempts. If a suicide attempt is made during the school day on campus, it is important to remember that the health and safety of the student and those around him/her is critical. The urgency of the situation will dictate the order and applicability in which the subsequent steps are followed:

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Remain calm, remember the student is overwhelmed, confused, and emotionally distressed.

Move all other students out of the immediate area.

Immediately contact the administrator and suicide prevention coordinator.

Call 911 and give them as much information about the situation as possible.

If needed, provide medical first aid until a medical professional is available.

Parents/guardians/caregivers should be contacted as soon as possible.

Do not send the student away or leave them alone, even if they need to go to the restroom.

Listen and prompt the student to talk.

Review options and resources of people who can help.

Be comfortable with moments of silence as you and the student will need time to process the situation.

Provide comfort to the student.

Promise privacy and help, and be respectful, but do not promise confidentiality.

Student should only be released to parents/guardians/caregivers or to a person who is qualified and trained to provide help.

Follow procedures for re-entry to School After a Suicide Attempt.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Action Plan for Out-of-School Suicide Attempts

If a suicide attempt by a student is outside of property, it is crucial to protect the privacy of the student and maintain a confidential record of the actions taken to intervene, support, and protect the student. The following steps should be implemented:

Contact the parents/guardians/caregivers and offer support to the family.

Discuss with the family how they would like the school to respond to the attempt while minimizing widespread rumors among teachers, staff, and students.

Obtain permission from the parents/guardians/caregivers to share information to ensure the facts regarding the crisis is correct.

Designate a staff member to handle media requests.

Provide care and determine appropriate support to affected students.

Follow procedures for re-entry to School After a Suicide Attempt.

Re-Entry to School After a Suicide Attempt

A student who threatened or attempted suicide is at a higher risk for suicide in the months following the crisis. Having a streamlined and well planned re-entry process ensures the safety and wellbeing of students who have previously attempted suicide and reduces the risk of another attempt. An appropriate re-entry process is an important component of suicide prevention. Involving students in planning for their return to school provides them with a sense of control, personal responsibility, and empowerment.

A student returning to school following hospitalization, including psychiatric and drug or alcohol inpatient treatment, must have written permission by the health care provider in order to attend school.

A written authorization to exchange/release information should be completed by the parents/guardians/caregivers and appropriate school staff (e.g., school psychologist, school counselor and/or nurse) should consult with the outside mental health or medical treatment team.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

If the student has been out of school for any length of time, including mental health hospitalization, the school site administrator or designee should hold a re-entry meeting with key support staff, parent/guardian/caregiver and student to facilitate a successful transition back into school.

The re-entry meeting should include a review of the authorization for return and documentation provided by the outside mental health or medical treatment team.

The documentation provided should be considered in the development of a student safety plan for re-entry.

The school team should confer with student and parents/guardians/caregivers about any specific requests on how to handle the re-entry.

Inform the student's teachers about possible days of absences.

Allow accommodations for student to make up work (be understanding that missed assignments may add stress to student).

Mental health professionals or trusted staff members should maintain ongoing contact to monitor student's actions and mood as part of the student safety plan.

Work with parents/guardians/caregivers to involve the student in an aftercare plan.

POSTVENTION

A death by suicide in the school community (whether by a student or staff member) can have devastating consequences on students and staff. Therefore, it is vital to be prepared ahead of time in the event of such a tragedy. The following are general procedures for the school administrator/director in the event of a completed suicide:

Gather pertinent information

Confirm cause of death is the result of suicide, if this information is available.

Identify staff member to be the point of contact with the family of the deceased.
Information about the cause of death should not be disclosed to the school community until the family has been consulted and has consented to disclosure.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Assemble district crisis response team

District crisis response team to determine initial response procedures and obtain consultation regarding number of personnel needed for initial response. It is helpful to have the following information available for consultation:

-Demographic information
-Siblings (If any within)
-School Profile
-Known friends/groups
-Identification of additional high risk students

Staff notification

Concerns and wishes of family members regarding disclosure of the death and cause of death should always be taken into consideration when providing facts to students, staff and parents. Some actions to consider:

Assess the extent and degree of psychological trauma and impact to the school community

Establish a plan to notify staff of death, once consent is obtained by the family of the deceased.

Notification of staff is recommended as soon as possible (In person if possible).

To dispel rumors, share accurate information and all known facts about the death.

Emphasize that no one event is to blame for suicide. Suicide is complex and cannot be simplified by blaming individuals, drugs, music and/or school.

Allow staff to express their own reactions and grief; identify anyone who may need additional support and provide resources.

Student notification and support
Concerns and wishes of family members regarding disclosure of the death and cause of death should always be taken into consideration when providing facts to students, staff and parents. Some actions to consider:

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Notification of students should be done in small group settings, such as in the classroom. Do not notify students using a public announcement system.

To the extent possible, students should be notified in the same time period to minimize rumors.

When possible, the news should be delivered by staff with whom the students are most familiar and comfortable.

Provide staff with a scripted notification of death for students and

Prepare staff for potential reactions and questions. Review student support plan making sure to clarify procedures and locations for crisis counseling.

Define triage procedures for students and staff who may need additional support in coping with the death.

Identify a lead crisis response staff member to assist with coordination of crisis counseling and support services.

Identify locations on campus to provide crisis counseling to students, staff and parents, as needed.

Identify a mental health professional (School psychologist or school counselor) to check in with students previously identified to be at risk for suicide.

Request substitute teachers, as needed.

Maintain sign-in sheets and documentation on individuals services for follow up, as needed.

Provide students, staff or parents/guardians/caretakers with after hours resource numbers such as the 24/7 Suicide Prevention Crisis Line.

Refer students or staff who require a higher level of care for additional services such as a community mental health provider, or their health care provider. Indicators of students and staff in need of additional support and/or referral may include the following:

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section J: Mental Health Guidelines
Part 2: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocol

Persons with close connections to the deceased.

Persons who have experienced a loss over the past six months to a year, a traumatic event, have witnessed acts of violence, or have a history of suicide (Self or family member).

Persons who appear emotionally over-controlled (e.g., a student who was very close to the deceased but who is exhibiting no emotional reaction to the loss) or those who are angry when majority are expressing sadness.

Persons unable to control crying

Persons with multiple traumatic experiences may have strong reactions that require additional assistance.

Document

School administration shall maintain records and documentation of actions taken at the school site.

Monitor and manage

School administration with support from the district crisis team should monitor and manage the situation as it develops to determine follow up actions and continued support plans.

Communicate with the larger school community about the suicide death;

Consider funeral arrangements for family and school community;

Respond to memorial requests in respectful and non-harmful manner; responses should be handed in a thoughtful way and their impact on other students should be considered. Memorials or dedications to a student who has died by suicide should not glamorize or romanticize either the student or the death.

Identify and monitor social media platforms students are using to respond to the suicide. Encourage parents to monitor internet postings regarding the death, including the deceased personal profile pages.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan

The Cottonwood School
Section K: Crime Assessment
Part 1: Crime Assessment

In compliance with SB 187 and SB 334, will compile statistics pertaining to school crime committed at our locations and at school-related functions. The school will complete a *California Safe Schools Assessment – School Crime Reporting Form* for each incident that occurs. Copies of these forms shall be inserted in the Appendix this plan. The school will also insert an annual breakdown of incidents, by month. Information obtained will assist the school and in developing programs to reduce the incidence of crime on campus.

