

North Providence Public Schools North Providence, Rhode Island



Elementary School Handbook

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North Providence School Committee Members

Dr. Frank Pallotta, Ed. D, Chair
 Roderick E. DaSilva, Vice Chair
 Arthur Corsini
 Kristi Mangiocca
 Anthony Mariorenzi, Jr.
 Thomas Norato
 Gina M. Picard, M.Ed.

frank.pallotta@npsd.k12.ri.us
 roderick.dasilva@npsd.k12.ri.us
 arthur.corsini@npsd.k12.ri.us
 kristi.mangiocca@npsd.k12.ri.us
 anthony.mariorenzi@npsd.k12.ri.us
 thomas.norato@npsd.k12.ri.us
 gina.picard@npsd.k12.ri.us

North Providence School District Central Office Administrators

1820 Mineral Spring Avenue
 North Providence, RI 02904
 Telephone (401) 233-1100
 Fax (401) 349-5777

Joseph B. Goho, Superintendent of Schools
 Louise K. Seitsinger, M.Ed, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Cynthia Vanavery, M.Ed, Director of Student Services
 Lisa Casinelli, Director of Finance
 Matthew Hicks, HR Director
 David McNally, Data Director

joseph.goho@npsd.k12.ri.us
louise.seitsinger@npsd.k12.ri.us
specialeddirector@npsd.k12.ri.us
lisa.casinelli@npsd.k12.ri.us
hrdirector@npsd.k12.ri.us
datadirector@npsd.k12.ri.us

Elementary School Information

Woodhaven Elementary School 100 Morgan Ave North Providence, RI 02911 (401) 949-6065	Principal: Assistant Principal: Secretaries:	Donna Hanley donna.hanley@npsd.k12.ri.us Jennifer Norato jennifer.norato@npsd.k12.ri.us Amy Carroll amy.carroll@npsd.k12.ri.us Talia Eckman talia.eckman@npsd.k12.ri.us
James L. McGuire Elementary School 55 Central Avenue North Providence, RI 02911 (401) 233-1135	Principal: Secretary:	Alicia Lisi alicia.lisi@npsd.k12.ri.us Desiree Bianco desiree.bianco@npsd.k12.ri.us
Stephen Olney Elementary School 1378 Douglas Avenue North Providence RI 02904 (401) 233-1160	Principal: Secretary:	Anthony Pacitto anthony.pacitto@npsd.k12.ri.us Lauren Ogni lauren.ogni@npsd.k12.ri.us

Dr. Joseph A. Whelan Elementary School 1440 Mineral Spring Avenue North Providence, RI 02904 (401) 233-1180	Principal: Secretary:	Joshua Lombardi joshua.lombardi@ npsd.k12.ri.us Christine Shabo christine.shabo@npsd.k12.ri.us
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Introduction

We are happy to have your child in our schools. This handbook has been compiled to ensure mutual understanding between home and school. It will acquaint you with the various policies which affect the school's operation. If it does not answer all your questions, or if you wish more detailed information, please feel free to meet with the principal and the teachers. For your convenience, important telephone numbers are located on page one of this handbook.

Philosophy of Education

The North Providence School District must provide a comprehensive program of education to meet the needs of all students. It must offer a meaningful program of studies for those whose formal education terminates with high school and for those who will go on to further education.

The process of education is a cooperative endeavor involving all those who are committed to educational growth: parents, students, teachers, administration, staff and community. The foundations of this effort are mutual respect and responsibility. Its goal is the total development - cognitive, social, physical, emotional and ethical - essential in an ever-changing world.

In North Providence we believe that learning is not a mere accumulation of facts. It is, rather, the acquisition of basic skills, the understanding of fundamental structure, the development of the ability to see relationships, and the strengthening of the powers of judgment. Moreover, learning requires involvement with the past, present and future. Investigating the past reveals the achievements and failures of our social and cultural history. A study and critical evaluation of the present enable us to sense new values while retaining those which still have validity and worth. Knowledge of the past and present gives us the potential to shape a future in which the individual and society can reach higher levels of achievement.

