

Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Family Handbook

2026 - 2027



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Section 1: Introduction

Introduction

This document outlines expectations for scholars, parents/guardians, and staff. All scholars are expected to follow the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy Charter Schools Behavior and Discipline Code, in order to support the education process. The following expectations of scholars will establish the habits needed for a successful experience both in HCZ Promise Academy and when they continue to college.

The expectation is that scholars will:

- Attend school every day and arrive on time dressed in full uniform.
- Attend every class, maintain good academic standing, and complete all assignments.
- Maintain a respectful learning environment and use mediation to resolve conflicts.

The culture of our schools is the cornerstone of our success. It is essential that every moment is spent supporting our scholars academically, socially, and emotionally. The HCZ Promise Academy Family Handbook is composed of crucial information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The HCZ Promise Academy Mission Statement
- 2026-2027 Academic Calendar
- Resources for Families
- Attendance Policy
- Emergency Safety Procedures
- Promotional Criteria
- Special Education Guidelines
- Formal Complaint Process
- Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement
- Behavior and Discipline Code (including Restorative Practices)

The HCZ Promise Academy Family Handbook is available online and can be accessed at <https://hczpromise.org/for-parents/>. Families are responsible for reviewing this handbook and becoming familiar with its contents, including the Behavior and Discipline Code.

School/Family/Scholar Agreement

School Commitments

- We will arrive on time for school every day.
- We will provide a mandatory Summer Program for all scholars.
- We will provide a high-quality education the academic, social emotional, and wellness supports necessary to help scholars succeed.
- We will embrace HCZ's values, supporting and respecting every scholar and family.
- We will communicate regularly with parents about their child's progress and make our staff available to our scholars and families.
- Our teachers will assign productive, worthwhile homework to reinforce the skills and concepts learned in class.
- We will always protect the safety of all scholars.
- We will uphold the HCZ Promise Academy Behavior and Discipline Code and use intervention and prevention methods to promote harmony.
- As mandated reporters, school staff may be required to make reports to Child Protective Services or another appropriate child welfare agency when there is reasonable cause to suspect educational neglect or another form of child maltreatment, consistent with applicable law..
- We will have regular parent/guardian-teacher conferences.

Family Commitments

- I will make sure that my child arrives at school on time every day so that they can keep up with the rigorous curriculum.
- I will ensure that my child attends all school days, including the mandatory Summer Program.
- To the best of my ability, I will make sure that I utilize the resources offered by HCZ Promise Academy to ensure my child does well in school.
- My child will read every night, and I will check for homework completion every school night.
- I will be available to speak with teachers and staff about my child. I will maintain a professional, positive, supportive relationship with the school. Parent meetings will include goal setting, and I understand that my suggestions are valuable to my child's success.
- I understand that any inappropriate behavior on my part may result in a meeting with the principal or other senior staff before I am allowed to re-enter the school.
- My child will come to school in a uniform every day.
- I will help maintain a positive school environment by dressing and conducting myself respectfully when visiting HCZ Promise Academy.
- I understand that scholars are not allowed to bring outside food or drinks into the school building.
- I will participate in HCZ Promise Academy school events and activities families are invited to.
- I read the Behavior and Discipline Code and am dedicated to upholding it. I will support the school in its efforts to set high standards for behavior and citizenship.

School/Family/Scholar Agreement

Scholar Commitments

- I will embrace HCZ's values, showing respect for members of the community, scholars, staff, and teachers.
- I will always try my best in school. I will put forth my best effort and I will be supportive of my classmates' learning.
- I will come to school on time every day and stay after school if I need extra support with my work.
- I will wear my school uniform every day.
- I will complete all of my homework and read every night.
- When I do not understand my schoolwork or need extra help, I will advocate for myself by asking questions.
- I understand that honesty is the foundation of building healthy relationships with the people in my life. Therefore, I will strive to be truthful and honest at all times.
- I will not bring outside food or drinks into the school building.
- I will adhere to the cell phone policy by not using it during the school day.
- I have read the Behavior and Discipline Code and am dedicated to following its rules.

Your signature acknowledges that you have received access to the HCZ Promise Academy Family Handbook, and understand that scholars and families are expected to comply with School policies and procedures.

Scholar (Print)

X

Scholar (Signature & Date)

Parent/Legal Guardian (Print)

X

Parent/Legal Guardian (Signature & Date)

Parent/Legal Guardian (Print)

X

Parent/Legal Guardian (Signature & Date)

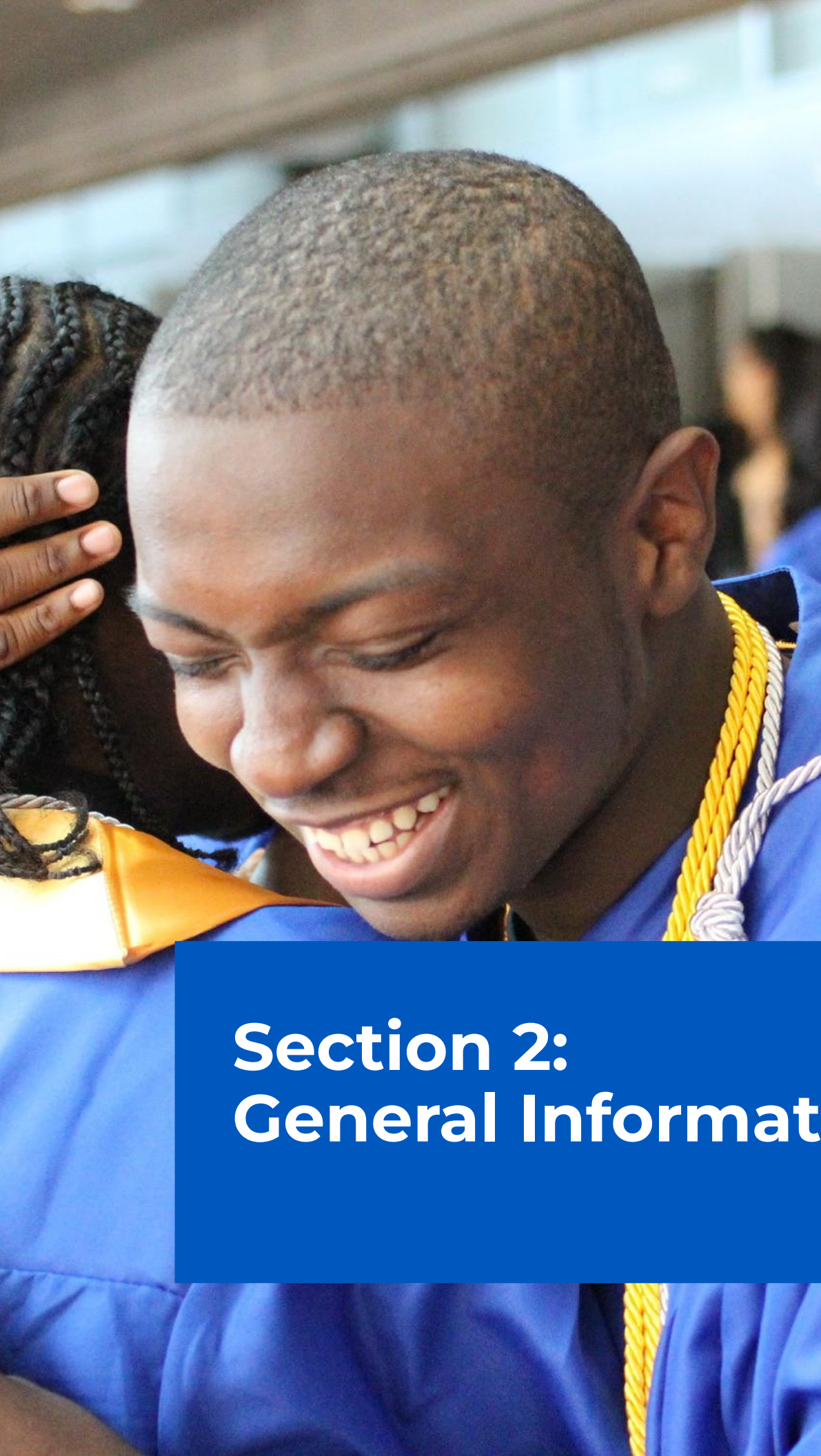
Principal Name (Print)

X

Principal (Signature & Date)

School Name (Example: PAII Middle School)

Grade of Scholar



Section 2: General Information

Section 2: General Information

The mission of the HCZ Promise Academy Charter School is to provide high-quality, standards-based academic programs for students, grades K-12, from underserved communities and underperforming school districts and to provide students with the skills they need to be accepted by and succeed in college. HCZ Promise Academy promotes high achievement in all subjects through a demanding curriculum, extensive supportive services and the use of data-driven teaching methods. HCZ Promise Academy is committed to promoting academic accomplishment, positive character development, healthy lifestyles, and leadership skills. In partnership with the Harlem Children's Zone, HCZ Promise Academy addresses the educational and developmental needs of each scholar.

Additionally, HCZ Promise Academy offers an Extended School Day and a mandatory Summer Program. The academic day is longer than the vast majority of surrounding public schools. Scholars also have the opportunity to participate in afterschool programming. The rigorous academic program and extensive support systems develop mind, body, and character and prepares scholars to attend, excel in, and graduate from college. All scholars are provided with free breakfast and free lunch.



2026-2027

HCZ Promise Academy Calendar (K-12)
THIS CALENDAR IS FOR SCHOLARS & FAMILIES

Sep 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Oct 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Dec 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Feb 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Mar 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Apr 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Jun 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Jul 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Notes

First day of school is September 9 - last day is June 25.

The Promise After School program begins September 22 - last day is June 18.

Juneteenth, Diwali, Rosh Hashanah & Lunar New Year fall on weekends and will not be observed on weekdays in 26-27.

High School scholars participating in Regents preparation and credit recovery attend in August.

Attendance for Extended School Year from July 6 to August 2 is mandatory.

School closed for all Promise (scholars, teachers & staff)		
Sep 7	Labor Day	
Sep 21	Yom Kippur	
Oct 12	Indigenous Peoples' Day	
Nov 26 - 27	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Dec 25	Christmas Day	
Jan 1	New Year's Day	
Jan 18	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Feb 15	President's Day	
Mar 9	Eid al-Fitr	
Mar 26	Good Friday	
May 17	Eid al-Adha	
May 31	Memorial Day	
Jul 5	Independence Day (Observed)	

School closed for scholars and teachers only*		
Dec 24 - Jan 1	Winter Recess	
Feb 15 - 19	Midwinter Recess	
Mar 26 - Apr 2	Spring Recess	
Jun 28 - Jul 2	Summer Intermission	

School closed for scholars only*		
Nov 3	Administration Day	
Nov 11	Superintendent's Day	
Jun 8	Clerical Day	
Jun 10	Chancellor's Day	

Additional dates to consider*		
Sep 22 - Jun 18	HCZ After-School Program Operations	
TBD	GCCC Annual Boo Bash/35 East	
TBD	HCZ Annual Holiday Party	
Jul 6 - Aug 2	HCZ Promise Extended School Year	
TBD	HCZ Annual Summer Games	
TBD	HCZ Summer Camp	
TBD	HCZ Peace March	

Important Dates (school is open)		
Sep 9	26-27 School Year begins	
Sep 22	First Day of HCZ Promise After-School	
Nov 25	3PM Early Dismissal for Scholars	
Feb 12	100th Day of School	
May 3	Teacher Appreciation Day	
May 28	3PM Early Dismissal for Scholars	
Jun 18	HCZ Promise After School ends	
Jun 22	Last Day of School for K-8 Scholars Only	
Jun 23	Moving Up/Graduation for PAIES & PAIMS	
Jun 24	Moving Up/Graduation for PAIES & PAIMS	
Jun 25	Graduation & Last Day for HS Scholars	
Jun 25	Last day of School for All Staff	
Jul 6	First day of Extended School Year	
Aug 2	Last day of Extended School Year	

Testing Dates		
TBD	SATs and PSATs (Grades 10-12)	
Jan 26 - 29	NYS Regents Exams (Grades 8-12)	
Feb 1 - Apr 9	WIDA ACCESS (ELL, Grades K-12)	
Apr 20 - 21, 27 - 28	NYS ELA Exams (Grades 3 - 8)	
May 4 - 7	NYS Math Exams (Grades 3 - 8)	
May 3 - 14	Advanced Placement Testing (Grades 9-12)	
May 11	NYS Science Exams (Grades 5 & 8)	
Jun 15 - 25	NYS Regents Exams (Grades 8 - 12)	
Aug 17 - 18	August Regents Exams (Grades 8 - 12)	

Marking Period Dates		
Sep 9 - Nov 13	Marking Period 1 [44 days]	
Nov 16 - Jan 29	Marking Period 2 [45 days]	
Feb 1 - Apr 16	Marking Period 3 [43 days]	
Apr 19 - Jun 25	Marking Period 4 [43 days]	

HCZ Promise Academy School Directory

HCZ Promise Academy Network

Superintendent

Dr. Saskia Brown
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (646) 582-1200

Central Office

1463 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10035
Main No. (212) 360-3230

Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Shannon Benson
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (646) 582-1200

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Ms. Neisha Evans-Staye
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (646) 582-1200

HCZ Promise Academy I

Elementary (Grades K-5)

Kelly Siddharta, Principal
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (212) 360-3232
Email: PAIES-MainOffice@hczpromise.org

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

LaRen Bierria, Principal
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (212) 360-3233
Email: PAIMS-MainOffice@hczpromise.org

High School (Grades 9-12)

Kevin Dougherty, Principal
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (212) 360-3234
Email: PAIHS-MainOffice@hczpromise.org

HCZ Promise Academy II

Elementary (Grades K-5)

LaKiesha George, Principal
70 East 112th Street
New York, NY 10029
Main No. (212) 360-3236
Email: PAIIES-MainOffice@hczpromise.org

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Dr. Veroniqua Delva, Principal
35 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035
Main No. (212) 360-3237
Email: PAIIMS-MainOffice@hczpromise.org

High School (Grades 9-12)

Shannon Ortiz-Wong, Principal
35 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035
Main No. (212) 360-3238
Email: PAIIHS-MainOffice@hczpromise.org

HCZ Promise Academy After School Directory

HCZ Promise Academy I

HCZ PAI K-12 After School Program

Stacy Quashie, Director
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (646) 582-1200

HCZ Promise Academy II

HCZ PAII K-5 After School Program

Stayon Venture, Assistant Director
70 East 112th Street
New York, NY 10029
Main No. (646) 556-6286

HCZ PAII 6-12 After School Program

Nacirema Nelson, Director
35 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035
Main No. (212) 360-3255

HCZ Early Childhood

Managing Director of Early Childhood

Dr. Saskia Brown
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Main No. (646) 582-1200

Lottery Application and Pre-Kindergarten

Ms. Niya Brown, Administrative Assistant, Pre-K
1463 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10035
Main No. (646) 539-5941



Resources for Families

To succeed in our mission to provide a quality education for children in underserved communities, we must use every resource to ensure we can always give our scholars what they need to excel. The quality of teachers, the wraparound services, and the programs that HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools provide is as crucial to a scholar's academic career as the curriculum.

Early Childhood Services

The Lottery

Tel: (646) 539-5941

The year that your child reaches age three, you can apply for the HCZ Promise Academy kindergarten lottery with our Early Childhood Department. Please call Early Childhood at the telephone number above for more information.

Three-Year-Old Journey

Tel: (212) 665-9832

Three-Year-Old Journey provides lottery winners of HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools with the opportunity to continue to learn, grow, and nurture friendships in the lead up to their admission to the school. For more information, email TYOJ@hcz.org or call the number above.

Harlem Gems

Tel: (646) 539-5941

HCZ's Harlem Gems preschools prepare our youngest scholars to succeed in K-12 and beyond by building a strong academic foundation and starting them on the path to college and career.

Resources for Families

Health Services

Healthy Harlem

Healthy Harlem fosters a culture of health by empowering children, families and community members to take better care of themselves, make thoughtful choices, and establish lifelong healthy habits. For more information, please contact your school's administrative office.