Conflict of Interest Code

The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has adopted a regulation (2 California Code of Regulations §18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act.

Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendices, designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict of interest code for The Cottonwood School. This code shall take effect when approved by the FPPC, and shall thereupon supersede any and all prior such codes adopted by The Cottonwood School, but shall supplement any conflict of interest policies adopted in compliance with the laws governing nonprofit corporations.

Individuals holding designated positions shall file statements of economic interests with The Cottonwood School, which will make the statements available for public inspection and reproduction (Government Code § 81008). All statements will be retained by The Cottonwood School.

APPENDIX A

Designated Positions	Disclosure Category
Members of the Governing Board	1, 2
Senior Director	1, 2
Assistant Director(s)	3

The Senior Director or designee may determine in writing that a particular consultant or newly created position as set forth in 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18219, that makes or participates in the making of decisions that may foreseeably have a material effect on any financial interest is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus the broadest disclosure is not necessary. Such written determination shall include a description of the consultant's or new position's duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Senior Director or designee's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code (Government Code § 81008).

APPENDIX B

Disclosure Categories

Category 1 Reporting:

Designated positions assigned to this category must report:

Interests in real property located in whole or in part within two (2) miles of any facility owned or leased by The Cottonwood School.

Category 2 Reporting:

Designated positions assigned to this category must report:

Investments and business positions in business entities or sources of income (including receipt of gifts, loans, and travel payments) from sources that are contractors engaged in the performance of work or services, or sources that manufacture, sell, repair, rent, or distribute school supplies, books, materials, school furnishings, or equipment of the type to be utilized by The Cottonwood School.

Category 3 Reporting:

Designated positions assigned to this category must report:

Investments and business positions in business entities or sources of income (including receipt of gifts, loans, and travel payments) from sources that are engaged in the performance of work or services, or sources that manufacture, sell, repair, rent, or distribute school supplies, books, materials, school furnishings, or equipment of the type to be utilized by the designated person's department.

Budget and Projected Fund Balance - 2019-20 - The Cottonwood School

Projected ADA of 2064.35	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	TOTAL
State Aid - Revenue Limit	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	1,758,335	21,100,023
Federal Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other State Revenue	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	124,162	1,489,945
Other Local Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue:	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**1,882,497**	**22,589,968**
	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	Expected	
Certificated Salaries	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	7,442,000
Classified Salaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits	167,565	167,565	167,565	167,565	167,565	167,565	177,855	175,283	170,138	167,565	167,565	167,565	2,031,361
Books and Supplies	295,851	373,264	373,264	373,264	373,264	192,634	316,423	316,423	316,423	316,423	316,423	564,002	4,127,659
Subagreement Services	125,474	125,474	315,711	849,341	180,356	192,226	579,674	288,500	425,247	413,377	413,377	785,703	4,694,461
Professional/Consulting Services	32,264	32,264	131,453	443,841	65,719	72,429	263,137	98,432	175,724	169,015	169,015	320,258	1,973,551
Facilities, Repairs and Other Leases	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	701,287
Operations and Housekeeping	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	255,979
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	28,000	28,000	-	28,000	42,000	-	42,000	112,000	280,000
Total Expenses:	**1,321,094**	**1,398,507**	**1,687,932**	**2,533,950**	**1,514,844**	**1,352,793**	**2,037,027**	**1,606,577**	**1,829,471**	**1,766,319**	**1,808,319**	**2,649,467**	**21,506,299**
Surplus/Deficit	561,404	483,991	194,565	(651,452)	367,653	529,705	(154,530)	275,920	53,027	116,178	74,178	(766,969)	**1,083,669**
Cumulative Fund Balance	**561,404**	**1,045,394**	**1,239,959**	**588,507**	**956,160**	**1,485,865**	**1,331,335**	**1,607,255**	**1,660,282**	**1,776,460**	**1,850,639**	**1,083,669**	

Beginning Fund Balance	-	561,404	1,045,394	1,239,959	588,507	956,160	1,485,865	1,331,335	1,607,255	1,660,282	1,776,460	1,850,639
Ending Fund Balance	561,404	1,045,394	1,239,959	588,507	956,160	1,485,865	1,331,335	1,607,255	1,660,282	1,776,460	1,850,639	1,083,669

The Cottonwood School

Monthly Cash Flow/Budget FY19-20

Revised 6/4/19

ADA = 2064.35

CHARTER IMPACT

	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Year-End Accruals	Annual Budget
Revenues														
State Aid - Revenue Limit														
8011 LCFF State Aid	-	-	-	5,817,253	-	-	2,830,015	-	1,428,650	1,428,650	1,428,650	1,428,650	1,428,650	**15,790,515**
8012 Education Protection Account	-	-	103,218	-	-	103,218	-	-	103,218	-	-	-	103,218	**412,870**
8096 In Lieu of Property Taxes	-	-	1,273,126	391,731	391,731	391,731	391,731	685,529	342,765	342,765	342,765	342,765	-	**4,896,638**
	-	-	1,376,343	6,208,984	391,731	494,949	3,221,746	685,529	1,874,632	1,771,414	1,771,414	1,771,414	1,531,867	**21,100,023**
Other State Revenue														
8311 State Special Education	-	-	277,892	85,505	85,505	85,505	85,505	89,781	89,781	89,781	89,781	89,781	-	**1,068,817**
8560 State Lottery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	421,127	**421,127**
	-	-	277,892	85,505	85,505	85,505	85,505	89,781	89,781	89,781	89,781	89,781	421,127	**1,489,945**
Total Revenue	**-**	**-**	**1,654,236**	**6,294,489**	**477,236**	**580,454**	**3,307,251**	**775,310**	**1,964,412**	**1,861,195**	**1,861,195**	**1,861,195**	**1,952,994**	**22,589,968**
Expenses														
Certificated Salaries														
1100 Teachers' Salaries	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000	-	**5,880,000**
1175 Teachers' Extra Duty/Stipends	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	-	**882,000**
1300 Administrators' Salaries	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	56,667	-	**680,000**
	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	620,167	-	- **7,442,000**
Benefits														
3101 STRS	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	103,568	-	**1,242,814**
3311 Medicare	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	8,992	-	**107,909**
3401 Health and Welfare	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	43,750	-	**525,000**
3501 State Unemployment	2,573	2,573	2,573	2,573	2,573	2,573	12,863	10,290	5,145	2,573	2,573	2,573	-	**51,450**
3601 Workers' Compensation	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	8,682	-	**104,188**
	167,565	167,565	167,565	167,565	167,565	167,565	177,855	175,283	170,138	167,565	167,565	167,565	-	**2,031,361**
Books and Supplies														
4100 Textbooks and Core Materials	-	77,413	77,413	77,413	77,413	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**309,653**
4200 Books and Reference Materials	103,218	103,218	103,218	103,218	103,218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**516,088**
4302 School Supplies	64,632	64,632	64,632	64,632	64,632	64,632	129,265	129,265	129,265	129,265	129,265	129,265	129,265	**1,292,646**
4305 Software	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	64,511	-	**774,131**
4310 Office Expense	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	4,167	-	**50,000**
4311 Business Meals	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	167	-	**2,000**
4400 Noncapitalized Equipment	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157	118,314	118,314	118,314	118,314	118,314	118,314	118,314	**1,183,141**
	295,851	373,264	373,264	373,264	373,264	192,634	316,423	316,423	316,423	316,423	316,423	316,423	247,579	**4,127,659**
Subagreement Services														
5102 Special Education	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	51,609	-	**619,305**
5106 Other Educational Consultants	73,866	73,866	73,866	73,866	73,866	73,866	147,731	147,731	147,731	147,731	147,731	147,731	147,731	**1,477,310**
5107 Instructional Services	-	-	190,237	723,866	54,882	66,752	380,334	89,161	225,907	214,037	214,037	214,037	224,594	**2,597,846**
	125,474	125,474	315,711	849,341	180,356	192,226	579,674	288,500	425,247	413,377	413,377	413,377	372,325	**4,694,461**