In all areas of learning we are guided by the principles that each student is a distinct individual with a distinct personality. If the learning process is to be effective, the motivating factors should be the interests, needs and abilities of the learner. Accordingly, we have the responsibility of striving for flexibility in content, materials, and techniques to challenge everyone to realize his or her fullest potential and afford the opportunity for success.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the North Providence School District, as an urban ring community with a strong neighborhood identity, is to recognize its individual and cultural diversity and to adapt to the needs of students and families. Our goal is to educate and prepare our students in a safe, nurturing, and challenging environment for college and career readiness. We believe that all students can achieve and develop future-ready skills in academics, communication, technology, and the humanities to ensure they become productive and contributing members of a global society.

Beliefs

- Student learning is the basis of all district and school decisions.
- Students are educated in a safe, personalized, accepting, and academically challenging learning environment.
- Students are provided with engaging and interactive activities before, during, and after school to support the whole child
- All students can learn when they have a standards-based, high-quality curriculum and appropriate resources and support.
- Students achieve when: Learning is developmentally appropriate Learning is engaging, challenging and supportive Learning is connected to real-world applications
- Students experience academic excellence through the curriculum and evidence-based instructional practices, feedback, reflection, and classroom design.
- Students are supported by family partnerships that center involvement, engagement, and achievement.
- All students will be provided with personalized multiple pathways and learning opportunities to demonstrate college and career readiness.

Educational Goals

In accordance with RIGL G-12-4.1, the North Providence Public Schools will create and sustain high quality learning environments that meet the standards set forth in the BEP.

1. Basic Skills

- a. To acquire information and meaning through observing, listening and reading.
- b. To share information and express meaning through speaking, writing and non-verbal means.

2. Personal Growth

- a. To grow toward self-understanding and self-acceptance by determining what one's personal goals, values and attitudes are and by recognizing their influence on one's behavior.

3. Understanding Others

- a. To learn to use the accumulated knowledge of the humanities and of the sciences to understand and deal with the world.

4. Continuous Learning

- a. To develop a desire to understand the need for lifelong learning required by the inevitability of change.

5. Mental and Physical Well-Being

- a. To understand and practice good principles of mental and physical health.
- b. To develop a concern for one's safety and safety of others.
- c. Developing habits and interests leading to the satisfying use of leisure time.

6. Economical and Occupational Readiness

- a. To select and pursue career opportunities consistent with social and personal needs and capacities.
- b. Making informal consumer decisions based on appropriate knowledge of products, needs and resources.

7. Responsible Societal Membership

- a. To develop an awareness of civic rights, responsibilities, and the process of group relationships in our society
- b. To act in accordance with a basic ethical framework incorporating values contributing to harmonious group living.

8. Creativity

- a. To generate a range of imaginative responses to life's situations.

- b. To entertain and value the imaginative actions of others.

9. Coping With Others

- a. To develop an awareness of a changing world and ability to adjust to its problems by selecting workable alternatives.

Registration Requirements

To be admitted to kindergarten or first grade in elementary school, the following requirements are necessary: Mandatory attendance in kindergarten became effective in September 1989 (General Laws of Rhode Island, 16-1-27). In September of 2004, a law went into effect that there shall be a kindergarten program, and that every child who has attained or will have attained **five years of age on or before September 1** of any school year shall be eligible to attend kindergarten during all the days of kindergarten are in session during said school year.

1. To enter kindergarten, a child must be five years of age on or before September 1st of the enrollment year.
2. To enter first grade, a child must be six years of age on or before September 1st of the enrollment year.
3. The child's birth certificate must be submitted at the time of enrollment.
4. The child must have all required immunizations and lead screening before enrollment; an immunization certificate must be presented at the time of registration.
5. Legal proof of residency (two forms) must be presented at the time of registration.

Immunization Requirement For Kindergarten

When enrolling a child for kindergarten, the parent **MUST** show:

1. Proof of residency, the child's birth certificate, acceptable evidence of completion of immunization, and a lead test.
2. Parents of all children entering kindergarten must present copies of their child's (5) doses of Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine; (4) doses of Polio vaccine; (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine; (2) Doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine; (1) dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and proof of a lead screening test. The child must have all the required immunizations before enrollment. Acceptable evidence of completion of immunization consists of the date, including the day, month and year, each dose was administered. This immunization record must be signed by a healthcare provider.
3. If your child is missing any of the required immunizations, please contact your Certified School Nurse Teacher as soon as possible.