Medical Health

Health Office

HCZ Promise Academy partners with the Institute for Family Health to provide centers at 35 East 125th, 245 West 129th, and 70 East 112th Street, led by nurse practitioners. Medical services provided through the school-based health center (SBHC) are administered by licensed health care professionals employed by or affiliated with the Institute for Family Health. The health clinics and nurses promote optimal student wellness by collaborating with school personnel and families to meet health needs. The nurses provide on-site first aid and make referrals to outside providers for follow-up care when necessary.

The nurses administer medications and treatments to scholars in compliance with state regulations (see "Medication Administration in School" section below). Scholars may receive over-the-counter or prescription medication from the health clinic or nurses **with parental consent and documentation**.

Nurses can assist families in obtaining health care for their school-aged children. The school nurse informs parents without insurance about available programs and services, including Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and dental health services.

SBHC Enrollment and Parental Consent

A signed Parental Consent Form is required for scholars to receive all SBHC services. SBHCs can only provide full comprehensive health care services for enrolled scholars; therefore, it is essential for parents to enroll their child by returning a signed Parental Consent Form to the SBHC. If a scholar is enrolled in an SBHC, they will receive the same care they would get at a doctor's office. The SBHC can help scholars manage their illness(es) at school.

SBHCs provide quality medical care free of charge to scholars regardless of insurance or immigration status. SBHCs do not bill scholars or parents for the care they receive. However, providers bill Medicaid and private insurance agencies as a source of revenue to sustain and expand SBHC services. Therefore, parents must provide the SBHC medical insurance information when enrolling their children. If a child is not insured, the SBHC may be able to help the child and their family obtain free or low-cost public health insurance.

Resources for Families

Medical Health (continued)

Required Health Examinations

New York State requires scholars to have a health examination upon entering school for the first time and when entering pre-kindergarten or kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Families must submit documentation of the required health examination completed by an authorized healthcare provider. Additional health examinations or documentation may be required for participation in interscholastic athletics or in other circumstances required by law or school policy.

Required health examination forms are included in the annual enrollment packet and may also be obtained from the Parent Coordinator, health clinic, or nurse's office.

Immunizations

All scholars must comply with city and state regulations regarding school entry requirements for immunizations. If a student fails to meet the immunization requirements, the school will notify the parent/guardian of missing immunizations. The health clinic can provide immunizations or referrals when needed. In addition, the health clinic or nurses will assist the family in accessing immunization services when needed. Scholars who do not qualify for a medical exemption will be excluded from attendance and only permitted to return once they comply with immunization requirements. Before a child can be enrolled in an HCZ Promise Academy Charter School, the parent must provide proof of immunization. Please contact your school's office for more information.

Medication Administration in School

All HCZ Promise Academy scholars can receive medication under the guidance of the nurse practitioner in the SBHC. If this is not possible, the school nurse will provide the medications in accordance with state law. Prescription medication or treatment, with a label from the pharmacy, must be accompanied by a current Medication Administration Form (MAF) completed by a healthcare provider and signed by the parent/guardian. This form is included in the annual enrollment packet and can be obtained from the health clinic or nurse's office.

Unless ordered as a self-carry/self-administer, all medications are kept in a secure locked cabinet or medication refrigerator in the health clinic or nurse's office.

A scholar may carry and self-administer their own prescribed medication once the health clinic or the nurse has received a corresponding MAF with a request from the healthcare provider and parent. In this case, the parent should supply two containers of medications, one to be carried by the scholar and one for storage in the health clinic or nurse's office. Medication must be provided in the original pharmacy-labeled container.

Scholars cannot bring over-the-counter or prescribed medication to school without an MAF. Scholars who violate this rule will be referred to the principal.

Enrollment in the School-Based Health Center is voluntary and is not required for school enrollment or attendance.

Resources for Families

Medical Health (continued)

Vision Screening

Vision screening will be provided for eligible scholars once per calendar year. If a scholar fails the vision screening, the parent/guardian is responsible for taking the student to the eye doctor for a complete eye exam and eyeglasses. The school will make available a list of resources for free or low-cost eye services in the event that a referral is issued.

Absences Due to Illness

If a scholar is absent from school due to illness, the parent must notify the school's administrative office. If the parent does not contact the school to explain the absence, the administrative office will call the household.

Medical Appointments

Whenever possible, parents/guardians should schedule medical appointments outside of school hours to minimize missed instructional time. **Please do not pick up scholars before the end of the school day.** If you would like to schedule your child for an appointment at the HCZ Promise Academy I SBHC during school hours, please call 347-773-3203. If your child is an HCZ Promise Academy II scholar and you would like to schedule an appointment during school hours, please call 212-360-3278.

Communicable Diseases

HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools follow applicable New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) requirements and guidance regarding communicable diseases. Families should promptly notify the school when a scholar has been diagnosed with a communicable disease that may affect the school community.

When the school becomes aware of a reportable communicable disease, suspected outbreak, or other public-health concern, the school will consult with and/or report the matter to the appropriate health authorities as required. Families will be notified of potential exposure or provided with health information when required or recommended by the NYC Health Department or other applicable public-health authority. Any notification will protect the confidentiality of the affected scholar or staff member.

Medical Records

Medical records maintained by the School-Based Health Center are maintained separately from educational records and are subject to applicable health privacy laws.

Resources for Families

Medical Health (continued)

The Health Program

The health program provides HCZ Promise Academy scholars and families with education and support to promote health and wellness, especially in the areas of emotional and physical development. Considering that NYS protects minors' rights to confidential health services, we believe that parents and caregivers are the first and most important teachers for their children. We encourage both scholars and parents to communicate openly and provide resources to guide these tough conversations.

In the classroom, our educators use evidence-based curricula that is age-appropriate and medically accurate. Our lessons emphasize cultivating self-esteem, building healthy relationships, managing physical and emotional changes, and promoting self-advocacy. For families with older children, we also offer workshops for parents that provide education around puberty, pregnancy, and STI prevention, and strategies to communicate with your child about issues related to sexuality and reproductive health. For more information about our health curriculum, minors' rights to health care, or any other questions about health services, please email emotionalwellness@hcz.org or call 212-281-7000.

E-cigarettes, Vaping, and Smoking

E-cigarette use in New York City is a major health concern. If you would like to know more about the risks of e-cigarettes, please visit the [CDC website](#) for more information. If you believe that your scholar has a vaping or smoking issue and needs support, please contact the social worker of your scholar's school for assistance. As a reminder, social workers will treat your scholars' situation as confidential.

Resources for Families

The Harlem Children's Zone Social Work Team

The Social Work Team partners with HCZ Promise Academy scholars, families, and school staff to support student well-being, remove barriers to learning, and connect families with appropriate resources and services. It is a part of the wraparound services that Harlem Children's Zone provides. Please contact your child's school directly for services.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities of the Social Work Team

- Meet with scholars to provide services under the Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Provide voluntary individual and group counseling and support services, as appropriate and with parental involvement when required.
- Assess high-risk situations and make immediate recommendations and referrals.
- Support and connect families to government resources and free legal services
- Conduct home, agency, and community visits.
- Collaborate with other HCZ programs.
- Consult with school administration/personnel and parents to determine causes of problems and solutions.
- Coordinate services with external providers and link families to appropriate community resources as needed.
- Provide crisis intervention, referrals, and case management services to scholars and families.

Protocol for Referral to Social Work Team

- Counseling: For routine referrals, school staff or parents/guardians can connect with a school administrator or school social worker. School social workers make an assessment. Based on the assessment, Social Workers make recommendations for services.
- Attendance: When attendance concerns arise, the Attendance Team may connect with the School Social Work Team to assess barriers to attendance and connect families with available supports and resources
- CSE: When the Committee on Special Education determines that a child is eligible for IEP-mandated counseling, the Social Work Team is notified and will be involved in the assignment of the counseling role. The Social Work Team is also notified in cases where a court order mandates counseling.

Resources for Families

Scholar Services

College Success Office (CSO)

Tel: (646) 539-5949

CSO provides year-round academic assistance, financial counseling, and civic engagement opportunities to college scholars. The goal is for all scholars to matriculate and graduate from college. Scholars receive HCZ help with academic plans, study strategies, workshops, counseling, financial aid, internships, career readiness activities, and post-graduate opportunities.

HCZ Promise Academy After School Programs / Community Center

HCZ After School and Athletics programs provide enrichment, recreation, academic support, and leadership opportunities for HCZ Promise Academy scholars outside of the regular instructional day. While these programs operate in partnership with HCZ Promise Academy, they are administered by Harlem Children's Zone After School and Athletics staff. Questions regarding After School programming should be directed to the appropriate After School Program Director.

HCZ PAI After School Program K-5

Program Director: Stacy Quashie
Tel: (646) 582-1200 ext. 1000

4 pm - 6 pm, Mon - Thu (K-2)
4 pm - 7 pm, Mon - Thu (3-5)
4 pm - 6 pm, Fridays (K-5)

HCZ PAII After School Program K-5

Program Assistant Director: Stayon Venture
Tel: (646) 556-6286 ext. 1000

4 pm - 6 pm, Mon - Thu (K-2)
4 pm - 7 pm, Mon - Thu (3-5)
4 pm - 6 pm, Fridays (K-5)

HCZ PAI After School Program 6-12

Program Director: Stacy Quashie
Tel: (646) 582-1200 ext. 1000

4 pm - 7 pm, Mon - Thu
4 pm - 6 pm, Fridays

HCZ PAII After School Program 6-12

Program Director: Nacirema Nelson
Tel: (212) 360-3255

4 pm - 7 pm, Mon - Thu
4 pm - 6 pm, Fridays

HCZ Promise Academy After School & Athletics Department

Acting Managing Director: Kevin Dougherty (212) 360-3255 ext. 2440
Athletics Program Director: Charles Sullivan, Tel: (646) 582-1200 ext. 1035

Resources for Families

The After School and Athletics programs provide extended services to HCZ Promise Academy scholars in grades K-12. The various components include enrichment activities in STEM and the arts (visual, literary, and performing), sports and recreation, health and wellness, trips, and civic engagement. The HCZ Community Centers offer free activities to families within the community, which include tax preparation, various fitness classes with access to the fitness room, bingo, and other sessions.

Transportation

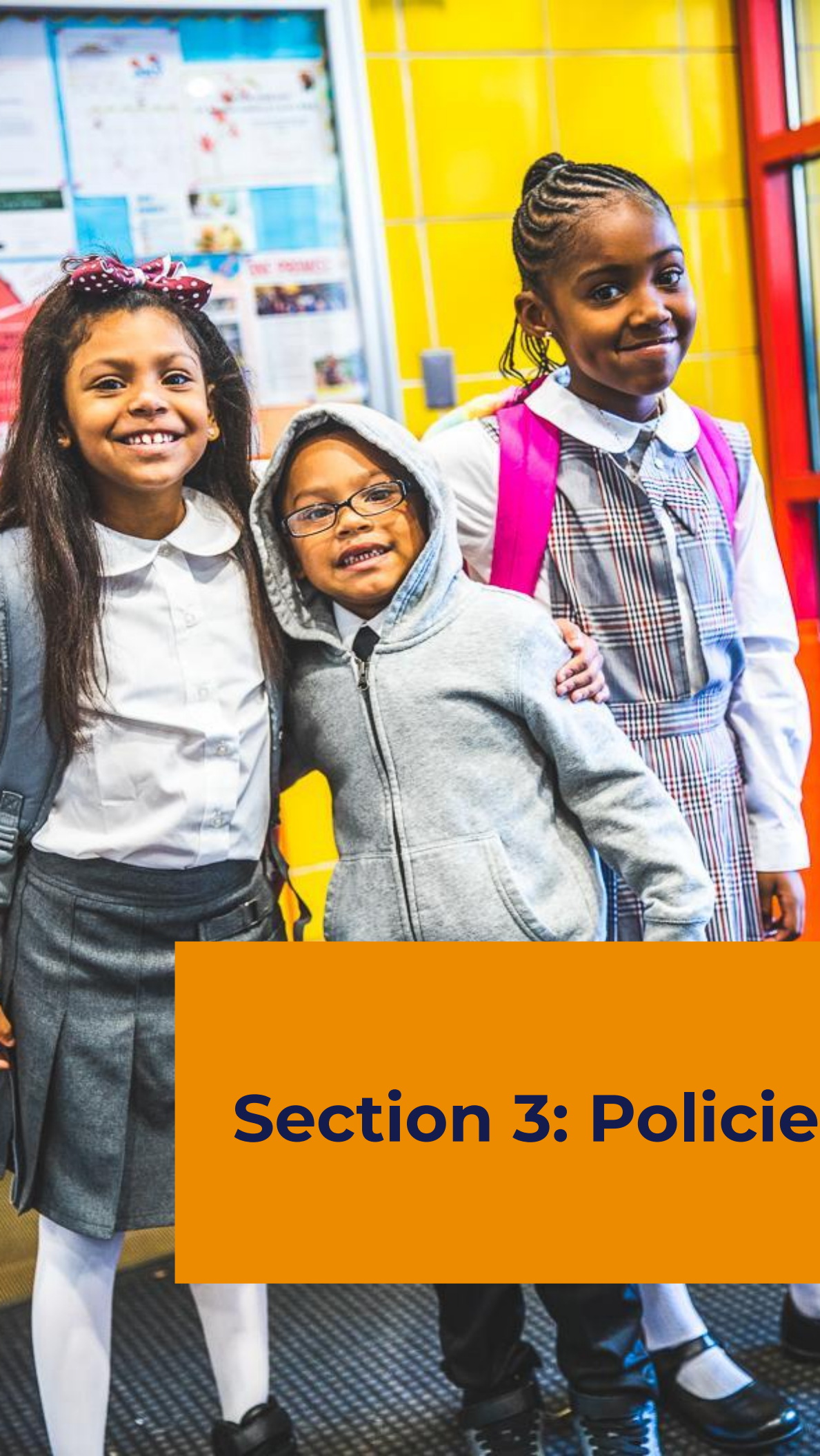
Transportation for eligible scholars is provided by the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and pursuant to DOE transportation policies and requirements. If you believe that your child is eligible for DOE bus service or a MetroCard, please contact your school's administrative office. For more information about eligibility, visit:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-eligibility>

Wealth Builds

(646) 556-6271

Wealth Builds aims to end intergenerational poverty and close the wealth gap by empowering young people and families with the education and resources to build successful financial futures.



Section 3: Policies

Policies

Academic

Promotion Criteria Policy

Several factors, such as assessment data, classwork, homework, and other indicators of academic success, determine whether a scholar has met the criteria for promotion. Elementary scholars must show they have accomplished the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards in their current grade before being promoted to the next grade. HCZ Promise Academy will use multiple measurements to determine grade level academic performance, including report card grades and scores on formal assessments such as i-Ready, and end-of-year assessments.

Those scholars who do not meet benchmark standards or demonstrate adequate progress in achieving grade-level performance or content-area mastery will be examined at greater length. Consideration will be given to evidence that a scholar is catching up (that is, narrowing the performance gap, thereby showing a value-added increase in end-of-year performance) and if the scholar met the content area standards over the course of the year. Other factors used to determine promotion will be social/emotional readiness, progress in ELL interventions, and attainment of IEP goals, if applicable.

Scholars who are making limited academic progress will be given the opportunity to strengthen their skills through small group intervention during the day, in our afterschool program, Saturday Academy, Academic Hour, and during the summer of our Extended School Year. Assessments will be given to assist in making final promotion decisions.

Parents will be notified in a meeting of the decision not to promote their child, where they must acknowledge the decision by signing a parent conference form.

Promotion Criteria for Scholars with Disabilities/IEPs

Promotion Criteria for scholars with IEPs will be treated similarly to their general education peers. Scholars with IEPs in grades 3-8 will be given additional consideration based on the following factors: disability classification, placement setting, reading level, growth demonstrated, IEP goal progress, and assessment data. Final decisions about promotion will be made at the school's discretion.

Policies

Promotion Criteria for Scholars in Elementary Grades K-2

The following criteria will be considered for promoting scholars below grade three. Scholars who do not meet these criteria will be in jeopardy of not being promoted. The ultimate decision to promote a scholar will be at the principal's discretion.