The Cottonwood School

Monthly Cash Flow/Budget FY19-20

Revised 6/4/19

ADA = 2064.35

	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Year-End Accruals	Annual Budget
Operations and Housekeeping														
5201 Auto and Travel	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	4,301	-	**51,609**
5300 Dues & Memberships	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	-	**10,322**
5400 Insurance	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	8,773	-	**105,282**
5501 Utilities	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	860	-	**10,322**
5502 Janitorial Services	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	344	-	**4,129**
5900 Communications	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	-	**41,287**
5901 Postage and Shipping	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	2,752	-	**33,030**
	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	21,332	-	**255,979**
Facilities, Repairs and Other Leases														
5601 Rent	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	-	**660,000**
5610 Repairs and Maintenance	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	-	**41,287**
	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	-	**701,287**
Professional/Consulting Services														
5801 IT	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	3,441	-	**41,287**
5802 Audit & Taxes	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**15,000**
5803 Legal	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	2,917	-	**35,000**
5804 Professional Development	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	**48,000**
5805 General Consulting	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	1,720	-	**20,644**
5806 Special Activities/Field Trips	18,466	18,466	18,466	18,466	18,466	18,466	36,933	36,933	36,933	36,933	36,933	36,933	36,933	**369,328**
5807 Bank Charges	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	-	**6,193**
5808 Printing	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	688	-	**8,257**
5809 Other taxes and fees	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	516	-	**6,193**
5811 Management Fee	-	-	57,898	220,307	16,703	20,316	115,754	27,136	68,754	65,142	65,142	65,142	68,355	**790,649**
5812 District Oversight Fee	-	-	41,290	186,270	11,752	14,848	96,652	20,566	56,239	53,142	53,142	53,142	45,956	**633,001**
	32,264	32,264	131,453	443,841	65,719	72,429	263,137	98,432	175,724	169,015	169,015	169,015	151,244	**1,973,551**
Interest														
7438 Interest Expense	-	-	-	-	28,000	28,000	-	28,000	42,000	-	42,000	112,000	-	**280,000**
	-	-	-	-	28,000	28,000	-	28,000	42,000	-	42,000	112,000	-	**280,000**
Total Expenses	**1,321,094**	**1,398,507**	**1,687,932**	**2,533,950**	**1,514,844**	**1,352,793**	**2,037,027**	**1,606,577**	**1,829,471**	**1,766,319**	**1,808,319**	**1,878,319**	**771,148**	**21,506,299**
Monthly Surplus (Deficit)	**(1,321,094)**	**(1,398,507)**	**(33,696)**	**3,760,540**	**(1,037,608)**	**(772,339)**	**1,270,224**	**(831,267)**	**134,942**	**94,876**	**52,876**	**(17,124)**	**1,181,847**	- **1,083,669**
														5%
Cash Flow Adjustments														
Monthly Surplus (Deficit)	(1,321,094)	(1,398,507)	(33,696)	3,760,540	(1,037,608)	(772,339)	1,270,224	(831,267)	134,942	94,876	52,876	(17,124)	1,181,847	**1,083,669**
Cash flows from operating activities														
Public Funding Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,952,994)	**(1,952,994)**
Due To/From Related Parties	3,000,000	-	-	(3,000,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,000,000)	(1,000,000)	-	**(4,000,000)**
Accounts Payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,314	(118,314)	771,148	**771,148**
Cash flows from financing activities														
Proceeds from Factoring	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	4,000,000	-	**10,000,000**
Payments on Factoring	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,000,000)	-	(1,000,000)	-	(1,000,000)	(1,500,000)	-	**(4,500,000)**
Total Change in Cash	1,678,906	(1,398,507)	(33,696)	760,540	(37,608)	227,661	270,224	168,733	634,942	94,876	(2,328,810)	1,364,562		
Cash, Beginning of Month	-	1,678,906	280,400	246,703	1,007,243	969,635	1,197,297	1,467,520	1,636,253	2,271,195	2,366,071	37,261		
Cash, End of Month	**1,678,906**	**280,400**	**246,703**	**1,007,243**	**969,635**	**1,197,297**	**1,467,520**	**1,636,253**	**2,271,195**	**2,366,071**	**37,261**	**1,401,823**		

THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL

BOARD RESOLUTION – 2019 - 1

I. Adoption of The Cottonwood School's Principal's Annual Salary

WHEREAS, The Cottonwood School must adopt at a regular scheduled board meeting in open session the compensation of the highest compensated employee of the school.

NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approve the annual salary for The Cottonwood School Principal in the amount of $140,000.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, _____, Secretary of the Board of Directors of The Cottonwood School a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, County of _____, California, hereby certify as follows:

The attached is a full, true, and correct copy of the resolutions duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of The Cottonwood School which was duly and regularly held on June 8th, 2019, at which meeting all of the members of the Board of Directors had due notice and at which a quorum thereof was present; and at such meeting such resolutions were adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I have carefully compared the same with the original minutes of such meeting on file and of record in my office; the attached resolution is a full, true, and correct copy of the original resolution adopted at such meeting and entered in such minutes; and such resolution has not been amended, modified, or rescinded since the date of its adoption, and the same is now in full force and effect.

WITNESS my hand on _____, 2019.

_____
Secretary of the Board of Directors of
The Cottonwood School

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN INSPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
AND THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL

This Education and Support Services Agreement ("***Agreement***") is entered into as of July 1, 2019 ("***Effective Date***") by and between Provenance, (doing business as Inspire District Office), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation ("IDO") and The Cottonwood School, a public charter school organized as a California nonprofit public benefit corporation ("***School***"). IDO and School may each be referred to herein as a "***Party***" or collectively as the "***Parties***" to this Agreement.

WHEREAS, IDO, a nonprofit corporation with tax exempt status as a supporting organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is in the business of providing educational goods and administrative services to charter schools that are operated by separate corporations doing business under the trade-name of Inspire (collectively the "Inspire Charter Schools") and using the business methods and proprietary goods and services developed by IDO and by Inspire-model schools, and implementing the ethos of Inspire schools to provide high quality learning opportunities through a Personalized Learning Model, partnering with parents and embracing homeschooling within the framework of a public charter school.;

WHEREAS, School is authorized by Buckeye Union Elementary School District ("***District***") to operate a California charter school for a term of five (5) years, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023, pursuant to a petition granted by District dated November 15, 2017 ("***Charter***").