Elementary School Assignment

A child must attend the neighborhood school within his/her district. Any request for exemption from this policy must be sent to the Superintendent of Schools in a letter describing the circumstances requiring special consideration by May 1st. In addition, students may be transferred upon enrollment to a different school due to over enrollment at the discretion of the Superintendent. For further information regarding this matter, please contact the building principal.

Student Arrival And Departure

Elementary hours are: 8:55 am to 3:12 pm.

Students must leave school grounds promptly at dismissal.

Students may arrive at 8:40. There is no supervision prior to 8:40.

Check with your individual school for exact times.

Bus Transportation

For the 26/27 school year, parents will have received a form to complete in order to “opt-in” to transportation. School bus transportation should be treated as a privilege, not as a right. A student’s misconduct at a bus stop or while on a bus may provide sufficient reason to discontinue providing this service. Children are expected to ride only on their assigned bus and to get off at their assigned stop. A copy of the bus rules and procedures will be given to bus pass recipients during the first month of school. Parents must submit a written request to the bus company if a student is to be dropped at a bus stop without an adult present.

Bus Policy Due To Impassable Sidewalks After Heavy Snow

Emergency bus routes will be placed in effect whenever the sidewalks are deemed impassable. All students may walk to the main road where they will be given a bus ride to school.

North Providence Public Schools Attendance Policy

I. Purpose:

The purpose of the North Providence School District Attendance Policy is to ensure our students are successful. Studies show that attendance is directly related to a student's success in school. Rhode Island state law §16-19-1 et. seq mandates all students who have not reached their eighteenth birthday to attend school regularly. After that date, students are in school on a voluntary basis and submit to the state mandate as a condition of enrollment. Regular attendance at school results in a sense of responsibility, which is necessary for success in the workplace.

Definitions Excused Absences

Excused Absences do not count towards Excessive Absences. Excused Absences include:

- a student's participation in an approved school-sponsored activity,
- suspension days,
- religious holiday observance,
- doctor-excused illness or injury (to qualify as an Excused Absence student must submit to school a completed written doctor's note, signed by the treating medical professional who has personally observed the student) pertaining to the current school year,
- school nurse teacher excused illness or injury
- documented family emergency
- court appearance (to qualify as an Excused Absence student must submit court paperwork or summons with date and time of hearing)
- Parent/Guardian military deployment event
- dismissal from school, by school principal or designee
- unique circumstance as determined by the Superintendent, or
- refusal to attend school arising out of a legitimate fear of being bullied that has previously been reported in writing to the police and/or school officials, the merits of which have not been investigated and resolved, or mitigated by the school

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences include all absences not listed as Exempt Absences. Unexcused Absences count towards Chronic Absences.

Chronic Absence

Chronic Absence is defined as a student with a number of Unexcused Absences equal to or greater than 10% of the number of days that school has been in session for that school year, but no less than 10 Unexcused Absences. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) defines Chronic Absence as a student with a number of Total Absences equal to or greater than 10% of the number of days that school has been in session for that school year.

Tardy/Tardiness

Tardiness (lateness) is defined as a student who arrives at school late without a valid excuse. A valid excuse for tardiness includes any excuse sufficient for an excused absence.