The principal will meet with parents of scholars whose promotion is in doubt, as necessary. If scholars are in danger of being retained, parents will be notified in writing by regular mail during the spring of each school year. In response, parents can appeal by writing to the principal within 15 days of the date on the letter from the school.

Classwork

Scholars must maintain at least a 70% average on all classwork (Level 2) and make minimal effort to participate in class and complete all assignments.

Assessments

Scholars' overall average on assessments must be at least 70% (Level 2), maintained in at least three marking periods in all core subjects. Additionally, scholars must not be more than one level below the i-Ready Benchmark at the end of the school year for their corresponding grade level:

				Areas Graded	Percentage of Grade
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Tests (End-of-Unit, Projects, Performance Tasks, Benchmarks)	40%
0-64%	65-79%	80-89%	90-100%	Quizzes	25%
				Classwork	25%
				Homework	10%

Further Considerations

- If scholars are in danger of being retained, the school's administrative office will notify parents in writing by regular mail. Parents can appeal by writing to the principal within 15 days of the date on the letter.
- If a scholar is not meeting academic standards, other criteria may be considered in making the ultimate decision of whether or not a scholar will be promoted, including behavior.

Policies

Promotion Criteria for Scholars in Elementary and Middle School Grades 3-8:

The following criteria will be considered for promoting scholars in grades 3-8. Scholars who do not meet these criteria will be in jeopardy of not being promoted. The ultimate decision to promote will be at the discretion of the principal.

The principal will meet with parents of scholars whose promotion is in doubt, as necessary. If scholars are in danger of being retained, the school's administrative office will notify parents in writing by regular mail during the spring of each school year. In response, parents can appeal by writing to the principal within 15 days of the date on the letter.

Report Card Grades

Scholars must earn passing grades of 65% in each of the four core subjects (ELA, math, science, and social studies) by the end of the academic year. Scholars must pass at least three of the four core subjects. Grades are determined using the following criteria:

Areas Graded	Percentage of Grade
Tests (End-of-Unit, Projects, Performance Tasks, Benchmarks)	40%
Quizzes	25%
Classwork	25%
Homework	10%

Additionally, scholars in selected grades must not be more than one level below the i-Ready Benchmark for the end of the school year.

NYS Tests

Although a state test score will not be the sole determining factor in promotion decisions, the scores will be used in conjunction with report card grades to determine academic achievement and readiness to succeed in the next grade.

Further Considerations

- If a scholar is not meeting academic standards, other criteria may be considered in deciding whether or not a scholar will be promoted, including behavior.
- Special scoring and appeal options are available for students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs). For more information, contact your school's Special Education Coach..

Policies

Promotion Criteria for Scholars in High School Grades 9-12 is as follows:

9th grade	Successful completion of standards in academic subject areas with a minimum of 8 credits
10th grade	Successful completion of standards in academic subject areas with a minimum of 20 credits that must include 4 in ELA and 4 in Social Studies
11th grade	Successful completion of standards in academic subject areas with a minimum of 30 credits
12th grade	Successful completion of standards in academic subject with a minimum of 44 credits

Credit Requirements for Graduation (minimum of 44 credits)

- 8 in English
- 8 in Social Studies (4 in Global History, 2 in US History, 1 in Economics and 1 in Government)
- 6 in Science (2 in Life Science, 2 in Physical Science, 2 additional in either)
- 6 in Math
- 2 in Language Other Than English (LOTE)
- 2 in Visual Art or Music
- 5 in Health and Physical Education (4 in Physical Education, 1 in Health Education)
- 7 in Elective Areas

Areas Graded	Percentage of Grade
Tests (End-of-Unit, Projects, Performance Tasks, Benchmarks)	40%
Quizzes	25%
Classwork	25%
Homework	10%

Exam Requirement for Graduation: Minimum of 5 exams required

Four required Regents exams: ■ English Language Arts ■ 1 Math ■ 1 History ■ 1 Science	And one more State-Approved exam ■ Additional Regents exams ■ SAT II ■ Advanced Placement (AP) exams ■ International Baccalaureate (IB) exams ■ State-approved CTE exams ■ Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Credential
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Further Considerations

- To earn a credit in any given course, scholars must receive a 65 or higher.
- Some courses have a higher/lower credit weight. (i.e. an AP course or a P.E. credit.)
- Intervention Summer Program and/or summer Regents preparation is required if a scholar is missing and/or failed a core class or a Regents exam.
- Scholars are required to sit for a minimum of 54 hours of instruction. Missed seat time will have to be made up by the scholar for the specific course in which instruction was missed.

Policies

Conduct and Procedure

Anti-bullying Policy / NYS Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

The HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools are committed to ensuring a safe and secure educational environment for all scholars, employees and volunteers that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. Harassment, intimidation or bullying includes any intentional written, verbal, or physical act such as:

- Physically harming a scholar
- Substantially interfering with a scholar's education or student's educational performance or emotional or physical well-being
- Severe, persistent, or pervasive harassment
- Creating an intimidating or threatening environment
- Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school
- Using forms of electronic communication to harass or bully scholars on or off school property

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can occur in person or on the internet and take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral or physical actions. "Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

Under DASA, all scholars in New York public schools are provided with an environment free of discrimination and harassment. The NYS Dignity for All Students Act also promotes civility and creates a safe nurturing environment and provides a response to scholars who are harassed and bullied at school. The NYS Dignity for All Students Act was signed into law September 13, 2010 and has been effective since July 1, 2012.

The Dignity Act protects scholars from harassment, discrimination, or bullying by employees or scholars due to physical, cultural, or even social differences. No scholar shall be subjected to discrimination based on his or her actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender. Cyberbullying is defined as any harassment or bullying by any forms of electronic communication, and include incidents occurring off school property that create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption with the school environment.

Policies

Attendance Policy

The academic school year runs from September through July. The attendance policies below are designed to establish a partnership that will help meet attendance goals and provide your child with the best education possible. Research has shown that good attendance influences student success. At HCZ Promise Academy, it is our mission to ensure that every child goes to college and has the best chance to succeed.

Every effort must be made to ensure that HCZ Promise Academy scholars go to school and arrive on time every day. **All scholars must be in their seats at 8:00AM.** Our curriculum is ambitious; every second of every day is essential for scholars to keep pace. Scholars who are absent frequently simply cannot keep up academically. **Please note that in cases of excessive unexcused absences and lateness, the School may be required to involve the Social Work Team and, when appropriate, make reports to Child Protective Services or another child welfare agency as required by law. In New York State, a parent's failure to ensure their child's prompt and regular attendance in school can be considered a form of education neglect.**

If a scholar is absent, they must make up any exams, quizzes, interim assessments, or other tests the day of the scholar's return. When a scholar has prolonged unexplained absences and the School is unable to establish contact with the family despite reasonable outreach efforts, the School may initiate withdrawal procedures in accordance with applicable enrollment requirements.

Excused Absences

Scholars must bring a note signed by a parent or legal guardian when late or absent. Absence is unexcused except for the following circumstances:

- Religious Observance: a signed parent note must be submitted one week before the holiday.
- Illness: A signed doctor's note must be submitted upon the scholar's first day back from being sick.
- Bereavement: Scholars must bring a signed parent note.

Excusing an absence is at the discretion of the Principal and will be determined based on HCZ Promise Academy policies and regulations.

Policies

Attendance Policy (continued)

Unexcused Absences

The following information is applicable to scholars who are absent and who do not have one of the acceptable excuses listed below and a signed note to support the absence (i.e., doctor's note):

- 5 unexcused adjusted absences will result in a meeting with the Parent(s) and the Educational or Operations Director.
- 10 or more unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the Parent(s), the Principal, and the Central Office and participate in an attendance workshop.
- 15 unexcused absences or more will result in a meeting with the Deputy Superintendent.
- 20 unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the Superintendent.
- 25 unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the CEO.

Unexcused adjusted absences may include accumulated unexcused lateness/early departures as described later in this section. Scholars must not have more than 15 unexcused absences for the entire school year.

Attendance Probation, as defined in the Family Handbook, means that a scholar has 10 or more unexcused absences either adjusted due to lateness or not and/or consecutive or not. Scholars on Attendance Probation may be subject to restrictions on participation in certain extracurricular activities, incentives, trips that are not educationally-based, or privileges as determined by School administration.

- Parents will NOT be able to participate in raffles or receive prizes.
- Scholars will NOT be able to participate in trips that are entertainment-based. (Educational trips will be allowed ONLY).
- Scholars participating in the Promise After-School program will be ineligible for any privileges during after-school hours including stipends, sports, trips and non-academic activities.
- Parents and scholars can be removed from Attendance Probation if:
 - Scholar is on time and in school every day for two weeks consecutively (10 days);
 - Scholar completes all make-up work; and
 - Parents arrive on time for, attend and complete an Attendance Workshop hosted by Central Office.

Home Visits

If a scholar is absent for three consecutive days in which no parent contact with the school has been made, a staff member from your school's administrative office will conduct a home visit to ensure the safety of the scholar.

Policies

Attendance Policy (continued)

Lateness and Early Departures

Scholars must be on time every day and stay in school for the entire day. Scholars, who are late, will have to immediately see the Principal or the Principal's designee before going to class.

Unexcused lateness and early departures will contribute to a scholar's cumulative total absences at a rate of 1/5 of an absence per lateness or early departure. This means that if a scholar is late or picked up early five (5) times without an approved excuse, the scholar will accrue one (1) absence. Please see the list below for circumstances in which lateness may be considered excused:

- Illness accompanied by a doctor's note
- Late yellow school bus
- Official court hearing accompanied by documentation
- Religious observation (previously approved by the Principal)

Note that mass transit bus or subway delays may only be considered a reason for excused lateness at the discretion of the Principal.

Scholars should not be picked up before the end of the school day. If there is an extenuating circumstance and you must pick up your child early, please send a signed note with your child that includes the time and date you will be picking up your child. Parents must call the school so that the main office can coordinate the pickup. Picking up your child early results in scholars missing lessons and therefore may cause your child to fall behind. Continuous early pickups without notice and/or a legitimate reason of extenuating circumstances will be treated similarly as a lateness and result in accrued absence.

Pickup/Release

Scholars are only allowed to be picked up by a guardian who is listed on the school's internal system. To add an appropriate guardian to your child's list, please contact the parent coordinator of your child's school. The authorized adult picking up a scholar may be asked to show a picture ID (driver's license, passport, etc) for verification purposes.

Scholars are only independently released from school if a parent or guardian fills out the appropriate form (contact your school's parent coordinator to obtain the form). Independent scholars, however, are not released before regular dismissal times unless picked up by an adult age 18 or older, who is listed with the school appropriately.

Policies

Attendance Policy (continued)

Family Vacation

All family vacations should be taken during school breaks. Scholars should not take vacation while school is in session, including in July when school is also mandatory.

Child Safeguarding and Crisis Intervention

HCZ Promise Academy is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all scholars. School staff utilize a variety of preventative, restorative, social-emotional, and behavioral supports designed to help scholars regulate their behavior and resolve conflicts safely.

In rare circumstances, a scholar's behavior may present an immediate risk of serious physical harm to themselves or others. When this occurs, trained staff may use approved crisis prevention and physical intervention techniques as a last resort and only when necessary to protect the safety of scholars, staff, or members of the school community.

HCZ Promise Academy utilizes approved crisis intervention training programs, including Handle With Care (HWC), or other approved methodologies consistent with applicable law and New York State regulations. Physical intervention is never used as punishment, discipline, retaliation, coercion, or staff convenience. School staff are expected to use de-escalation strategies and the least restrictive intervention appropriate to the situation whenever possible.

Parents or guardians will be notified of incidents involving physical intervention in accordance with School policy and applicable law. All incidents are documented, reviewed by school leadership, and handled in a manner that prioritizes scholar safety, dignity, and well-being.

Dismissal Policy

At Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy, the safety of our scholars is our highest priority. To ensure that every scholar is dismissed safely at the end of the school day, we follow the guidelines below:

Authorized Pick-Up

- Any parent, guardian, or adult who wishes to pick up a scholar from school must be listed as an authorized contact in the school's student information system..
- To add or update an authorized contact, please reach out to the Parent Coordinator at your scholar's school.
- All adults picking up a scholar must have a valid photo ID (such as a driver's license or passport) for verification.

Policies

Dismissal Policy (continued)

Independent Scholars

An independent scholar is a scholar whose parent or guardian has granted written permission for them to travel home unaccompanied at regular dismissal time.

- Parents/guardians must complete and submit the school's [Dismissal Form](#) (available from the Parent Coordinator) to request independent scholar status.
- While not prohibited by law, we strongly recommend that scholars under 12 not travel home from school without an authorized adult. If your scholar is younger than 12 but has a unique circumstance that you believe makes it acceptable for them to travel home independently, please contact your school's main office to discuss available supports.
- Independent scholars will not be **released early** unless accompanied by an authorized adult (18 years or older) who is listed on the scholar's file and presents a valid photo ID.

Please note: Once an independent scholar leaves school grounds, HCZ Promise Academy cannot assume responsibility for incidents that may occur during their travel home.

Dependent Scholars

A dependent scholar is a scholar who must be released directly to an authorized adult at dismissal.

- Dependent scholars will only be released to adults listed in the school's student information system.
- To update or add an authorized adult to your scholar's file, please contact the Parent Coordinator of your scholar's school.
- All authorized adults must present a valid photo ID and sign scholars out at the time of pick-up.

This policy is in place to protect all scholars and ensure they are released only to known and trusted individuals. **No exceptions will be made without prior written authorization from a parent or guardian on file.**

Policies

Dress Code

Parents, guardians, visitors, staff, and scholars are expected to dress in a manner that supports a safe and respectful educational environment when on school premises.

When entering an HCZ Promise Academy building or grounds, appropriate dress is mandatory. Clothing that substantially exposes undergarments or private body areas, including sagging pants worn below the waist, sleepwear, excessively revealing clothing, or footwear that creates a safety concern (such as flip-flops), is not permitted while visiting School property.

Scholar Uniform Requirement

Scholars must wear a full HCZ Promise Academy uniform every day. Parents of scholars who are out of uniform will be contacted to ensure that the scholar follows the HCZ Promise Academy dress code. Head coverings may not be worn during the school day except for religious, medical, or other School-approved purposes. Scholars must wear their pants at their waist; sagging pants worn below the waist is not allowed. Scholars are not allowed to wear multi-colored footwear.

Drug Policy

HCZ Promise Academy does not allow controlled substances or drug paraphernalia on school grounds or buses. If a scholar has a drug abuse problem, HCZ Promise Academy will use intervention and rehabilitative services to work with families and their scholars. Action steps to address drug possession or use on school grounds are as follows:

- First Offense: Items will be confiscated and held by the safety team. The scholar's parent or guardian must meet with a school leader to talk about the incident, the impact of drug use, and resources for drug counseling through HCZ's social work team.
- Second Offense: Disciplinary action steps outlined in the first offense are applicable. Additionally, scholars will receive a two-to three-day out-of-school suspension.
- Third Offense: Disciplinary action steps outlined in the first offense are applicable. Additionally, scholars will receive a five-day out-of-school suspension and will meet with the superintendent.

Please be aware that HCZ Promise Academy reserves the right to conduct locker searches as a safety precaution. For more information, please see our Locker and Scholar's Property Search Policy later in this section.

Policies

Emergency Safety Procedures

HCZ Promise Academy has adopted a General Response Protocol (GRP) to provide schools with the procedures they will undertake if an emergency incident occurs.

HCZ Promise Academy follows a carefully developed safety plan and has a full Building Response Team (BRT) to handle emergencies and initiate lockdowns, at which time parent cooperation is greatly appreciated. During a lockdown, HCZ Promise Academy school staff and local officials (when needed) are working together to keep everyone safe. The school's first priority is to the safety and well-being of its scholars. We ask that parents remain patient and please refrain from calling or coming to the school campuses, since all movement may need to stop and no one is allowed to enter or exit the building while school staff members are responding to an emergency.

Occasionally, we may need to issue a lockdown to address an incident specific to a child, in which ONLY that parent would be contacted. If there is imminent danger that jeopardizes the school community, all parents will be notified once the authorities have given the all clear.