WHEREAS, the Charter provides that the School will implement the Inspire independent study model and may contract for educational and administrative support services;

WHEREAS, subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, School now desires to contract with IDO for educational and administrative support services;

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge and intend that the terms of this Agreement shall at all times be consistent with the terms of the Charter, and that this Agreement provides for IDO to deliver educational goods and task-related services that are performed at the direction of the governing body of the School and over which the governing body of the School retains ultimate decision-making authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of their mutual promises set forth in this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Relationship of the Parties and Scope of Authority. The relationship created by this Agreement between the Parties is that of an independent contractor, not a partnership, joint venture, or employment relationship. Under this Agreement, IDO will deliver goods and perform task-related services at the direction of the governing body of the School and for which the governing body of the School retains ultimate decision-making authority. The Parties understand and agree as follows:

a. The governing body of the School shall at all times retain its duty to exercise its statutory, contractual, and fiduciary responsibilities governing operation of the School. The governing body of the School, and not IDO, has fiduciary responsibility for the School. The governing body of the School is ultimately responsible for ensuring School adheres to all applicable law and is accountable to the authorizing District pursuant to the Charter.

b. School shall at all times remain an independent, self-governing public body that shall

comply with applicable transparency laws, including but not limited to the California Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, and effective January 1, 2020, the provisions of Government Code section 1090, et seq..

c. To the extent not otherwise specified as a duty of IDO pursuant to the scope of Services, all duties applicable to the proper operation of School and maintenance of applicable academic standards shall remain the responsibility of School.

d. School shall pay for an annual audit of School to be conducted in compliance with California law and regulations. The annual audit shall be performed by an independent certified public accountant selected and retained by the governing body of the School.

e. While IDO may make recommendations to the governing body of the School regarding any arrangements for legal services for School pursuant to the scope of Services, School and its governing body may hire legal counsel as School may deem appropriate and necessary.

f. IDO will not be required to provide any service set forth in this Agreement to the extent that it is or becomes impracticable, in any material respect, as a result of a cause or causes outside IDO's and/or School's reasonable control or would require IDO or School to violate applicable law or cause IDO to be considered an "entity managing a charter school" per Education Code section 47604.1(a).

g. IDO will provide all Services in a manner it believes to be in the best interests of School and with due care, in good faith, and in exchange for reasonable compensation taking into account that IDO is a nonprofit that is exempt from income taxation pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

2. Independent Contractor. Nothing in this Agreement shall confer upon any IDO or School employee any rights or remedies, including any right to employment, as an employee of the other Party. The Parties agree as follows:

a. All IDO employees providing services to School shall be and remain employed by IDO and shall at all times be subject to the direction, supervision and control of IDO. All School employees shall be and remain employed by School and shall at all times be subject to the direction, supervision and control of School.

b. School shall not have any right to terminate the employment of any IDO employee providing services to the School. IDO shall not have any right to terminate the employment of any School employee.

c. The Parties agree that IDO shall not lease its employees to the School. School shall employ all of its personnel, including certificated personnel responsible for the delivery of instruction. School shall determine and manage compensation (salary and benefit) plans for its employees; provided, however, that School shall oversee and may consult with IDO and IDO will assist with providing payroll and related services pursuant to the scope of Services.

d. IDO certifies that any of its employees who perform school-site services or transportation services for School, or who may have substantial contact with students at School as determined by School in its reasonable discretion, shall be screened in compliance with Education Code section 45125.1 and IDO shall otherwise comply with that statute.

3. Services Provided by IDO. During the term of this Agreement, IDO shall provide to School the services, including the staff necessary to provide the services, listed in Attachment A to this Agreement (the "***Services***"). IDO is not obligated to devote all of its time or efforts to School, but shall devote the time, effort, and skill reasonably necessary to provide the Services to School. IDO reserves the right to sub-contract with a third party for the provision of any of the Services. The Parties may mutually agree to modify the Services at any time by amending Attachment A in writing; provided, however, the Parties will also adjust the annual fee commensurately pursuant to Section 5, if necessary, and IDO shall only deliver task-related services that are performed at the direction of the governing body of the School and for which the governing body of the School retains ultimate decision-making authority. To the extent there are any conflicts between the terms of the Charter and the terms of this Agreement, the terms of the Charter shall control.

4. Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2019 and continue through June 30, 2024. This Agreement may be renewed for consecutive terms upon mutual written agreement of the Parties.

5. Annual Fee. As compensation for the Services, School shall pay IDO an annual fee of fifteen percent (15 %) (3.5% allocated to operational/administrative services and, 11.5% to licensing the Inspire IP described in Attachment B, including the provision of supporting educational goods and services) of the School's annual ***Revenues***. For purposes of this Agreement, Revenues shall mean the amount received in the current fiscal year from all revenue sources, notwithstanding, the school shall keep all restricted revenue sources to be used according to the requirements of the grantor.

a. Beginning July 1, 2018, the annual fee shall be paid by ***SCHOOL*** to ***IDO*** in twelve (12) monthly installments per year with each monthly payment being due no later than the tenth (10^{th}) day of each month in which a payment is due. The amount of each monthly installment shall be based upon ***SCHOOL***'s current school year budgeted ***Revenue***.

b. At the end of each fiscal year after the P-2 ADA certification by the California Department of Education, which should occur no later than June 30th, a reconciliation of payments shall made based upon ***SCHOOL***'s actual ***Revenues*** in said year. In the event that the total amount of installment payments made by ***SCHOOL*** for the subject year exceeds the total amount due based upon ***SCHOOL***'s actual ***Revenue*****s**, IDO shall refund the total amount of said overpayment to ***SCHOOL*** within thirty (30) days of the end of the fiscal year. In the event that the total amount of installment payments made by ***SCHOOL*** for the subject year is less than the total amount due based upon ***SCHOOL***'s actual ***Revenues***, ***SCHOOL*** shall pay the total amount of said underpayment to ***IDO*** within thirty (30) days of the end of the fiscal year.

c. In the event this Agreement is renewed, the annual fee shall be reviewed and renegotiated by the Parties.

6. Costs. In addition to the annual fee, School shall reimburse IDO for direct "pass-through" costs and expenses incurred in performing the Services, including, but not limited to: equipment, materials, or supplies purchased from third parties at the request of, or on behalf of the School; platform subscription fees (e.g. student information systems, learning management systems); travel (including mileage, airfare, lodging, meals, and ground transportation); filing or corporate fees; marketing and development costs incurred solely for School (e.g. print materials, postage for mailers, and costs of newspaper, radio, television, billboard or other broadcast advertisements); and fees of other third parties consulted by IDO at the request of or on behalf of the School. However, no costs will be owed for services provided by subcontractors, such as Charter Impact [or legal counsel?]

a. In the event that IDO purchases equipment, materials, or supplies at the request of or on behalf of the School, IDO shall comply with the procurement policies and processes approved by the governing body of the School and shall not include any mark-up, added fees or charges with the cost of equipment, materials, and supplies purchased from third parties. Any equipment, materials, or supplies that IDO purchases on behalf of the School shall be and remain the property of the School.

b. Marketing and development costs charged to School shall be limited to those costs specific to the School program, and shall not include any costs for the marketing of the Inspire brand or development of IDO goods, services or intellectual property.

c. All reimbursable costs of IDO charged to School shall be itemized on IDO invoices, with reference to specific dollar amounts and with backup documentation for such costs (e.g. copies of receipts or purchase orders).