Again, please refrain from calling. However, if you need to contact someone in case of an emergency and/or lockdown, please contact your child's school in the next table:

Policies

Emergency Safety Procedures (continued)

AFTER 4PM, ASK FOR THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM				
HCZ Promise Academy I - 245 West 129th Street				
Grades	First Contact	Bldg. Tel. No.	Principal's Name	Contact No.
PAIES (K-5)	212-360-3232	646-582-1200	Kelly Siddharta	332-999-5531
PAIMS (6-8)	212-360-3233	646-582-1200	LaRen Bierria	929-436-5434
PAIES (9-12)	212-360-3234	646-582-1200	Kevin Dougherty	917-565-2571
HCZ Promise Academy II - 70 East 112th Street				
Grades	First Contact	Bldg. Tel. No.	Principal's Name	Contact No.
PAIIES (K-5)	212-360-3236	646-490-1327	LaKiesha George	929-448-8495
HCZ Promise Academy II - 35 East 125th Street				
Grades	First Contact	Bldg. Tel. No.	Principal's Name	Contact No.
PAIIMS (6-8)	212-360-3237	212-360-3255	Dr. Veroniqua Delva	347-852-0385
PAIIHS (9-12)	212-360-3238	212-360-3255	Shannon Ortiz-Wong	646-588-9885

If you are unable to reach anyone listed above, you may contact Central Office at 212-360-3230. The following procedures apply to all HCZ Promise Academy buildings including:

- 245 West 129th Street
- 70 East 112th Street
- 35 East 125th Street

Policies

Emergency Safety Procedures (continued)

Soft Lockdown / Hard Lockdown

When the following announcement is made on the public address system: "Attention, this is a soft/hard lockdown," this means there is a possible threat (soft lockdown) or an imminent threat (hard lockdown) within the building. Scholars are expected to respond to all commands made by teachers or staff members. Anyone in the hallway should quickly duck into the nearest classroom and:

- turn off lights and lock door;
- move away from the line of sight, make sure they can't be seen by anyone if someone in the hallway looks through the window of the classroom door; and
- maintain silence.

If someone is in the restroom or another room besides a classroom, that person should:

- turn off the lights and lock door;
- move away from the line of sight; and
- maintain silence.

In a **soft lockdown**, the BRT should be the only people moving in the hallways. In a **hard lockdown**, everyone in the building should be:

- turning off lights and locking doors in their respective areas;
- moving away from the line of sight (hiding under desk, etc); and
- maintaining silence.

These protocols should be in effect until the "All Clear" is given over the public address system.

Shelter-in

When the following announcement is made on the public address system: "Attention, this is a Shelter-In," this means there is a possible threat or an imminent threat outside of the building. Security personnel will immediately lock all exit doors. When first responders arrive, they will provide direction and assistance to school officials. Teachers, students and staff will be unable to leave the building until the "All Clear" has been given over the public address system.

Evacuate

When the following announcement is made on the public address system: "Attention, this is a Shelter-In," this means there is a possible threat or an imminent threat outside of the building. Security personnel will immediately lock all exit doors. When first responders arrive, they will provide direction and assistance to school officials. Teachers, scholars and staff will be unable to leave the building until the "All Clear" has been given over the public address system.

Policies

Emergency Safety Procedures (continued)

Teachers will:

- grab the emergency backpack that can be found in each classroom;
- lead scholars to evacuation location and take attendance; and
- notify staff if there are missing, extra, or injured scholars using your red and green cards from the emergency backpack.

Scholars will:

- leave belongings behind;
- form an orderly line;
- remain silent and listen for additional instructions; and
- go to the assigned location with their class.

In the event of fire or smoke, personnel may instruct scholars and staff members to hold the hands of the person in front and behind them, cover their heads, or crawl on the floor. No staff member or scholar should re-enter the building until the “All Clear” is given over the public address system.

Hold

When the following announcement is made on the public address system: “Attention, this is a Hold” this means that all hallways need to be kept clear, even during classroom changes.

Teachers will:

- close and lock the classroom/office door
- report the names of any scholars who are currently out of the classroom
- continue instruction as usual, if safe to do so

Scholars will:

- clear the hallways and remain their room or area until the “All Clear” is announced.
- continue instruction as usual, if safe to do so

The BRT and School Safety Agents will address the issue and conduct a building sweep. Anyone found in restrooms, hallways, stairwells, or the lobby will be taken to a designated area until the “All Clear” announcement is made.

Drills and Trainings

In order to ensure that scholars and staff members are prepared for emergencies, HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools conduct emergency drills and trainings throughout the year in compliance with NYS policies. All drills and training are conducted in a trauma-informed, developmentally, and age appropriate manner. HCZ Promise-wide drills and trainings are as follows:

- HCZ Promise Academy conducts 12 fire drills each school year, with eight of those occurring between September and December.
- HCZ Promise Academy conducts one emergency dismissal drill to test emergency response procedures that require early dismissal. Early dismissal drills will occur 15 minutes before the normal student dismissal time. Parents and legal guardians will be notified at least one week before the early dismissal drill occurs.
- HCZ Promise Academy conducts three bus drills each school year between September and June.

Policies

Extended Learning Policy

Purpose

HCZ Promise Academy is committed to providing an extended learning environment that fosters academic achievement and social-emotional growth for all scholars. Recognizing that prolonged breaks can hinder academic progress, HCZ Promise Academy implements mandatory Extended School Days and an Extended School Year to ensure continuous skill development, intervention, and enrichment opportunities aligned with our rigorous curriculum.

Extended School Year (ESY) Policy

- **Scope and Duration:** The academic calendar at HCZ Promise Academy runs from September 9, 2026, through August 2, 2027. Select high school scholars may also be required to attend sessions in August for Regents Exam preparation and credit recovery.
- **Mandatory Participation:** Attendance in the Extended School Year (ESY) program is mandatory for all enrolled scholars at every grade level. Failure to attend may lead to scholars not meeting academic requirements for grade promotion and corrective action, including possible retention and potential risk to the scholar's continued enrollment.

External Summer Programming

- **Eligibility for External Programs:** Scholars who have satisfied all promotion requirements may be eligible to participate in approved external summer learning programs as an alternative to the ESY.
- **Approval Process:** Parents or guardians requesting an exemption from ESY must submit a written request to the Superintendent by the designated spring deadline. The request must include detailed documentation outlining the external program's educational content, duration, and how it aligns with HCZ's Promise Academy academic standards. Exemptions will only be considered for enrollment in academic or enrichment programs; requests based on vacation or travel will not be approved. Supporting documentation is required for all exemption requests.
- **Review and Notification:** The Superintendent will review all exemption requests and respond with a formal decision by June 11, 2027.

Policy Commitment

This policy underscores HCZ Promise Academy's dedication to providing scholars with the necessary time, support, and resources to succeed academically and socially. We appreciate the partnership of families in maintaining high standards for extended learning participation.

Policies

Field Trips

Field trips are an excellent way to expose scholars to learning outside of the classroom. We encourage parents and families to volunteer as chaperones. Please note that school rules apply during field trips and it is our goal that all adults on the trip enforce the HCZ Promise Academy Charter School's Behavior and Discipline Code. Scholars will only be allowed to attend end-of-year field trips if they have completed all required schoolwork and assignments.

Food Policy

We are committed to feeding scholars a balanced diet that helps them succeed in their schoolwork and stay healthy. We are also committed to teaching our community to eat healthfully. Please note that scholars may not bring outside food or beverages into our school buildings. Scholars are only exempt from our food policy if there is a medical reason from a licensed healthcare provider. Parents or guardians requesting a dietary accommodation must provide appropriate medical documentation from a licensed healthcare provider. The School reserves the right to verify medical documentation submitted in support of a dietary accommodation request and may request additional information when necessary to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the scholar. Once approved by the principal of your scholar's school, any food brought in by your scholar due to a medical accommodation must adhere to healthy eating standards. Additionally, if your child has allergies, that information will be listed with our school-based health centers to keep your child safe.

If your scholar is having difficulty adjusting to meals provided by HCZ Promise Academy, please contact your child's principal to arrange a meeting with our Director of Food Services. Scholars are not allowed to have individual birthday parties at school. However, principals may choose to have celebrations periodically and will determine the types of food that will be permitted.



Policies

Formal Complaint Process

Step 1: Familiarize yourself with the school's guidelines and contact the school's leadership.

Begin by contacting school leadership to try to resolve any violations, issues or complaints. Before doing so, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the school's policies, guidelines, and reference materials. Such items include but are not limited to the family handbook including the behavior discipline code, dress code, and school-issued memorandums. Determine whether or not the school's actions related to your complaint fall within the school's policies. Certain complaints, including those involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or student safety concerns, may be subject to separate investigation procedures and reporting requirements.

Step 2: Appeal to the school's Board of Trustees.

If after contacting the school's leadership you are not satisfied with the outcome or decision pertaining to the complaint, you may appeal to the school's Board of Trustees. Parents are encouraged to contact the Central Office at 212-360-3230 or at appeals@hczpromise.org

Step 3: Appeal to the school's authorizer.

If after your appeal you are not satisfied with the Board of Trustees' decision, and if your complaint involves a violation of either the school's policies or its charter, you may submit a formal complaint to the NYC Department of Education.

Fill out the NYC DOE-Authorized Charter School Complaint Form, which can be found on the NYC DOE website at schools.nyc.gov and email it to charteroversight@schools.nyc.gov

It is very important that **before** you escalate your complaint to the school's authorizer level you determine if it constitutes a formal complaint involving a violation of the school's charter or of state charter law. **Informal complaints that do not violate either the school's charter or state charter law should be resolved between the parent and the school's principal.**

Step 4: Appeal to the NYS Board of Regents.

If after going through the first three levels of the complaint escalation process you are still not satisfied with the complaint outcome, you may contact the NYS Board of Regents as a final escalation point using this contact information:

New York State Education Department
Charter School Office
Room 465 EBA
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
Phone: (518) 474-1762

Or via email to:
charterschools@nysed.gov

Policies

Formal Complaint Process (continued)

Additional Formal Complaint Procedures for Students with Disabilities/IEPs

Under the NYS Education Department 34 §300.508, you may file a due process complaint on any matter relating to a proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation or educational placement of your child, or the provision Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to your child.

504 Grievance Process

If a child has been deemed ineligible for 504 accommodations, the parent(s) have the right to appeal for a review of the decision made by the Section 504 Coordinator, who in the case of HCZ Promise Academy is the Special Education Site Coordinator. Parents have 10 days of receiving a negative decision to appeal.

Parents, who believe their child's rights under Section 504 are being violated, may ask for a Section 504 Impartial Due Process Hearing. The hearing is a formal process during which parents will be able to contest the school's decision. Parents have a right to bring an attorney or advocate, to represent them. Your complaint will be decided by an impartial hearing officer.

To Request an Impartial Hearing

You can request a hearing in writing by mailing a letter that includes:

- Your scholar's full name and the address where they live
- Your scholar's Student ID number
- Your scholar's birth date
- The name of your scholar's school
- Your name and contact information, including email
- Your description of the problem, with as many facts as you know.
- The solution you want the NYC DOE to provide.

Make two copies of your letter. Send the original to:

Impartial Hearing Office
131 Livingston Street, Room 201
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 935-3280
Fax #: (718) 391-6181
Email: IHOQuest@schools.nyc.gov

Policies

Locker and Scholar's Property Search Policy

To ensure the safety of our scholars and school community, HCZ Promise Academy Charter School staff may search scholars, their personal effects, lockers, desks, and other school units may be conducted based on reasonable suspicion that a scholar possesses prohibited, illegal, dangerous, or school-rule-violating items.

Searches of Scholars and Their Belongings

Searches of scholars and their personal belongings may be conducted when school officials have reasonable suspicion that a scholar possesses prohibited or dangerous items. School-owned property, including lockers, desks, and other school storage areas, may be inspected by school administrators at any time. School officials may conduct searches on campus and during off-campus school activities that are organized at school and administered by school employees.

Search of Lockers or School Property

All scholars will be issued lockers in which to keep school-related materials. All lockers, locks, combinations, and/or keys are the property of the school; scholars are not to put personal locks on their hall lockers. Lockers may not be used for the storage of any materials, the possession of which violates the law or the HCZ Promise Academy Behavior and Discipline Code. It is the scholar's responsibility not to share lockers or leave lockers unsecured or store any items of any other students.

Lockers are provided for scholar convenience, but are the property of the School. Scholars have no expectation of privacy for anything contained in lockers. The School reserves the right of school administrators to conduct random and periodic inspections of lockers for any reason at any time without notice, without scholar consent, and without a search warrant.

Additionally, we will continue to carry out random locker checks to remove any prohibited items from our school. If we suspect a scholar may be in possession of a prohibited item, we will promptly locate the scholar, notify their parent or guardian when appropriate, search for the item, and, if found, confiscate it. We will also assess any potential risks it may pose to our school community. Please note, some prohibited items may be returned to a parent or guardian at the school's discretion. However, items such as drugs, paraphernalia, or weapons will not be returned, and in some cases, we may involve the New York Police Department.

Policies

Media Policy

At the time of intake, parents have the opportunity to consent to HCZ's use of their child's image. The specific language is as follows:

I understand that for educational and/or promotional purposes, HCZ may, unless I have not given consent or withdrawn consent, to record, film, and/or photograph the programs in which I, my child(ren), and/or my family members are taking part. This includes recordings of Zoom or virtual programming or classes. I understand that these recordings may be used for educational or promotional materials that may be distributed through various media, including print, television, and on-line.

Parent Engagement Policy

Fostering ongoing family support and participation in the educational process is fundamental to the mission. We believe effective communication is key to our scholars' progress; therefore, we communicate about academic progress in many different ways, including phone calls, on-line through the Parent Portal, and parent-teacher conferences.

Vision

Research shows that parent involvement in school supports children's emotional, social, and academic development. There are many ways that parents can be involved. Below are four examples of the roles that parents can play:

- Parents as Teachers: Helping children at home
- Parents as Supporters: Contributing their skills to the school
- Parents as Advocates: Helping children receive fair treatment
- Parents as Decision-Makers: Participating in joint problem-solving with the school

Fulfilling the Vision of Parent Engagement

We offer workshops throughout the school year and organize special events to honor our families. We welcome all of our families into our buildings and encourage families to participate in school activities.

Parent Engagement Action Plan

Each parent who has a child in HCZ Promise Academy is automatically a member of the Parents As Partners Association (PAPA), a group managed by a parent association board, which works with the principals, staff and the HCZ Promise Academy Board of Trustees to build an effective partnership between home and school. A PAPA board of trustees is elected every school year and occurs in September. If you would like to participate in PAPA or are interested in being part of the board, please contact your school's parent coordinator.

Parent representatives also sit on the HCZ Promise Academy I and II Board of Trustees in order to ensure that the voices and perspectives of families are being considered.

Policies

Parent and Guardian Visits During the School Day

HCZ Promise Academy recognizes the important role that parents and guardians play in their children's education and strives to support meaningful family engagement. To ensure that instructional time is protected and disruptions to learning are minimized, parents, guardians, and other authorized individuals who wish to visit or meet with a scholar during the school day should coordinate such requests through the Main Office or school administration.

The School will make reasonable efforts to accommodate parent and guardian requests while balancing the educational needs of all scholars. Visits or meetings may be scheduled at a time and in a manner that minimizes disruption to instruction, student assessments, counseling sessions, related services, or other educational activities.

Where custody or visitation issues exist, the School will follow applicable court orders and legal documentation provided to the School. Absent a court order restricting access, the School does not determine or enforce private custody or visitation agreements. However, the School reserves the right to establish reasonable procedures regarding the timing, location, and manner of parent or guardian visits in order to maintain a safe and orderly educational environment.

Parent Expectations

Parents are expected to maintain a professional, positive, and supportive relationship with the school. Any type of inappropriate behavior on the part of a parent may result in a meeting with the Principal and/or the Superintendent before permission to re-enter the school is granted.

Personal Device Policy

To promote safety, minimize distractions, and maximize instructional time, scholars are not permitted to have personal electronic devices on their person during the school day. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, smart watches (e.g. Apple Watch), tablets (e.g., iPad), earbuds (e.g., AirPods), and laptops (e.g., MacBook).

If scholars bring personal electronic devices to school, those items will be held until a parent comes to retrieve them. Scholars must check in their phones and smartwatches upon arrival at school to be secured by school administrators.

Policies

Personal Device Policy (continued)

As mentioned in the Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement referenced in this handbook, school-based technology must be used by scholars for educational purposes only. Scholars may not use personal electronic devices to photograph, video record, or audio record other individuals on School property or during School-sponsored activities without authorization.

Possession of a personal device during the school day is not permitted, and scholars are expected to surrender devices upon request. Personal devices will be collected each morning by designated staff members and stored securely. At the end of the school day, devices will be redistributed to scholars, unless the device has been confiscated. Scholars are expected to immediately surrender any personal electronic device upon request by School staff. Refusal to comply with this policy will result in the following consequences:

Personal devices will be collected each morning by designated staff members and stored securely. At the end of the school day, devices will be redistributed to scholars, unless the device has been confiscated. If a scholar is found with a personal electronic device on their person during the day, they will face the following consequences:

First Offense:

- Confiscation of the personal device(s), lunch detention, and parent/guardian retrieval of the device(s) between 8 AM and 4 PM.

Second Offense:

- Confiscation of the personal device(s), after-school detention, and parent/guardian retrieval of the device(s) between 8 AM and 4 PM.

Third Offense:

- Confiscation of the personal device(s), parent/guardian retrieval of the device(s) between 8 AM and 4 PM, after-school detention, and a mandatory parent meeting.

Scholar Transfer Policy

Parents/guardians who wish to transfer their children to a different school must fill out discharge papers with the administrative office of their child's school. When a parent or guardian withdraws a scholar from HCZ Promise Academy, the school ensures the timely transfer of any necessary school records to the scholar's new school upon request.

Policies

Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement

We are very pleased to be able to offer various technological services to scholars at HCZ Promise Academy. Technology offers vast educational resources, but also has the potential to be used in inappropriate and potentially harmful ways. It shall be the responsibility of all HCZ Promise Academy professional employees to supervise and educate scholars about proper usage of the school district's computers, computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.

To enhance individualized instruction and academic growth, scholars will also be provided with access to district-approved educational software, adaptive learning platforms, and digital assessment tools. These platforms are vetted for data safety, compliance with applicable laws (including NYS Ed Law 2-d, FERPA, and COPPA) and are used to support instruction and learning.

Supervision and Filtering

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual and textual depictions of material deemed obscene or harmful to minors.

Internet - Terms and Conditions

The purpose of Internet access is to support research and education by providing access to unique resources. The use of this access must be for educational purposes only.

- Privileges - The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use can result in a cancellation of those privileges.
- Network Etiquette - Users are expected to follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Use best judgment at all times. Behavior on the Internet is an extension of behavior in and out of the classroom.
 - Do not attempt to insult, defame, threaten, embarrass, or in any way harm others directly or indirectly. Cases of cyber-bullying are taken seriously at HCZ Promise Academy, and will be treated in accordance with the HCZ Promise Academy Behavior and Discipline Policy.
 - Use appropriate language.

Policies

Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

- Do not make any changes to computer programs or setups on computers.
- Do not attempt to bypass network filters or gain access to protected content without proper permission.
- Do not attempt to access any accounts that do not belong to you.
- Do not give out one's own or someone else's personal information such as last name, address or phone number.
- Scholars will tell their teacher or other school employee about any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Google Workspace Policy

HCZ Promise Academy is pleased to announce that all scholars will be provided with Google Workspace (formerly G-Suite and Google Apps for Education) accounts. Google Workspace includes web-based programs such as email, document creation tools, shared calendars, and collaboration tools. These tools enhance the way teachers communicate and collect assignments, and improve our level of digital literacy needed for college and career readiness. Emails for grades eight and under will be restricted to internal use only, meaning that scholars will only be able to send/receive emails with staff members and other scholars. These emails will be monitored for potentially offensive content, as student safety is our highest priority.

- Privileges: Access to Google Workspace is considered a privilege accorded at the discretion of the school. The school maintains the right to immediately withdraw the access and use of Google Workspace when there is reason to believe that violations of law or HCZ Promise Academy policies have occurred. In such cases, the alleged violation will be referred to the school Principal for further investigation and account restoration, suspension, or termination. As a party of the Agreement with Google, the school also reserves the right to immediately suspend any user account suspected of inappropriate use.
- Privacy: School staff have access to student email for monitoring purposes. Scholars should have no expectation of privacy on the Google Workspace system.
- Safety: Scholars are responsible for the use of their individual accounts and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their account. Scholars will never publicly post personal information about another student, such as last names or contact information. Under no conditions should a user provide passwords to another person. See: Internet - Terms and Conditions (above).

Policies

Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement (continued)

Device Policy

Some scholars may be provided with an electronic device, such as a laptop or tablet, to facilitate the use of educational technology in and out of the classroom.

- Privileges: The device is the property of the Harlem Children's Zone. The device and all its accessories will be returned to HCZ upon a student's discharge or upon request from school personnel.
- Proper use: The device will be treated with care, and used for educational purposes only. Scholars who accept responsibility for a device will take the utmost precautions to prevent loss or damage, accidental or intentional, to the device at all times.
 - If the device has a protective case, it will remain in the case at all times.
 - Any attempts to "root" the device, install malicious applications, or alter settings that may compromise the device's performance or security will result in loss of privileges.
 - Vandalism, which includes attempts to damage a computer's hardware, will result in loss of privileges.
 - In the event that a device is permitted to be used beyond the classroom, the device will be transported safely and securely. It is unsafe to display mobile electronic devices on public transportation systems or in the streets.
 - When not needed for use, the device will be safely placed in its designated classroom cabinet.
 - HCZ uses device-tracking software and will fully investigate any cases of suspected theft, which may include the solicitation of law enforcement personnel. In the event that a student learns of a lost or stolen device, they will inform HCZ staff immediately.
 - Please note that scholars should not share devices designated to them with anyone else

Temporary Removal from the Classroom for Reset

To support scholar self-regulation and maintain a safe learning environment, school staff may temporarily remove a scholar from a classroom setting when necessary to de-escalate a situation, provide behavioral support, or allow the scholar an opportunity to regain control. Such temporary removals are intended to be supportive interventions and are not considered suspensions.

Temporary removals for reset purposes are generally brief in duration and may include restorative conversations, reflection activities, counseling support, or other interventions designed to help the scholar successfully return to instruction. The School will continue to monitor the use of temporary removals to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Policies

Support Policies

Data Privacy

New York State Education Law § 2-d protects the privacy and security of student, teacher, and principal data. HCZ Promise Academy maintains a Data Privacy and Security Policy describing the safeguards we use to protect personally identifiable information and our obligations regarding the collection, use, disclosure, and security of such information. Our Data Privacy and Security Policy and related data privacy information are available on the HCZ Promise Academy [website](#).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of scholar education records. The HCZ Promise Academy annual FERPA notification can be found [here](#).



Policies

Displaced Scholar Policy

The federal McKinney Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- living in hotels, motels, or camping grounds; or
- living in emergency or transitional shelters, or abandoned in hospitals.

Before each new school year begins, your child's school will send Residency Questionnaires to all scholar households. The deadline to return them will be determined by your child's school. Documentation of the school's efforts to identify homeless children and youth along with the parent's response is maintained on file. Additionally, we include residency questions on the scholar contact form that we ask parents/guardians to update any time there is a change in contact details or authorized pickups.

In some instances, families are reluctant to share their housing status. Please note, we only collect this information on housing status to better serve the child. Once we learn that a scholar is homeless as defined by the McKinney Vento Act, we provide services that children are eligible for including transportation, free school meals, counseling if needed, and free after school services, which we also provide for all children at HCZ Promise Academy. Additionally, we offer limited services to the parent/guardian of the homeless scholar.

Policies

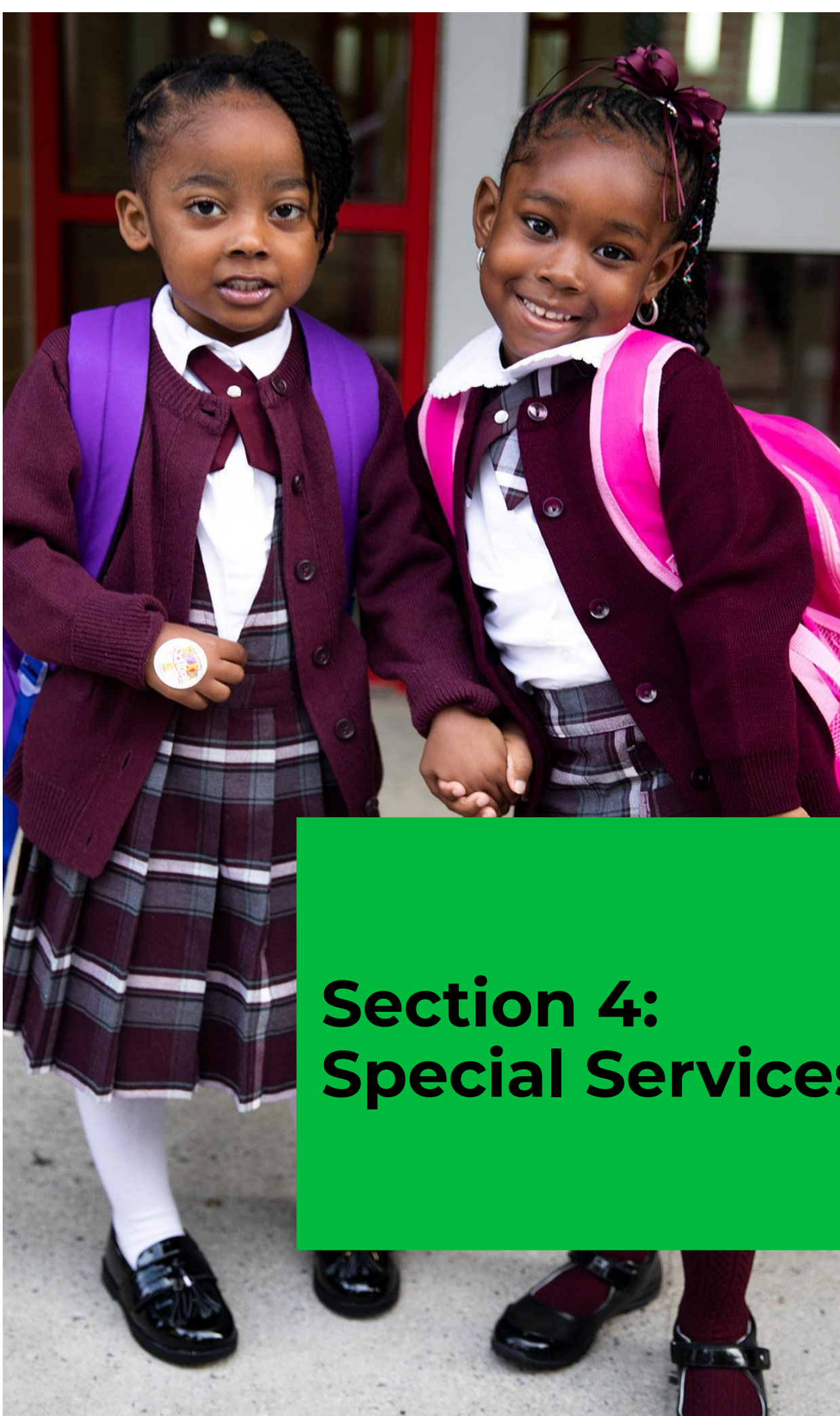
Displaced Scholar Policy (continued)

New scholars entering kindergarten are generally enrolled based on our lottery preference. If a scholar who is homeless would like to apply to HCZ Promise Academy Charter School, his/her application will be accorded a preference in the admission lottery, if CSD 5 is where they was last permanently housed or if CSD 5 is where his/her temporary housing is located. We enroll homeless scholars even if the scholar is unable to produce the records normally required for enrollment (such as previous academic records, medical records, proof-of-residency, birth certificates or other documentation). We contact the school last attended by the scholar for relevant academic records or other necessary information. With respect to enrollment in charter schools and pre-kindergarten programs where the lottery application deadline for seats has passed but the lottery has not been held yet, the scholar who is homeless will be entered into the lottery. If the lottery has been held, the scholar will be placed on the school's waitlist, if one exists, comparable to other students in the district and consistent with any applicable laws, regulations, or policies.

If the scholar needs to obtain immunization shots, we notify the parent/guardian that immunizations are missing and the health center at HCZ Promise Academy will assist the family to access immunization services.

In cases where a scholar who is currently attending HCZ Promise Academy becomes displaced, enrollment for that scholar will continue including those scholars who are temporarily residing outside of the New York City area.

Each school has been assigned a Homeless Scholar Liaison. Please contact the school's main office should you have any questions and/or concerns about our Homeless Scholar Policy.



Section 4: Special Services

Special Services

Introduction

HCZ Promise Academy's Special Services' Team prepares scholars, who receive services with the appropriate tools to be successful academically and socially. This work is accomplished by providing specialized instruction, allowing for individual differences and learning styles, and developing independence. The HCZ Promise Academy Special Services Department provides (A) English as a New Language and (B) Special Education services.

English as a New Language (ENL)

English as a New Language (ENL) services support scholars whose home or primary language is a language other than English and who are identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) in accordance with New York State requirements.

When a scholar enrolls, parents or guardians complete a Home Language Identification Survey (HLIS). Based on the results of the survey and, when required, a language proficiency assessment, a scholar may be identified as eligible to receive ENL services.

ENL services are designed to support scholars in developing English language proficiency while accessing grade-level academic content. Services are provided based on each scholar's level of English proficiency and may include integrated or stand-alone instruction.

Scholars identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) participate annually in the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). The results of this assessment are used to measure English language proficiency and determine ongoing eligibility for ENL services.

New York State increasingly uses the term Multilingual Learner (MLL) to describe students who are learning English in addition to one or more other languages. Some laws, regulations, accountability systems, and enrollment policies may continue to use the term English Language Learner (ELL). For purposes of this handbook, these terms generally refer to the same population of scholars.

Scholars identified as ELLs or MLLs, may be eligible to receive English as a New Language (ENL) services.

Special Services

Special Education

The Special Services Department of HCZ Promise Academy shall work collaboratively with the Committee on Special Education (CSE) to ensure that an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed and implemented for each eligible scholar in accordance with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and applicable state and federal regulations.

The CSE determines a scholar's eligibility for special education services and recommends programs and services in the least restrictive environment appropriate to the scholar's individual needs. In making these recommendations, the CSE must consider how special education services can be provided so that scholars with disabilities are educated with their peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

Individualized Education Program (IEP)

An IEP documents a scholar's eligibility for special education services and outlines the programs, services, accommodations, and supports the scholar will receive to ensure access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment.

The least restrictive environment means that a scholar with a disability will be educated alongside their peers to the maximum extent appropriate and will participate in general education settings whenever appropriate to meet the scholar's needs.

Parents, HCZ Promise Academy staff, and the CSE staff compose the IEP Team. An important part of the IEP Team meeting is to document the child's current skills and abilities, as well as to establish educational goals. The Team will also determine what special education supports and services are best for the child. The special education department will hold an annual review for each scholar with an IEP to discuss the scholar's progress thus far, and update the program as necessary. Scholars receiving special education services are reevaluated at least once every three years, unless the parent and the school district agree that a reevaluation is unnecessary.

Special Services

Special Education (continued)

Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)

HCZ Promise Academy provides ICT to scholars in grades K and first. Students with disabilities who receive Integrated Co-Teaching services (ICT) are educated with age appropriate peers in the general education classroom. ICT provides access to the general education curriculum and specially designed instruction to meet students' individual needs.

Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS)

SETSS are special education services that may be recommended on a scholar's IEP. At HCZ Promise Academy, SETSS may be delivered in two ways:

- Push-in: a SETSS provider works with a scholar within the general education classroom to address IEP goals, provide specially designed instruction, and support the scholar's access to the general education curriculum.
- Pull-out: a SETSS provider works with a scholar in a designated setting outside of the general education classroom to address IEP goals, and address IEP goals and provide specialized instruction and supports.