7. Annual Notices. As a supporting organization to School, IDO shall, at least annually, provide School with a copy of its most recent Form 990, a description of the support, in services and otherwise, provided to School, and its most current articles and bylaws, not later than the 5th day of the 5th month after the close of the year for which the Form 990 is filed.

8. Cooperation. School shall make available to IDO, in a timely manner, all data, files, documents, and other information and records necessary or appropriate for IDO to provide the Services under this Agreement. School staff, and the governing body of the School as necessary, shall work closely and cooperatively with IDO to facilitate IDO's effective performance and delivery of the Services.

9. Conflicts of Interest. School and IDO recognize that it is important that School be assured that IDO staff acts at all times with integrity. School has adopted a conflict of interest code under the California Political Reform Act. IDO acknowledges that School may require certain IDO staff to file annual financial interest disclosures as consultants under that code and abide by the disclosure and disqualification provisions of that Act. IDO also agrees to adopt and provide to School copies of conflict of interest policies required by the IRS, as well as an anti-nepotism policy and a policy regarding inconsistent employment for compensation, which policies shall meet Federal requirements for grant and funding program administration.

10. Non-Exclusive, Non-Transferrable Intellectual Property License. IDO grants School a non-exclusive, non-transferable irrevocable, United States limited license to use, display and print graphic images of the Inspire IP in connection with School's operation of the Charter. The Inspire IP is described in Attachment B and may include copyrights, patents, trademarks, technology, and intellectual property of every kind (the "***Inspire IP***"). The Parties acknowledge that IDO has extensively invested in developing and improving the Inspire IP and in marketing, refining, advertising, promoting, and publicizing it, all of which have become well and favorably known to the public throughout the United States, and as a result of such efforts, IDO has acquired valuable goodwill therein. The non-exclusive, non-transferable license granted to School is subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. Ownership. School acknowledges the ownership of the Inspire IP in IDO and shall do nothing inconsistent with such ownership. School acknowledges that all use of the Inspire IP shall inure to the benefit of and be on behalf of IDO. School acknowledges that nothing in this Agreement shall give School any right, title, or interest in and to the Inspire IP other than the right to use the intellectual property in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

b. Quality Standards. School shall not utilize the Inspire IP in any manner that would

diminish their value or harm the reputation of IDO or any other Inspire organization. The nature and quality of all services rendered by School in connection with the Inspire IP, all goods sold by School under the Inspire IP, and all related advertising, promotional and other related uses of the Inspire IP by School shall conform to standards set by and be under the control of IDO.

c. School agrees that School will not frame, copy, or feature any trademarks, logos, content from IDO's websites or marketing materials at any website owned or controlled by School without IDO's prior express written permission.

d. Neither School nor any entity owned or controlled by them will directly or indirectly file, apply for, prosecute, register, maintain, obtain, and/or acquire any domain names, trademark applications, or trademark registrations, for any mark or name comprised of or containing the Inspire IP, or for any other confusingly similar marks, names, or terms. Further, neither School nor any entity owned or controlled by School will directly or indirectly challenge, contest, or interfere with IDO's ownership, use, registration, or enforcement of its Inspire IP.

e. School shall not have the right to grant a license, sublicense, or any other rights to the Inspire IP.

f. The license and rights granted to School herein are subject to any limitations imposed by any applicable government grant or government contract entered into by IDO.

g. School shall use the Inspire IP only in the manner and for the duration expressly permitted in writing by IDO.

h. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, School shall have no right to make any use whatsoever of the Inspire IP and must remove all Inspire IP previously used by School in accordance with section 14, Termination.

i. Infringement Proceedings. School shall promptly inform IDO of any infringements or other violations of the Inspire IP. IDO shall have the exclusive right at its sole discretion to determine whether to take any action, including litigation, against such infringements or other violations. For any such action IDO decides to take: (a) School will reasonably cooperate with and assist IDO; (b) IDO shall bear all costs, attorney's fees, and expenses; and (c) IDO shall receive and retain all monetary awards, judgments, damages, and settlement proceeds. If IDO decides not to take any action against an infringement or other violation of the Inspire IP, IDO will notify School of its decision, at which time School may request IDO's permission for School to take action, including litigation. If IDO permits School to take action: (a) IDO will reasonably cooperate with and assist School; (b) School will bear all costs, attorney's fees, and expenses; (c) School will obtain IDO's prior approval of any settlement, such approval to not be unreasonably withheld; and (e) School will receive and retain all monetary awards, judgments, damages, and settlements proceeds.

j. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ISO shall own all proprietary rights to curriculum or educational materials that: (1) are both directly developed and paid for by School; or (2) were developed by IDO at the direction of the governing body of the School with School funds dedicated for the specific purpose of developing such curriculum or materials unless otherwise agreed in writing.

11. Confidentiality. Each Party acknowledges that during the term of this Agreement, it will have access to certain Confidential Information of the other Party, as defined below. Each Party shall

maintain and enforce reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to reasonably protect the confidentiality of the other Party's Confidential Information.

a. "***Confidential Information***" means non-public information marked either "confidential" or "proprietary," or that otherwise should be understood by a reasonable person to be confidential in nature. Confidential Information may include but is not limited to trade secrets, policies, procedures, intellectual property, business or strategic plans, contractual arrangements or negotiations, financial information and employee information. Confidential Information does not include any information which (i) is rightfully known to the recipient prior to its disclosure; (ii) is released to any other person or entity (including governmental agencies) without restriction; (iii) is independently developed by the recipient without use of or reliance on Confidential Information; or (iv) is or later becomes publicly available without violation of this Agreement or may be lawfully obtained by a Party from a non-party; or (v) which is a public record under California law.

b. If disclosure of Confidential Information is requested pursuant to law, statute, rule or regulation (including a subpoena, a request made to School under the California Public Records Act, or other similar form of process), the Party to which the request for disclosure is made shall (other than in connection with routine supervisory examinations by regulatory authorities with jurisdiction and without breaching any legal or regulatory requirement) provide the other Party with prior prompt written notice thereof to the extent practicable, and if practicable under the circumstances, shall allow the other Party to seek a restraining order or other appropriate relief.

c. The Parties understand and acknowledge that School's financial, educational, and student records are School property and may be subject to the California Public Records Act. All School records shall be physically or electronically available, upon School's request, at the School's physical location. Records shall also be made available to School electronically on IDO's software platforms, when such platforms exist.

d. The finance and other records of the School maintained by IDO shall be made available the School's independent auditor upon request.

e. Upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement, Confidential Information of each Party in the possession of the other Party shall be returned and/or destroyed.