Related Services

Related Services support specific developmental areas and provide scholars with disabilities access to their educational program. These services are designed to help scholars benefit from their educational experience and make progress toward their individual goals. Examples of related services include counseling, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

- Counseling services support scholars' social, emotional, and behavioral development. These services may help scholars strengthen skills related to self-regulation, conflict resolution, social interactions, coping strategies, and school success. A scholar may be referred for counseling when social, emotional, or behavioral challenges are significantly affecting the scholar's ability to learn, interact appropriately with peers and adults, or participate successfully in the school environment.
- Speech and language therapy supports the development of expressive and receptive language skills. These services help scholars strengthen communication skills related to speech production, language comprehension, vocabulary development, articulation, phonological skills, sentence structure, voice, and fluency. Speech and language therapy is designed to support a scholar's ability to communicate effectively and participate successfully in academic and social environments.

Special Services

Special Education (continued)

- Occupational therapy (OT) supports scholars in developing and strengthening the skills needed to participate successfully in school activities. OT may help improve fine motor skills, visual-motor integration, visual-spatial skills, sensory processing, and other functional skills that support learning and participation in the classroom environment.
- Physical Therapy (PT) supports scholars in developing and maintaining the physical skills needed to access and participate in their educational program. PT may address gross motor development, mobility, balance, coordination, strength, and movements skills in a variety of school settings.

Section 504 Accommodations

Some scholars with disabilities may be eligible to receive accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In order to be eligible for a Section 504 Plan, a scholar must "have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities." A referral form must be completed by the scholar's parent and physician confirming the impairment and the major life activity that is impacted by it.

A scholar may be eligible for accommodations under Section 504 if the scholar has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as learning, concentrating, communicating, seeing, hearing, walking, breathing, or caring for oneself.

Requests made by the school

Teachers may initiate a request for an evaluation by the Section 504 Team for any scholar who is reasonably believed to have a physical or mental impairment based on the above requirements and in need of accommodations within the meaning of Section 504. These accommodations will enable the scholar to attend and participate in school activities on an equal basis with his/her peers. Teachers should complete a 504 School Evaluation Referral Form and submit it to the school-based 504 Coordinator/Special Education Site Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will review the form and contact the parent via phone. When school staff initiates the request, the Request for Accommodations Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 form will be sent home to the parent and will be completed by the parent and a physician. If the parent or guardian does not return the required forms or provide consent to proceed, the School may be unable to continue the Section 504 evaluation process. The School will document its efforts to obtain the necessary information and parental participation.

Special Services

Requests initiated by parents

Parental request for Section 504 accommodations must be made by submitting the Request for Accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 form and any other supporting documents from the scholar's physician. Request forms can be obtained from the school-based Special Education Manager or from the DOE's website:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/504-accommodations>

Section 504 Evaluation Process

The school-based Section 504 Coordinator will schedule the Section 504 Assessment Meeting within thirty (30) school days upon receipt of an initial written request for 504 accommodations or for a change to a current Section 504 plan. Eligibility Determination is made on an individualized basis, upon the Section 504 Team's review. The school-based designated Section 504 Coordinator will determine who should be present at the meeting. Parents will be notified via phone and in writing of the outcome of this meeting. If the parent is in agreement with the plan, they will sign it and return it to the school. No plan may be implemented without a parent's written consent. Each staff member working with the scholar will receive a copy of the Section 504 Plan and sign for acknowledgment. All documents will be filed.

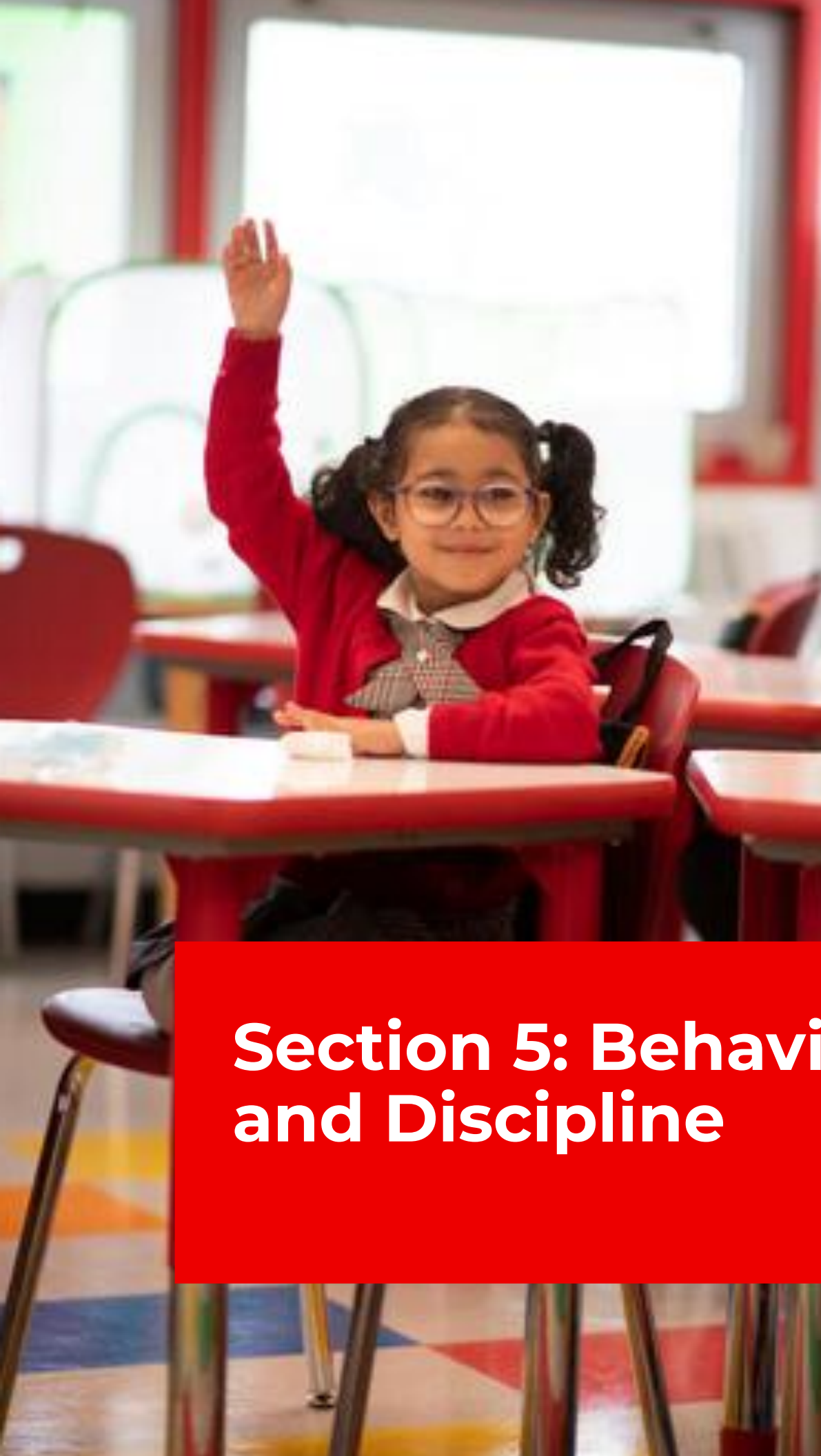
If it is determined that a scholar is in need of special education services, rather than a Section 504 Plan, a written referral will be submitted to the Committees on Special Education (CSE).

Referrals for a Section 504 Plan should be made at the beginning of the school year or onset of the medical disability. All Section 504 Plans are renewed annually by the 504 team, typically at the end of each school year.

504 Procedural Safeguards

- Parents or guardians of scholars can access the procedural safeguards at the following website:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/504-accommodations>



Section 5: Behavior and Discipline

Behavior and Discipline

Overview

HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools serves scholars with a wide range of academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs. The policies and procedures described within this document provide overall guidance, however, there may be times that require immediate responses, and we reserve the right to take appropriate action and implement alternative interventions when circumstances require an immediate response or when doing so is necessary to protect the safety and well-being of scholars, the staff, or the school community.

The contents of this Behavior and Discipline Code are guidelines. HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools reserve the right to amend or discontinue any of the policies, procedures, practices, or general descriptions set forth in this Behavior and Discipline Code with proper notice. No other person has the authority to modify or contradict by word or action the policies, practices, and procedures of the HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools or the policies and procedures described here in the Family Handbook. In the event of questions regarding the interpretation of this Behavior and Discipline Code, HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools will interpret and apply provisions of the Code consistent with applicable law and school policy.

Where and When the Behavior and Discipline Code Applies

The standards set forth in the Behavior and Discipline Code apply to behavior:

- in school during school hours;
- before and after school, while on school property;
- while traveling on vehicles funded by the NYC DOE or by HCZ Promise Academy;
- during school trips;
- at all school-sponsored events;
- while using school property or school resources such as but not limited to internet access;
- while interacting, communicating or dealing with other members of the HCZ community; and
- at all other times when such behavior can be demonstrated to negatively affect the educational process or to endanger the health, safety, morals, or welfare of the school community.

When misbehavior involves communication, gestures or expressive behavior, the infraction applies to oral, written or electronic communications, including but not limited to text messages, email, social media platforms, messaging applications, online forums, and other forms of electronic communication. School personnel may use a variety of preventative, restorative, and disciplinary responses to address behavior and support a safe learning environment.

Behavior and Discipline

Restorative Practices

As part of HCZ Promise Academy's social/emotional wellness program, restorative practice is our first line of preventive and intervention measures used to support our scholars in learning conflict resolution, relationship building, and problem-solving. Restorative Practices are a system of formal and informal processes that build and sustain a culture of kindness, responsibility, and justice. Restorative practice is central to building community and repairing relationships when harm has occurred.

Guiding Principles of Restorative Practice (the 5 R's)

- Relationships (build systems that develop and strengthen healthy relationships)
- Respect (Provide a voice for those affected by an incident and promoting positive social behavior)
- Responsibility (Understanding the impact of the harm caused)
- Restoration (Collaborative problem solving and empowering change and growth)
- Reintegration (The scholar is welcomed back into the community after harm has been addressed.)



Behavior and Discipline

Key Mechanisms of Restorative Practice

Proactive Practices	Responsive Practices
<u>Affective Statements</u> are a way to communicate to another person how they have been affected by their behavior, either positively or negatively. ■ Example: I feel frustrated when you talk during the lesson. ■ Example: I feel happy when you complete your homework.	<u>Restorative Chats, Meetings, Circles</u> ■ All members have equal status ■ Facilitators will identify expectations ■ Restorative Questioning is used to process incidents to encourage empathy ■ Everyone has the opportunity to participate. (Encouraged but optional)
<u>Restorative Circles</u> are used proactively to develop relationships and build community. They are also used to reactively respond to wrongdoing, conflicts, and problems. Restorative circles give everyone involved an opportunity to speak and listen to each other in a safe environment of equality.	<u>Mediation and Peer Juries</u> allow scholars, who engaged in misconduct or violated a school expectation to collectively discuss why the rule was broken, who was affected, and how the referred scholar can repair the harm caused.
In <u>Small Impromptu Conferences</u>, a school leader acts as a facilitator that allows all scholars involved in a circumstance to be heard and participate in finding a resolution to the problem making it less likely to occur again.	<u>Family Group Conferences</u> allow families to collaborate with school facilitators to resolve conflicts involving their scholars. Families are encouraged to share the impact the incident has had on them in an open and kind way to provide a safe space for all participants.
<u>Restorative Conversations</u> are non-judgmental questions or statements that help scholars reflect more deeply and carefully regarding an issue. This aids in helping scholars resolve conflict	<u>Community Restorative Conferencing</u> is an opportunity for members of the school community to safely convey how they have been impacted by an incident in order to resolve a problem.

Restorative Practice is a building block to social-emotional wellness in the HCZ Promise Academy community. It is a vital tool in preventing behavioral issues and in compassionately and effectively dealing with conflict. Restorative practices and other social-emotional interventions are an important part of the School's approach to behavior and are used whenever appropriate to prevent and address misconduct. Depending on the nature and severity of the behavior, disciplinary responses may also be necessary. Restorative practices may be used alongside counseling, behavioral supports, social-emotional learning strategies, and other interventions designed to help scholars succeed.

Behavior and Discipline

Additional Intervention and Prevention Strategies

The School utilizes a multidisciplinary support team that may include school leaders, deans, counselors, social workers, psychologists, special education coaches, intervention specialists, and other scholar support personnel. These team members work collaboratively with teachers and families to create a positive learning environment and support academic, social, emotional, and behavioral success.

When behavioral concerns arise, appropriate members of the support team may collaborate with scholars, families, and school staff to identify interventions, supports, and strategies that promote positive behavior and student success.

Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns that may affect a scholar's behavior or well-being with the scholar's teacher or other appropriate school staff. When appropriate, scholar support meetings may be held with families, school staff, and members of the support team to identify strategies and interventions designed to help scholars succeed.

Range of Possible Disciplinary Responses to Behavior Infractions

We will use support services to address scholar discipline in a nurturing and comprehensive manner. The administrators, deans, and teachers of HCZ Promise Academy are committed to using age-appropriate disciplinary responses that will empower scholars to make positive choices that will build character and strengthen the school community. The range of disciplinary responses can be found in the last few pages of this handbook, along with behavior infractions and appropriate responses to them.

Appropriate support services and reentry supports may be provided to scholars returning from suspension to maximize their ability to successfully reengage in the school community to meet social, emotional, behavioral, and academic expectations. Support services may include any of the range of guidance interventions or a combination of services as best meets the needs of the individual student. **HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools reserve the right to amend or discontinue any of the policies, procedures, practices, or general descriptions set forth in this Behavior and Discipline Code with proper notice to the school community. The most updated approved version will always be available on our website at www.hczpromise.org**

In addition to the infractions listed in the charts at the end of this handbook, repeated violations of the Behavior and Discipline Code, persistent refusal to engage in educational programming despite documented interventions and supports, or particularly serious misconduct may result in additional review by school leadership. Depending on the circumstances, the principal, deputy superintendent, superintendent, CEO/President, Board leadership, or their designee(s) may become involved in determining appropriate interventions, supports, or disciplinary responses.

Behavior and Discipline

Procedures for Disciplinary Action

HCZ Promise Academy Charter schools take specific disciplinary action that is in compliance with NY State law. Additional disciplinary protections and procedures apply to scholars with disabilities in accordance with applicable law.

Consequences other than Suspension or Expulsion

If a scholar commits an offense that calls for the assignment of a time-out, detention, school service, Saturday detention, or other in-school disciplinary action (other than in-school suspension), any staff member may impose an appropriate consequence with the principal's permission. When this occurs:

- the staff member addresses the conduct and assigns an appropriate response;
- the staff member may refer the matter to the principal or the principal's designee(s) for review and possible additional responses;
- Responses are implemented at the discretion of the principal or their designee(s);
- if necessary, the scholar is removed from class; and
- if the incident occurs again, further responses are considered; a parent or guardian may be required to meet with the principal or the principal's designee(s) regarding infractions prior to a scholar's return to class.

Brief classroom removals, de-escalation breaks, and behavioral resets are not suspensions.

Short-Term Suspension

If a scholar commits an offense that calls for short-term suspension (10 days or less), the scholar is afforded the due process rights required by *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (1975). Such scholar is subject to the following:

- The scholar is given notice of the charged misconduct and given an opportunity to respond;
- The parent/guardian is notified by the principal or their designee;
- If necessary, the scholar is immediately removed from class and/or school;
- The principal or designee addresses the conduct and assigns an appropriate consequence;
- The scholar is entitled to respond to the charges against them and given, along with the parent/guardian, the opportunity to participate in an informal conference;
- The scholar and parent/guardian will be afforded the due process rights required by law, including the opportunity to respond to the allegations and challenge the evidence supporting the suspension;
- A parent or guardian may be required to meet with the principal or their designee(s) regarding infractions prior to a scholar's return to school; and
- A parent/guardian may appeal if they believe that their scholar received an unfair suspension. Appeals should be sent directly to the Superintendent's Office at appeals@hczpromise.org

Behavior and Discipline

Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

If a scholar commits an offense that calls for long-term suspension (more than 10 days) or expulsion, the following steps are taken:

- The scholar is given notice of the charged misconduct and given an opportunity to respond;
- If necessary, the scholar is immediately removed from class and/or school;
- The parent/guardian is notified by the principal or their designee;
- The school sets a hearing date;
- The scholar and/or the parent/guardian of the scholar are notified in writing of the charges and a statement of the evidence; date, time and place of a hearing; and notice of the right at the hearing to be represented by legal counsel (at the scholar's/parent's own expense) and to present evidence and question witnesses;
- After hearing the case, the impartial hearing officer issues a written decision to be sent to the scholar, the parent/guardian, the Superintendent and the scholar's permanent record;
- Any scholar who is expelled or given a long-term suspension (more than 10 days) has the right to appeal the decision in writing to the Board of Trustees within five (5) days of the date of suspension; and
- Any appeal is heard, at the discretion of the Board Chairperson, by the Superintendent or by one or more trustees designated by the Board Chairperson.

Recommendations for expulsions are subject to review and approval by the HCZ Promise Academy Superintendent, the CEO/President and HCZ Promise Academy Board of Trustees. Hearings will include, at least, the scholar, parent(s), the Superintendent or acting Superintendent, and the Principal of the HCZ Promise Academy Charter School.

Scholars returning from suspension will be provided support services to maximize their ability to meet social and academic standards within the school community. Services will be determined based on the individual scholar's needs.

Behavior and Discipline

Alternative Instruction

HCZ Promise Academy will provide alternative instruction to scholars who have been given a long-term suspension and/or recommended for expulsion while awaiting a determination by the Board of Trustees. Alternative instruction will begin no later than the day after the suspension or expulsion is effective. Alternative instruction may be provided at a location, schedule, and format determined by the School. Alternative instruction may be delivered through a variety of instructional methods, including virtual instruction, asynchronous learning activities, online learning platforms, tutoring, instructional materials, assignments, and other educational supports determined appropriate by the School. Scholars are expected to participate in alternative instruction and complete assigned coursework during any period of suspension. This alternative instruction will continue for the duration of the time the scholar awaits disposition on their expulsion hearing. The school will provide alternative instruction to expelled scholars to the extent required by law.

To the extent required by law, HCZ Promise Academy will also provide alternative instruction for short-term suspended or removed scholars to help that child progress in the school's general curriculum. Scholars receiving special education services will continue to receive services and supports as required by applicable law and their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

For a scholar who has been expelled, alternative instruction will be provided to the extent required by law until the scholar enrolls in another educational program or school. Alternative instruction will be provided to scholars suspended or expelled on a case-by-case basis. Alternative instruction must be substantially equivalent to that received by the student prior to the suspension; two hours per day of alternative instruction is considered substantial, though whether or not more hours are required will also be determined on a case-by-case basis. Instruction for such scholars will be sufficient to enable the scholar to make adequate academic progress, and shall provide them the opportunity to complete the assignments, learn the curriculum, and participate in assessments.

Record-Keeping

HCZ Promise Academy will maintain written records of all suspensions, expulsions, and other disciplinary removals as required by law, including the name of the scholar, a description of the behavior, the intervention and disciplinary action taken, and the duration of any disciplinary removal.

Behavior and Discipline

Long-term suspension specifically related to firearms and weapons offenses

Possession of a firearm or weapon at school is considered an extremely serious violation of the Behavior and Discipline Code and may result in long-term suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Federal and State law require the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of a scholar who is determined to have brought a firearm to the school, or to have possessed a firearm at school, except that the superintendent may modify such expulsion requirement for a scholar on a case-by-case basis, if such modification is in writing, in accordance with the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 (as amended). For purposes of this law, "weapon," means a "firearm," as defined by 18 USC§ 921, and includes firearms and explosives. (New York Education Law §3214(3) (d) effectuates this federal law.) The superintendent shall refer a scholar under the age of sixteen who has been determined to have brought a weapon or firearm to school to a presentment agency for a juvenile delinquency proceeding consistent with Article 3 of the Family Court Act except a scholar fourteen or fifteen years of age who qualifies for juvenile offender status under Criminal Procedure Law § 1.20(42). The superintendent shall refer any scholar, who is 16 years of age or older or a scholar, who is 14 or 15 years of age who qualifies for juvenile offender status under Criminal Procedure Law § 1.20(42), and who has been determined to have brought a weapon to school to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

Procedures for Disciplinary for scholars with Disabilities/IEPs

In addition to the discipline procedures applicable to all scholars, the following procedures are applicable to scholars with disabilities/IEPs. If a scholar not specifically identified as having a disability, prior to the behavior that is the subject of the disciplinary action, has a basis of knowledge—in accordance with 34 CFR 300.527(b)—that a disability exists, may request to be disciplined in accordance with these provisions. HCZ Promise Academy will comply with sections 300.519-300.529 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the following procedures. In the event that the following procedures are inconsistent with Federal law and regulations, such Federal law and regulations shall govern.

A functional behavioral assessment (FBA) must be considered when a student with a disability or a student who is presumed to have a disability:

Behavior and Discipline

- Exhibits persistent behaviors that impede his/her learning or that of others, despite consistently implemented general school-wide or classroom-wide interventions;
- Engages in behavior that puts the student or others at risk of harm; or
- Is being considered by the CSE for a more restrictive program because of the student's behavior.

An FBA must be conducted or updated after a finding in a manifestation determination review (MDR) that behavior is a manifestation of a scholar's disability. All school staff with knowledge of the incident and the student's behavior should participate in the MDR meeting scheduled by the CSE. Additionally, school staff will provide information to and participate in an IEP meeting to determine the most appropriate level of support needed, and the programs and services that will provide that support.

HCZ Promise Academy will maintain written records of all suspensions and expulsions of scholars with disabilities including the name of the scholar, a description of the behavior engaged in, the disciplinary action taken, and the number of days a scholar has been suspended or removed. Scholars for whom the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) includes a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) will receive interventions and strategies as outlined in their BIP. If the BIP appears not to be effective or if there is a concern for the health and safety of the scholar or others, the matter will be immediately referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) of the scholar's district of residence for consideration of a change in the guidelines or in the plan.

If a scholar identified as having a disability is suspended during the school year for a total of ten days, such scholar will immediately be referred to the CSE of the school's district for an MDR meeting to review the programs and services in the scholar's IEP. The scholar will not be suspended for a total of more than ten days for the specific behavior without the involvement of the CSE of the scholar's district of residence prior to the eleventh day of suspension, because such. In considering the placement of the scholar, the special education authority of the scholar's district of residence is expected to follow its ordinary policies with respect to parental notification and involvement.

Scholars with IEPs will receive the services mandated by their IEPs during any suspension, if parents bring them into school for the offered instructional period.

Behavior and Discipline

The school will work with their designated CSE team to schedule an MDR meeting as soon as possible upon receiving notification of any of the following:

- The commission of an infraction by a scholar with a disability who has previously been suspended for the maximum allowable number of days; or
- The commission of any infraction by a disabled scholar, regardless of whether the scholar has previously been suspended during the school year if, had such infraction been committed by a non-disabled scholar, the principal would seek to impose a long-term suspension.

The purpose of the meeting with the CSE is for a determination to be made as to whether the behavior has a nexus with disability (manifestation determination review). If there is a nexus or a connection between the behavior and the disability, the scholar cannot be disciplined for that specific behavior. The scholar's IEP programs and services must be reviewed and modified as needed to ensure an adequate level of support.

Provision of Services during Removal

Those scholars with disabilities removed for a short-term period (fewer than 10 days) will receive all classroom assignments and a schedule to complete such assignments during the time of his or her suspension. Provisions will be made to permit a suspended scholar to make up assignments or tests missed as a result of such suspension. The school will also take steps to provide additional alternative instruction with promptness and by appropriate means to assist the scholar, so that the scholar is given full opportunity to complete assignments and master curriculum, including additional instructions, phone assistance, computer instruction and/or home visits and one-on-one tutoring.

During any removal that combined with previous removals, equates to a long-term suspension (10 or more school days) during the school year, but does not constitute a change in placement, services must be provided to the extent determined necessary to enable the child to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and in achieving the goals of his or her IEP. In these cases, school personnel, in consultation with the child's special education teacher, will make the service determination.

Behavior and Discipline

During any removal for drug or weapon offenses (pursuant to 34 CFR §300.520(a)(2)), services will be provided to the extent necessary to enable the child to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and in achieving the goals of his or her IEP. These service determinations will be made by the CSE of the scholar's district of residence. The school will place scholars in interim alternative educational settings as appropriate and mandated by 34 CFR §300.520(a) (2).

During any removal that does constitute a change in placement and, where the behavior is not a manifestation of the disability, the services must be provided to the extent necessary to enable the scholar to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and in achieving the goals of his or her IEP. The CSE of the scholar's district of residence will make the service determination. A student with a disability will not be removed to an IAES for more than 45 school days.

CSE Meetings

Meetings of the CSE of the scholar's district of residence to either develop a behavioral assessment plan or, if the child has one, to review such plan are required when:

- the child is first removed from his or her current placement for more than ten school days in a school year; and
- commencing a removal that constitutes a change in placement.

Subsequently, if other removals occur that do not constitute a change in placement, the school will work with the CSE of the scholar's district of residence to review the child's assessment plan and its implementation to determine if modifications are necessary. If one or more members of the CSE of the scholar's district of residence believe that modifications are needed, then the CSE is expected to meet to modify the plan and/or its implementation.

Due Process (scholars with disabilities/IEPs)

If a discipline step that would constitute a change in placement (such as a suspension for more than ten days) is contemplated for any scholar with a disability, the following steps shall be taken:

- Not later than the date on which the decision to take such action is made, the parents of the scholar shall be notified of that decision and provided the procedural safeguards notice described in 34 CFR §300.504; and
- CSE of the scholar's district of residence and other qualified personnel shall meet and review the relationship between the child's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action, a MDR.

Behavior and Discipline

If, upon review, it is determined that the child's behavior was not a manifestation of his or her disability, then the child may be disciplined in the same manner as a child without a disability, except as provided in 34 CFR §300.121(d), which relates to the provision of services to scholars with disabilities during periods of removal. Although expulsion can be recommended prior to an MDR, a student with an IEP will not be expelled until the outcome of the MDR confirms that the behavior was not a manifestation of the child's disability. Prior to expulsion, appropriate placement for instruction will be determined by the superintendent based on the severity of the infraction.

Parents may request a hearing to challenge the MDR. The child will remain in his or her current educational placement pending the determination of the hearing. If a parent requests a hearing or an appeal to challenge the interim alternative educational setting or the manifestation determination resulting from a disciplinary action relating to weapons, drugs, controlled substances or serious injury, the child shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting or other appropriate setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period provided for in the disciplinary action, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and the school agree otherwise.

Infractions, Interventions and Other Responses

The charts following this page outline infractions categorized by levels set out according to the New York City Department of Education. Guidance interventions and responses are listed below and serve as a guide for parents to understand how infractions by scholars could be addressed by HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools. HCZ Promise Academy reserves the right to create alternative responses that are in the best interest of the scholar, staffs and HCZ Promise Academy schools.

If a pattern of behavior is determined for a student with an IEP, the special education services and IEP goals for that student will be reviewed to ensure their needs are being supported. Parents are informed of how they can access the procedural safeguards when suspension notices are sent home.

Behavior and Discipline

Guidance Interventions

Parent outreach • Intervention by counseling staff, guidance conference(s) • Restorative Approaches • Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS • individual/group counseling, peer mediation, mentoring program, conflict resolution, collaborative problem solving, development of individual behavior contract, short-term behavioral progress reports, referral to Pupil Personnel Team (PPT), community service (with parental consent) • Referral to a Community-Based Organization (CBO) • Referral to appropriate substance abuse counseling services • Referral to counseling services for youth relationship abuse or sexual violence • Referral to counseling services for bias-based bullying, intimidation, or harassment • Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)/ Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)

Range of Possible Disciplinary Responses to be used in Addition to Guidance Interventions

The range of possible disciplinary responses should be applied to infractions according to the charts by matching the letters in the third column with the bulleted letters below.

- A. Instructive guidance by pedagogical school staff
- B. Student/teacher conference
- C. Formal meeting with appropriate school leader (e.g., educational director, operations director, principal)
- D. Parent conference
- E. In-school disciplinary action (e.g., formal restorative conference, exclusion from extracurricular activities, etc.)
- F. Removal from classroom by teacher (for up to 1 day for scholars in grades K-2 or up to 4 school days for scholars in grades 3-5 (subject to a minimum suspension requirement for scholars in grades 3-5 at 5 or more (semester) or 4 or more (trimester) removals)
- G. Short Term suspension for 1-5 days
- H. Long term suspension that results in immediate reinstatement
 - I. Long term suspension that results in continued suspension for a fixed period of 6-10 school days
 - J. Long term suspension that results in an extended suspension for 11-29 school days
 - K. Long term suspension that results in an extended suspension for 30-59 school days (with automatic review at 30 days for suspensions of 39 days or longer)
 - L. Long term suspension that results in extended suspension for 60 to 90 school days with automatic review every 30 days.
 - M. Long term suspension that results in a one year suspension and assignment to an alternative program with an automatic review at 90 and 135 days
 - N. Long term suspension that results in a one-year suspension and assignment to an alternative program without the opportunity for early reinstatement
 - O. Expulsion.

Behavior and Discipline

Minimal effort by a scholar as evidenced by refusal of intervention services (repeated refusal to accept school-provided assistance, including but not limited to, individual tutoring or other academic services, mentoring/guidance services, and other support services critical to making academic, social and emotion progress) will also be considered as an infraction of the Behavior and Discipline Code.

Repeated violations of the Behavior and Discipline Code will be considered in the penalty phase of a bifurcated impartial hearing.

Disciplinary Actions H-O must be obtained as a result of a hearing, which should be set up with the superintendent's Central Office. Additionally, appropriate support services must be provided to scholars returning from suspension to maximize their ability to meet social and academic standards within the school community.