12. Student Information. IDO and School will each comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) ("***FERPA***"), federal Children's Online Privacy and Protection Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 6501–6506) ("***COPPA***"), and other applicable state and federal laws pertaining to student information and privacy. IDO is a "third party" which may receive pupil records under California Education Code Section 49073.1(d)(6).

a. IDO shall be designated as having a legitimate educational interest in accessing School's student education records, as that term is defined by and for purposes of FERPA, thereby allowing IDO to access personally identifiable information from student education records from School in order to provide its services. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "personally identifiable information" ("PII") means any information that can be used on its own or with other information to (i) distinguish one person from another, (ii) identify, contact, or locate a single person, or (iii) de-anonymize anonymous data.

b. IDO shall not use or disclose pupil records, including personally identifiable information, received from or on behalf of School except as necessary to provide the Services, as required by law, or as otherwise authorized in writing by School. IDO shall protect the pupil

records it receives from or on behalf of School no less rigorously than it protects its own Confidential Information. IDO will designate and train responsible individuals to ensure the security and confidentiality of pupil records. IDO shall develop, implement, maintain and use reasonable administrative, technical and physical security measures to preserve the confidentiality and availability of all electronically transmitted pupil records received from or on behalf of School. In the event of an unauthorized disclosure of PII, IDO shall notify School as soon as practicable, and shall, upon School's request, notify affected parents, legal guardians and eligible pupils using reasonably available technological means suchas electronic mail.

c. IDO shall allow parents, legal guardians and eligible students to access their student records in compliance with applicable federal and state law. If such access is not immediately available through access to the electronic record system, IDO shall provide access to the requested records via a secure means within five (5) business days of the request for such information, or such other time as the parties agree.

d. IDO shall provide a process and contact information to allow parents, legal guardians and eligible students to make written requests to modify erroneous student records as required under federal and state law in accordance with School policies.

e. Within 60 days of the termination or expiration of this Agreement, IDO shall certify in writing that protected student information in the possession of IDO shall be returned and/or destroyed.

f. Prohibition on Targeted Marketing. IDO shall not use PII in pupil records to engage in targeted advertising contrary to California law.

g. Cyber Liability Insurance and Indemnity. IDO shall obtain and maintain for the Term of this Agreement Cyber Liability Insurance with limits of not less than Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000) aggregate including but not limited to coverage for claims involving security and privacy violations, information theft, damage to or destruction of electronic information, intentional and/or unintentional release of information, business interruption, cyber extortion and corruption, and denial of service.

h. IDO shall indemnify, defend and hold School (including its officers, directors and employees) from and against all claims, losses, liabilities, damages, expenses or judgments involving a third party, including School's costs and reasonable attorney's fees, which arise as a result of any such unauthorized disclosures or misuse of pupil records through the services provided by IDO, excluding those claims, liabilities, damages or judgments arising from the sole active negligence or willful misconduct of School.

13. Insurance.

a. School shall maintain customary and reasonable insurance coverage, including professional liability for errors or omissions and/or directors and officers coverages, comprehensive general liability coverage, and automobile liability coverage. School shall name IDO as an additional insured under all School's policies.

b. IDO shall maintain customary and reasonable insurance coverage, including professional liability for errors or omissions and/or directors and officers coverages, comprehensive general liability coverage, and automobile liability coverage. IDO shall name School as an additional insured under all IDO's policies.

c. Each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining workers' compensation coverage and unemployment insurance for its employees.

d. The Parties' insurance coverages shall take into consideration that staff at the School are employees of the School, and not employees of IDO.

14. Termination.

a. Either Party may terminate this Agreement without cause or a financial penalty upon written notice to the other Party, and such termination shall be effective as of the end of the then-current school year to minimize disruptions to the School's operations.

b. Either Party may terminate this Agreement for breach of a material term or condition of this Agreement upon sixty (60) days' written notice to the other Party. Such written notice shall identify the breach and provide thirty (30) days for the other Party to cure.

c. In the event that any new enactment, repeal, or change of any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or court or administrative decision or order materially affects the performance of School and IDO in conformity with this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly commence negotiations in good faith regarding a mutually agreeable approach (including without limitation, an amendment to the Agreement) to address the statutory and/or regulatory changes. If, despite such good faith negotiations, the Parties are unable to agree upon an acceptable approach, then either Party may elect to terminate the Agreement without further obligation or liability to the other, by delivering written notice of termination to the other at least ninety (90) days in advance of the effective date of such termination, or in such lesser time as is reasonable under the circumstances.

d. In the event of termination for any reason, the following conditions shall apply:

i. School shall pay IDO any due and unpaid portion of the annual fee and costs for Services performed by IDO until the effective date of termination.

ii. IDO shall provide reasonable assistance to School to transition to another service provider, during which time School shall reimburse IDO for all reasonable expenses incurred by IDO in providing such transition assistance.

iii. School shall cease all use of the Inspire IP, as described in Attachment B, as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event later than 180 days or the end of the then current School fiscal year.

iv. IDO shall offer to assign any equipment, vehicle or facility leases used solely by or for the benefit of or use by School.

v. As soon as practicable, IDO shall return to School and/or destroy, as appropriate, all student-related, fiscal, and other records of School maintained by IDO.

15. Liability. Each of the Parties shall remain and be responsible for its own debts and obligations. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as imposing on a Party any liability arising out of the operations of the other Party, except as such liability may result from the performance of the first Party's obligations under this Agreement.

16. Indemnification. The Parties shall defend, indemnify, and hold each other, their

employees, officers, directors, and agents, free and harmless against any liability, loss, claims, demands, damages, expenses, and costs (including attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, and other costs of litigation or other proceedings) of every kind or nature arising in any manner out of the performance of their obligations under this Agreement, except for such loss or damage caused solely by the negligence or willful misconduct of the other Party.

17. Fiduciary Obligations. The governing bodies for both Parties have reviewed the scope of Services and compensation provided in this Agreement in good faith, and in a manner in which they believe to be in the best interests of their respective organizations, and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinary prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances, and have determined that the Services contained herein are in the best interests of their respective organizations, and that the compensation to be paid is fair and reasonable.

18. Assignment. No Party shall assign this Agreement, any interest in this Agreement, or its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the express prior written consent of the other Party. This Agreement shall be binding on, and shall inure to the benefit of, the Parties and their respective permitted successors and assigns.

19. Dispute Resolution. The Parties shall attempt to negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising from or relating to this Agreement before resorting to litigation.

20. Notice. All notices, requests, demands, or other communications (collectively "Notice") given to or by the Parties under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given on the date of receipt if transmitted by email or personally served on the Party to whom Notice is to be given, or seventy-two (72) hours after mailing by United States mail first class, registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the Party to whom Notice is to be given, at such Party's address set forth below:

To IDO:

Email: dr.jayne.gray@gmail.com

To School:

Email: joshmottashed@me.com

Headings. The descriptive headings of the sections and/or paragraphs of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only, are not part of this Agreement, and do not in any way limit or amplify the terms or provisions of this Agreement.