Level 1 Infractions

	K-5 Grades - Uncooperative / Non Compliant Behavior	Responses
A01	Unexcused absence from school	A - D
A02	Failing to wear the required school uniform	A & D
A03	Being late for school (any grade)	A - E
A04	Bringing items to or using items in school in violation of school policy	A - E
A05	Failing to be in one's assigned place on school premises	A - E
A06	Behaving in a manner which disrupts the educational process (e.g., making excessive noise in a classroom, library, or hallway)	A - F
A07	Engaging in verbally rude or disrespectful behavior	A - F
A08	Wearing clothing, headgear (e.g., hats or sunglasses) or other items that are unsafe or disruptive to the educational process.	A - E
A09	Posting or distributing material on school premises in violation of school policy and/or rules	A - E
A10	Using school computers, fax machines, telephones or other electronic equipment or devices without appropriate permission	A - E

Behavior and Discipline

Level 1 Infractions

	6-12 Grades – Uncooperative/Non-Compliant Behavior	Responses
B01	Unexcused absence from school	A - D
B02	Failing to wear the required school uniform	A - D
B03	Cutting classes (reporting to school and failing to attend one or more programmed class) (6-12 only)	A - E
B04	Being late for school (any grade)	A - E
B05	Bringing items to or using items in school in violation of school policy	A - E
B06	Failing to be in one's assigned place on school premises	A - E
B07	Behaving in a manner which disrupts the educational process (e.g., making excessive noise in a classroom, library, or hallway)	A - F
B08	Engaging in verbally rude or disrespectful behavior	A - F
B09	Wearing clothing, headgear (e.g., hats or sunglasses) or other items that are disruptive to the educational process. (If there is a question regarding whether clothing or headgear is representative of religious expression, the school will notify the principal or the superintendent.)	A - E
B10	Posting or distributing material on school premises in violation of school policy and/or rules	A - E
B11	Failing to provide school officials with required identification	A - E
B12	Using school computers, fax machines, telephones or other electronic equipment or devices without appropriate permission.	A - E



Behavior and Discipline

Level 2 Infractions

	K-5 Grades - Disorderly Behavior	Responses
A11	Possession and/or use of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, matches, lighters, and/or vaping devices	A - D
A12	Gambling	A - F
A13	Using profane, obscene, vulgar, or lewd language, gestures, or behavior	A - F
A14	Lying to, giving false information to, and/or misleading school personnel	A - F
A15	Misusing property belonging to others	A - F
A16	Engaging in or causing disruptive behavior on the school bus (Please note that removal or suspension from the school bus may also occur as a response.)	A - F
A17	Leaving class or school premises without permission of supervising school personnel	A - F
A18	Engaging in inappropriate or unwanted physical contact or touching someone in a private body part.	A - F
A19	Violating the Technology Acceptable Use Agreement (use of the Internet for non-educational purposes, etc)	A - F
A20	Engaging in scholastic dishonesty which includes but is not limited to: - Cheating (e.g., copying from another's test paper; using material during a test which is not authorized by the person giving the test; collaborating with another student during the test without authorization; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting, in whole or part, the contents of an un-administered test; substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for one's self to take a test; bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered; or securing copies of the test or answers to the test in advance of the test) - Plagiarizing (appropriating another's work and using it as one's own for credit without the required citation and attribution, e.g., copying written work from the Internet, or any other source) (grades 4-5 only) - Colluding (engaging in fraudulent collaboration with another person in preparing written work for credit)	A - F
A21	Inappropriate use of electronic technology (e.g. unauthorized a/v recording) (K-2; A- E)	A - F

	6-12 Grades - Disorderly Behavior	Responses
B13	Possession and/or use of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, matches, lighters, and/or vaping devices.	A - D
B14	Gambling	A - F
B15	Using profane, obscene, vulgar, or lewd language, gestures, or behavior	A - F
B16	Lying to, giving false information to, and/or misleading school personnel	A - F
B17	Misusing property belonging to others	A - F
B18	Engaging in or causing disruptive behavior on the school bus (Please note that removal or suspension from the school bus may also occur as a response.)	A - F
B19	Inappropriate use of electronic technology (e.g., unauthorized audio/video recording)	A - F
B20	Leaving class or school premises without permission of supervising school personnel	A - E

Behavior and Discipline

Level 3 Infractions

	K-5 Grades – Disruptive Behavior	Responses
A22	Defying or disobeying the lawful authority or directive of school personnel or school safety agents in a way that substantially disrupts the educational process and/or poses a danger to the school community (for grades K-3, A-F; for grades 4-5, A-F, G with authorization)	A - G
A23	Using slurs based upon actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability (for grades K-2, A-E; grade 3, A-F; for grades 4-5, A-I)	A - I
A24	Shoving, pushing, or engaging in a minor altercation or similar physical confrontational behavior towards students or school personnel (e.g., pushing past another person), or throwing an object or spitting at another person (for more serious physically aggressive behavior, see A33) (for grades K-3, A-F; for grades 4-5, A-G)	A - G
A25	Bringing unauthorized persons to school or allowing unauthorized visitors to enter school in violation of written school rules (for grades K-3, A-F; for grades 4-5, A-I)	A - I
A26	Knowingly possessing property belonging to another without authorization (for grades K-3, A-F; grades 4-5, A-I)	A - I
A27	Tampering with, changing, or altering a school record or document by any method, including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means (for grades K-3, A-E; for grades 4-5, A-I)	A - I
A28	Engaging in inappropriate or unwanted physical contact or touching someone in a private part of body. (For grades 4-5 only; A-I) For shoving, pushing, etc, use A24.) NOTE: This A-28 infraction does not apply to Grades K-3.	A - I
A29	Engaging in gang-related behavior (e.g., wearing or displaying gang apparel and/or accessories, writing graffiti, making gestures or signs) (grades 4-5 only, A-F))	A - I
A30	Engaging in vandalism, graffiti or other intentional damage to school property or property belonging to staff, students or others (for grades K-3, A-F; for grades 4-5, C-I)	A - I
A31	Posting or distributing libelous material or literature (including posting such material on the Internet) (for grades K-3, A-F; for grades 4-5, C-I)	A - I

Behavior and Discipline

Level 3 Infractions

	6-12 Grades – Disruptive Behavior	Responses
B21	Defying or disobeying the lawful authority or directive of school personnel or school safety agents in a way that substantially disrupts the educational process and/or poses a danger to the school community	A - G
B22	Entering or attempting to enter a school building without authorization or through an unauthorized entrance	A - G
B23	Using slurs based upon actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability	A - I
B24	Shoving, pushing, or engaging in a minor altercation or similar physical confrontational behavior towards students or school personnel (e.g., pushing past another person), or throwing an object (e.g., chalk) or spitting at another person (for more serious physically aggressive behavior, see B36)	A - G
B25	Bringing unauthorized persons to school or allowing unauthorized visitors to enter school in violation of written school rules	A - I
B26	Engaging in gang-related behavior (e.g., wearing or displaying gang apparel and/or accessories, writing graffiti, making gestures or signs) (A-J may be used if there is substantial damage to property)	A - I
B27	Tampering with, changing, or altering a school record or document by any method, including, but not limited to, computer access or other electronic means	A - I
B28	Engaging in vandalism, graffiti or other intentional damage to school property or property belonging to staff, scholars or others (J-L may be used if there is substantial damage to property)	A - I
B29	Knowingly possessing property belonging to another without authorization	A - I
B30	Violating the school's Technology Acceptable Use Policy	A - I
B31	Engaging in scholastic dishonesty which includes but is not limited to: - Cheating (e.g., copying from another's test paper; using material during a test which is not authorized by the person giving the test; collaborating with another student during the test without authorization; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting, in whole or part, the contents of an unadministered test; substituting for or permitting another student to substitute for one's self to take a test; etc) - Plagiarizing (appropriating another's work and using it as one's own for credit without the required citation and attribution, e.g., copying written work from the Internet, or any other source) - Colluding (engaging in fraudulent collaboration with another person in preparing written work for credit) (J may be used in particularly egregious situations)	A - I
B32	Posting or distributing libelous material or literature (including posting such material on the Internet)	A - I

Behavior and Discipline

Level 4 Infractions

	K-5 Grades – Aggressive or Injurious / Harmful Behavior	Responses
A32	Posting, recording, distributing, displaying, or sharing literature, material or video footage containing a threat of violence, injury/harm, or depicting violent actions against or obscene, vulgar or lewd pictures of students or staff (including posting on the Internet) (grades K-3, D-F)	D - I
A33	Engaging in physically aggressive behavior other than minor altercations as described under A24, which creates a substantial risk of or results in minor injury (grades K-3, D-F)	D - I
A34	Engaging in an act of coercion or threatening or instigating violence, injury or harm to another or others (grades K-3, D-F)	D - J
A35	Engaging in behavior on the school bus which creates a substantial risk of or results in injury (grades K-3, D-F) (Please note that removal or suspension from the school bus may also occur as a response.)	D - J
A36	Engaging in harassing, intimidating, and/or bullying behavior, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (cyber-bullying); such behavior includes, but is not limited to: physical violence; stalking; verbal, written, or physical conduct that threatens another with harm; seeking to coerce or compel a student or staff member to do something; hazing; taunting; exclusion from peer groups designed to humiliate or isolate; using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes or name calling to humiliate or harass	D - J
A37	Engaging in harassing, intimidating and/or bullying behavior, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (cyber-bullying) based on an individual's actual or perceived race, weight, religion, religious practices, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability; such behavior includes, but is not limited to: physical violence; stalking; verbal, written, or physical conduct that threatens another with harm; seeking to coerce or compel a student or staff member to do something; hazing; taunting; exclusion from peer groups designed to humiliate or isolate; using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes or name calling to humiliate or harass	D - J
A38	Making sexually suggestive comments, innuendoes, propositions or similar remarks, or engaging in nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. touching, patting, pinching, lewd or indecent public behavior, or sending or posting sexually suggestive messages or images) (for grades 4-5 only)	D - J
A39	Possessing controlled substances or prescription medications without appropriate authorization, illegal drugs, synthetic hallucinogens, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol (Grades K-2: D-F)	D - J
A40	Taking or attempting to take property belonging to another or belonging to the school without authorization, without using force or intimidating behavior	D - J
A41	Falsely activating a fire alarm or other disaster alarm	D - J
A42	Making a bomb threat	D - J
A43	Creating a substantial risk of serious injury by either recklessly engaging in behavior, and/or using an object that appears capable of causing physical injury (e.g., lighter, belt buckle, umbrella, or laser pointer)	D - J
A44	Causing a serious injury by either recklessly engaging in behavior, and/or using an object that appears capable of causing physical injury (e.g., lighter, belt buckle, umbrella, or laser pointer)	D - J
A45	Inciting/causing a riot	D - J
A46	Possessing or selling any weapon as defined in Category II**	D - J
A47	Using controlled substances or prescription medication without appropriate authorization, or using illegal drugs, synthetic hallucinogens, and/or alcohol	D - J

Behavior and Discipline

Level 4 Infractions

	6-12 Grades – Aggressive or Injurious / Harmful Behavior	Responses
B33	Engaging in sexual conduct on school premises or at school-related functions	D - I
B34	Making sexually suggestive comments, innuendoes, propositions or similar remarks, or engaging in nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. touching, patting, pinching, lewd or indecent public behavior, or sending or posting sexually suggestive messages or images)	D - K
B35	Posting, recording, distributing, displaying, or sharing literature, material or video footage containing a threat of violence, injury or harm, or depicting violent actions against or obscene, vulgar or lewd pictures of scholars or staff incl. posting such material on internet	D - K
B36	Engaging in physically aggressive behavior other than minor altercations as described under B24, which creates a substantial risk of or results in minor injury	D - K
B37	Engaging in an act of coercion or threatening or instigating violence, injury or harm to another or others	D - K
B38	Engaging in or causing disruptive behavior on the school bus which creates substantial risk of or results in injury. (Please note that removal or suspension from the school bus may also occur as a response.)	D - K
B39	Engaging in harassing, intimidating, and/or bullying behavior, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (cyber-bullying); such behavior includes, but is not limited to: physical violence; stalking; verbal, written, or physical conduct that threatens another with harm; seeking to coerce or compel a scholar or staff member to do something; hazing; taunting; exclusion from peer groups designed to humiliate or isolate; using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes or name calling to humiliate or harass	D - K
B40	Engaging in harassing, intimidating and/or bullying behavior, including using electronic communication to engage in such behavior (cyber-bullying) based on an individual's actual or perceived race, weight, religion, religious practices, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability; such behavior includes, but is not limited to: physical violence; stalking; verbal, written, or physical conduct that threatens another with harm; seeking to coerce or compel a scholar or staff member to do something; hazing; taunting; exclusion from peer groups designed to humiliate or isolate; using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes or name calling to humiliate or harass	D - N
B41	Possessing controlled substances or prescription medications without appropriate authorization, illegal drugs, synthetic hallucinogens, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol	D - O
B42	Falsely activating a fire alarm or other disaster alarm	D-L
B43	Making a bomb threat	D - M
B44	Taking or attempting to take property belonging to another or belonging to the school without authorization, without using force or intimidating behavior	D - L
B45	Creating a substantial risk of serious injury by either recklessly engaging in behavior, and/or using an object that appears capable of causing physical injury (e.g., lighter, belt buckle, umbrella, or laser pointer)	D - L
B46	Causing a serious injury by either recklessly engaging in behavior, and/or using an object that appears capable of causing physical injury (e.g., lighter, belt buckle, umbrella, or laser pointer)	G - O
B47	Inciting/causing a riot	G - M
B48	Possessing or selling any weapon as defined in Category II	G - O
B49	Using controlled substances or prescription medication without appropriate authorization, or using illegal drugs, synthetic hallucinogens, and/or alcohol	D - O

Behavior and Discipline

Level 5 Infractions

	K-5 Grades – Seriously Dangerous or Violent Behavior	Responses
A48	Starting a fire (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - L
A49	Threatening to use or using force to take or attempt to take property (for grades 4-5, responses I-L only)	D - L
A50	Using force against, or inflicting or attempting to inflict serious injury against school personnel or school safety agents (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - J
A51	Using extreme force against or inflicting or attempting to inflict serious injury upon students or others (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - J
A52	Planning, instigating, or participating with another or others, in an incident of group violence (for grades 4-5, responses I-L only)	D - L
A53	Engaging in threatening, dangerous or violent behavior that is gang-related (for grades 4-5, responses I-L only)	D - L
A54	Engaging in physical sexual aggression/compelling or forcing another to engage in sexual activity (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - L
A55	Selling or distributing illegal drugs or controlled substances and/or alcohol (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - L
A56	Possessing or selling any weapon, other than a firearm, as defined in **Category I (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - L
A57	Using any weapon as defined in **Category II to threaten or to attempt injury upon school personnel, scholars, or others (for grades 4-5, responses I-J only)	D - L
A58	Using any weapon, other than a firearm, as defined in **Category I, to threaten or to attempt to inflict injury upon school personnel, students, or others (for grades 4-5, responses I-L only)	D - L
A59	Using any weapon, other than a firearm, as defined in **Category I or II, to inflict injury upon school personnel, students, or others (for grades 4-5, responses I-L only)	D - L
A60	Possessing or using a firearm (L only)	D - L

Behavior and Discipline

Level 5 Infractions

	6-12 Grades – Seriously Dangerous or Violent Behavior	Responses
B50	Starting a fire	I - O
B51	Threatening to use or using force to take or attempt to take property belonging to another	I - O
B52	Using force against, or inflicting or attempting to inflict serious injury against school personnel or school safety agents	I - O
B53	Using extreme force against or inflicting or attempting to inflict serious injury upon students or others	I - O
B54	Planning, instigating, or participating with another or others, in an incident of group violence	I - O
B55	Engaging in threatening, dangerous or violent behavior that is gang-related	I - O
B56	Engaging in physical sexual aggression/compelling or forcing another to engage in sexual activity	I - O
B57	Selling or distributing illegal drugs or controlled substances and/or alcohol	I - O
B58	Possessing or selling any weapon, other than a firearm, as defined in **Category I	I - O
B59	Using any weapon as defined in **Category II to threaten or to attempt injury upon school personnel, students, or others	I - O
B60	*Using any weapon, other than a firearm, as defined in **Category I, to threaten or to attempt to inflict injury upon school personnel, students, or others	I - O
B61	*Using any weapon, other than a firearm, as defined in **Category I or II, to inflict injury upon school personnel, students, or others	I - O
B62	*Possessing or using a firearm	M - O

Behavior and Discipline

Weapons

Category I

- Firearm, including pistol, starter gun, and handgun, silencers, electronic dart, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, or any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive
- Stun gun/weapon
- Airgun, spring gun, or other instrument or weapon in which the propelling force is a spring or air, and any weapon in which any loaded or blank cartridge may be used (such as a BB gun or paintball gun)
- Switchblade knife, gravity knife, pilum ballistic knife and cane sword (a cane that conceals a knife or sword)
- Dagger, stiletto, dirk, razorblade, box cutter, case cutter, utility knife and all other knives (A weapon does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 /12 inches.)
- Billy club, blackjack, bludgeon, chukka stick, and metal knuckles
- Slingshot (small, heavy weights attached to or propelled by a thong) and slungshot
- Martial arts objects including kung fu stars, nunchucks and shurikens
- Explosives, including bombs, firecrackers and bombshells

Category II

- Acid or dangerous chemicals (such as pepper spray, mace)
- *Imitation gun or other imitation weapon
- Loaded or blank cartridges and other ammunition
- *Any deadly, dangerous, or sharp pointed instruments, which can be used or is intended for use as a weapon (such as scissors, nail file, broken glass, chains, wire).

*Before requesting a suspension for possession of an article listed in Category II for which a purpose other than infliction of physical harm exists, e.g., a nail file, the principal must consider whether there are mitigating factors present. In addition, the principal must consider whether an imitation gun is realistic looking by considering factors such as its color, size, shape, appearance and weight.

E-cigarettes and controlled substances

If a scholar is found in possession of a controlled substance or vaping paraphernalia on school property, the materials will be confiscated and the scholar and his or her family will have to meet with school leaders to determine consequences. If a scholar is found in possession of vaping materials more than once, the school may take additional disciplinary steps.

In the event that a scholar is reasonably suspected of having a controlled substance, vaping paraphernalia, e-cigarettes, a weapon, or any other prohibited items on their person, we reserve the right to conduct a search as part of the investigation process.

Thank You!

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