21. Amendments. No supplement, modification, or amendment of this Agreement or the Services described in Attachment A shall be binding unless in writing and executed by both Parties. The Parties anticipate additional and/or revised services to be provided through amendments to Attachment A and commensurate adjustment of the annual fee, if necessary. Such amendments may be negotiated directly by staff of School and IDO at any time, and shall be brought to the governing bodies of School and IDO respectively to approve or ratify.

22. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes all agreements, representations and understandings of the Parties with respect to such subject matter made or entered into prior to the date of

this Agreement. If School seeks to enter into a lease, promissory notes or other negotiable instruments, or to enter into a lease-purchase agreement or other financing relationships with IDO, such agreements shall be separate documents and not be incorporated into this Agreement or any amendments thereto. Such agreements shall be consistent with the School's authority to terminate IDO and continue operation of the School.

23. Arm's Length and Independent Counsel. This Agreement has been negotiated at arm's length and between persons (or their representatives) sophisticated and knowledgeable in the subjects in this Agreement. Accordingly, any rule of law or legal decision that would require interpretation of any ambiguities against the Party that has drafted it is not applicable and is waived. The provisions of this Agreement shall be interpreted in a reasonable manner to affect the purpose of the Parties and this Agreement. Each Party has been advised by, or had opportunity to seek advice from, its independent counsel regarding this Agreement.

24. No Waiver. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall constitute, or be deemed to constitute, a waiver of any other provision, nor shall any waiver constitute a continuing waiver. No waiver shall be binding unless executed in writing by the Party making the waiver.

25. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is invalid or contravenes California law, such provision shall be deemed not to be a part of this Agreement and shall not affect the validity or enforceability of its remaining provisions, unless such invalidity or unenforceability would defeat an essential purpose of this Agreement.

26. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted under the laws of the State of California.

27. Authority to Contract. Each Party warrants to the other that it has the authority to enter into this Agreement, that it is a binding and enforceable obligation of said Party, and that the undersigned has been duly authorized to execute this Agreement.

28. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument. A faxed, .pdf, or other electronic copy of the fully executed original version of this Agreement shall have the same legal effect as an executed original for all purposes.

Provenance, dba, Inspire District Office, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation	The Cottonwood School, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation and charter school
By: _____	By: _____
Name: Dr. Jayne Gray	Name: John Mottashed
Its: Board President	Its: Board President
Date: _____, 2019	Date: _____, 2019

ATTACHMENT A
DESCRIPTION OF IDO SERVICES

1. Public Relations and IP. ***IDO*** shall provide public relations services to ***SCHOOL***, as determined by further mutual agreement of the ***Parties***, in order to advance the shared mission of ***IDO*** and ***SCHOOL*** as set forth above in the recitals to this ***Agreement***. ***SCHOOL*** may provide ***IDO*** a non- exclusive, limited license to use those Inspire ***Marks*** or any other Inspire intellectual property as may be owned or under license to ***SCHOOL***, as may be requested by ***IDO*** from time to time, whether registered or unregistered, whether subject to application or not (the "***Inspire IP***"). Without limitation, and subject to the direction of ***SCHOOL***, ***IDO*** shall be available to represent School on all matters relating to public relations and public information, including, without limitation, preparing press releases on topics relating to the shared mission of ***IDO*** and ***SCHOOL,*** subject to approval of School's Board or designated representative.

2. Financial Services (Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll, Procurement, and other Financial Functions). Subject to the terms of this ***Agreement***, the budget approved by Board of School and approval by School's designated representative, ***IDO*** shall be responsible and accountable for:

A. Preparation and submission to School and, as required by law, all required *State* financial reports, including but not limited to annual audited financial reports, annual budgets, 1st and 2nd Interims, unaudited actual reporting, P1 and P2 reporting, non-classroom based funding determinations when applicable, annual LCAP spending reporting, as well as providing monthly financial statements to the Board of School**;**

B. Coordination and processing of payments of SCHOOL's expenditures:

a. Management of cash balances to cover SCHOOL's payroll and payments to vendors, pursuant to School policy;

b. Coordination and processing of SCHOOL's payroll and tax reporting and other filings in accordance with the specific procedures and guidelines as designated and updated from time to time by SCHOOL personnel;

c. Coordination and management of the annual independent audit of SCHOOL. The cost of the audit will be the sole expense of SCHOOL.

d. Assistance with Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) financial reviews, when applicable.

e. Coordination and management of all facility, vehicle and equipment leasing agreements, including holding title or leasehold on behalf of School, with School's consent;

f. Assistance and monitoring of spending and general administration of grant funding in compliance with specific terms and conditions of said grants and participation in any audits related thereto; and,

g. Identification and management of external financing, as needed.

h. Recommending, negotiating and managing leases as approved by the Board.

C. Subcontracting. IDO may subcontract with Charter Impact or other backoffice service provider to provide any of these services, with consent of School provided that no such subcontract permitted hereunder shall relieve or discharge IDO from any obligation or liability under this Agreement

and provided that no such subcontract permitted hereunder shall constitute a majority of IDO's duties under this Agreement..

3. *Board* Facilitation. *IDO* shall coordinate the scheduling of and documentation of meetings of the *Board*, including the preparation of agendas, preparation of minutes per Board policy. *IDO* will coordinate annual *Board* member training to include training in *SCHOOL* protocols, best practices and legal updates, including any training required by the Charter.

4. Strategic Planning and Implementation. *IDO* will support *SCHOOL* in the development of key long term goals for *SCHOOL* in meeting its academic, funding, reporting, accountability, growth requirements, development and preparation of charter renewals, material charter modifications and other changes to School's charter, as needed or directed by the Board of School.

5. *SCHOOL* Policies. *IDO* shall ensure ready access to *SCHOOL* policies by all personnel, including, policies, rules, regulations, procedures, personnel, and budget. For the avoidance of doubt, *SCHOOL* retains sole and complete control over the foregoing policies.

6. Human Capital Management. Under the supervision and direction of School, and subject to the authority of the Board and School management to employ, discipline or dismiss all persons employed by School:

A. IDO shall support School's management and Board in recruiting, screening and recommending certificated and non- certificated individuals for employment by SCHOOL;

B. IDO shall also provide pre-employment screening services, verify, check and monitor credentials for certificated staff;

C. IDO shall coordinate and administer health, life and retirement benefits for SCHOOL employees, including certificated and non-certificated staff provided by SCHOOL and as approved by the Board and its designated representative;

D. IDO will support the provision of School's new hire employee orientation, training; onboarding (at the time of hiring) and off-boarding (upon termination). IDO will also coordinate the provision of all State and federally mandated training to SCHOOL employees;

E. IDO will track leave of absence benefits (including time off, sick days and other leaves) and monitor and provide information on the handling employee work-related injuries in coordination with School's workers compensation provider pursuant to School policies and subject to School direction

F. IDO will maintain and recommend revisions to School's employment policies and employee handbook.

7. Risk Management. IDO shall facilitate the School's selection and maintenance of insurance coverages for School, in amounts that are no less than the minimum levels set by SCHOOL, or mandated by its Charter or applicable law. However, IDO shall not act as, or receive any compensation as broker for insurance, including any liability, casualty, property, directors' and officers' liability or workers compensation coverages.

8. Files and Records. *IDO* shall maintain custody and provide ready access to all School files and records relating to the Services. *IDO* acknowledges that all records, data, communications, and other

property of *SCHOOL* entrusted or loaned to *IDO* during the term of this *Agreement* are *SCHOOL*'s property and *IDO* agrees to return any such material to *SCHOOL* immediately upon the termination of this Agreement. IDO shall support School's responses to requests for records, including Public Records Act requests, at the direction of School.

9. Reporting Requirements to the *Board*. *IDO* shall provide to the *Board* an annual year-end report and more frequently as the *Board* shall reasonably request summarizing the services and financial support provided, any changes to IDO's governing documents, and a copy of its Form 990.

10. Educational Services

A. Educational Program: ***IDO*** will work in collaboration with ***SCHOOL*** on development and implementation of the Inspire educational model licensed and provided to ***SCHOOL***. ***IDO*** will work with ***SCHOOL*** to effectuate any necessary changes to the educational program requested by School or mandated by law, recognizing that essential principle of this educational model is its flexibility, adaptability and capacity to change in the interest of continuous improvement of efficiency.

B. Professional Development: ***IDO*** will provide the resources and plans to the ***SCHOOL*** staff to enhance their effectiveness in delivering the Inspire educational program, and to help the School's students master educational standards established by the State of California, including training manuals and courses such as Zoom, PLC templates, CPACE, and Fresno Pacific, and guidance on achievement goals and reporting under LCAP, SARC and CSI.

C. Testing and Assessments: ***IDO*** will assist ***SCHOOL*** in the administration of all ***State*** required testing and other State mandated assessments, including a series of assessments designed to gauge the Student's mastery of core concepts and readiness for the State of California's mandated standardized testing, including identifying and securing testing sites approved by School;

D. Student Records Support: ***IDO*** will maintain and support School's access to and response to requests for ***SCHOOL***'s Student Records in accordance with state, local and federal requirements.

E. Technology: ***IDO*** will provide a comprehensive Computer Technology and IT infrastructure solution to ***SCHOOL*** and its employees which shall include procuring, imaging, delivering, repairing, replacing, warehousing and collection of such Computer Technology, as well as other related comprehensive logistical support services required for delivery of the Inspire educational program licensed to School.

F. Meeting the need of Special Needs Students: ***IDO*** will support ***SCHOOL's*** employees in the development of Special Education Protocols and educational materials for the provision of Special Education Services, consistent with the requirements and policies of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) in which School participates. IDO will assist school in identifying and procuring qualified service providers for students with special education needs. ***SCHOOL*** personnel, together with SELPA and Authorizer representatives, consistent with any agreements which may be in place, shall be responsible for developing an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") for students with identified special needs. All service provider costs will be the sole responsibility of ***SCHOOL.***

G. Instructional Materials: ***IDO*** shall develop curriculum and coordinate the purchase of the curriculum and instructional materials to be used by ***SCHOOL***, as approved by the Board, in order to offer interesting and challenging curricula for the purpose of allowing students to progress as quickly as their capabilities will allow. Materials shall be designed in a language and format that are readily accessible, and students will be allowed to complete course work at their own pace, as the program will be formulated based on the School's initial assessment of the student's skill levels in reading, math and other core courses. School staff and students will also be provided access by IDO to library materials stored, maintained for the use of Inspire schools served by IDO. IDO will track and coordinate inter-School library materials loans. ***SCHOOL*** will be responsible for all Board-approved curriculum and instructional material costs. ***IDO*** shall retain all ownership and copyrights to any curricular material created by ***IDO*** for the use by ***SCHOOL***.

H. Enrichment Services: IDO will maintain a system for ordering and providing risk management review and tracking of vendor contracts and their compliance with School policies, and coordinating Schools' teachers' selection, approval and provision and registration for selected enrichment services and organization of field trips for students.

11. Marketing/Branding: ***IDO*** will provide ***SCHOOL*** the design of all Inspire-branded materials, including promo items, website design, collateral, wearables, print assets including tri-fold brochures, rack cards, newsletters, event fliers, graduation programs, and more, based upon the Board-approved budget and policies. ***IDO*** will establish brand and communication strategies across all channels and promote the brand. ***IDO*** will maintain the ***SCHOOL*** public website that will contain any information required by ***SCHOOL*** and applicable state law. ***IDO*** will review and provide a periodic report to School of all social media properties, which may include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Linkedln and provide refinements to increase traffic. ***IDO*** will coordinate and manage all School-approved third party vendors on behalf of ***SCHOOL***. ***SCHOOL*** will be solely responsible for those third party vendor costs.

12. Community Relationships: ***IDO*** shall coordinate ***SCHOOL***'s community relationships, including with local non-profits, governmental agencies, local businesses and higher education institutions in concert with the Board.

13. Student Enrollment and Information: ***IDO*** will provide and maintain School's enrollment system portal, and serve as the liaison between ***SCHOOL*** and the Student Information System Provider; perform quality data tracking, including but not limited to student data such as attendance, performance, etc.; and, shall coordinate and manage school data as the technology system is developed and maintained. ***IDO*** shall prepare and submit all required State reporting regarding student demographics, etc. ***IDO*** will provide periodic reports on student performance, and assessments of whether educational goals and measurements are being achieved.

14. School Calendar: To the extent necessary or requested by ***SCHOOL***, and consistent with the School's charter and policies, ***IDO*** will assist with the development of calendars suitable for ***SCHOOL***'s purposes, including for funding qualification and maximization.

Attachment B

Mark	Class	Goods/Services	Reg. No.	Reg. Date
	41	Educational services in the nature of charter schools	5467904	May 15, 2018
INSPIRE CHARTER SCHOOLS	41	Educational services in the nature of charter schools	5467903	May 15, 2018
INSPIRATION STATION	41	Providing a website featuring blogs and non-downloadable publications in the nature of articles in the field of homeschooling and education	5545765	Aug. 21, 2018

THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL

BOARD RESOLUTION – 2019 – 2

I. Adoption of The Cottonwood School Employee Higher Education Scholarship

WHEREAS, The Cottonwood School is committed to fostering a more qualified and dynamic work force by providing a scholarship for employees to pursue higher education opportunities through Inspire University.

WHEREAS, the employee who receives the scholarship must work for The Cottonwood School for a minimum of one year after completion of the program.

NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approve one scholarships to cover 50% of each course unit, up to 24 units per year for up to two years. This is a cost of up to $6000 per year per person.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, _____, Secretary of the Board of Directors of The Cottonwood School a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, County of _____, California, hereby certify as follows:

The attached is a full, true, and correct copy of the resolutions duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of The Cottonwood School which was duly and regularly held on _____, 2019, at which meeting all of the members of the Board of Directors had due notice and at which a quorum thereof was present; and at such meeting such resolutions were adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I have carefully compared the same with the original minutes of such meeting on file and of record in my office; the attached resolution is a full, true, and correct copy of the original resolution adopted at such meeting and entered in such minutes; and such resolution has not been amended, modified, or rescinded since the date of its adoption, and the same is now in full force and effect.

WITNESS my hand on _____, 2019.

_____
Secretary of the Board of Directors of
The Cottonwood School