II. Policy

1. Daily attendance for all students in the district is mandatory.
2. Parents/Guardians are required to provide a written or verbal reason to the school administrator for each period of absence, early dismissals or late arrival. To qualify as an Excused Absence parents/guardians must provide written documentation/evidence of the excused absence as indicated in the Excused Absences definition of this policy.
3. Parents/Guardians should make every effort to refrain from scheduling personal appointments during the school day.
4. Repeated Unexcused Absences from school will result in a parent/guardian conference and detention may be assigned consistent with the amount of time lost from school. Continued Unexcused Absences or excessive Tardiness will result in a referral to the Truancy Officer. Resources at the school level (nurses, social workers, counselors, truancy officer) may be utilized, if necessary, for truancy issues.
5. Repeated Tardiness to school impacts student learning and leads to lost instructional time. Punctuality must be maintained during the school year.
6. Repeated Tardiness may result in student discipline in accordance with the Student Handbook.
7. Students must be in their assigned rooms at a time specified by the principal. When students enter school grounds, all school regulations pertain. Students are to report to their assigned location as soon as it is opened.
8. The North Providence School Department may initiate proceedings in the Rhode Island Family Court against an Excessively Absent student.
 - a. Before initiating any such proceeding, school personnel shall undertake all reasonable, educationally sound, corrective actions to address the student's attendance issues, and document in writing the actions taken at the school level.
 - b. No such proceeding shall be initiated against a student who does not have at least ten (10) unexcused absences during the school year.
9. Grades may be impacted because of missed class work, projects, quizzes and tests during any unexcused absences. All missed work must be made up in a timely manner.

Appeals Process for Excessive Absence

Loss of credit due to excessive absence from school may be appealed to the building principal in writing. A parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the superintendent's office in writing. If the parent/guardian is still dissatisfied at that level, the final appeal may be addressed to the North Providence School Committee in writing.

Early Dismissal

An early dismissal is the release of a student from school prior to the end of the official school day. A student may only be dismissed early with the permission of a parent/guardian with a written note submitted to the office at the start of the school day. A student must attend school for a minimum of three hours, or the day will be recorded as an absence.

School Rules And Regulations

The Code of Student Conduct outlines the behavioral expectations and standards for students attending schools within the North Providence Public Schools (the "District"). These guidelines are designed to foster a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all members of the school community.

At the commencement of each school year, each school principal shall ensure that the Code of Student Conduct

is distributed to each student in their school. Each student, and their parent/guardian, must acknowledge in writing that they have received a copy of the Code of Student Conduct. All students must adhere to the standards outlined in this policy, regardless of whether they signed the written acknowledgment.

The Code is reviewed, with faculty input, and amended periodically by the administration, the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee. The District will administer the Code consistently with equal enforcement for all.

The rules and regulations set forth by the Code are intended to follow the policies as set forth by the North Providence School Committee as well as state and federal statutes. Any changes and/or differences decreed at state or federal levels would take precedence over the North Providence Code of Student Conduct.

Student Responsibilities

Students must adhere to established school policies, rules, directives and regulations of their school and district. Students are expected to always maintain proper standards of behavior, and will:

- A. Respect and encourage the right to teach and the right to learn.
- B. Be actively engaged in learning, ask questions, collaborate, and seek solutions. Be on time to fulfill their daily commitments.
- C. Be appropriate; demonstrate behavior that is considerate of the community, the campus, and themselves.
- D. Be truthful and communicate honestly.
- E. Be responsible and accountable for their choices.

It is expected that all students will follow the rules of behavior necessary to ensure that a supportive learning environment exists in all North Providence schools. The following list, while not inclusive, specifies offenses for which students will receive disciplinary action, as determined by the school administrator or their designee as appropriate.

For policy purposes K-5 is designated as elementary. Grades 6-12 are designated as secondary.

Scope

The discipline code applies to the school day which covers pre and post school time in school buildings and on school grounds. The discipline code also pertains to any school function or any school related or sponsored activity, whether on or off school grounds.

Standards for student behavior infractions¹

School Committees have the power and duty to establish standards of conduct in the schools and for disciplinary actions.² The administration of consequences must be equitable and cannot be arbitrary or contrary to state-wide academic policy.

- 1. ACADEMIC
 - a. Cheating, Forgery, Plagiarism
 - b. Academic Non-Compliance
- 2. ACCOUNTABILITY
 - a. Cutting, Removal from, or Leaving Class, Lunch, Detention or In School Suspension or Intervention

- b. Leaving School Campus
 - c. Tardy to School
 - d. Truancy
- 3. BEHAVIOR
 - a. Class disruption
 - b. Damage, theft, vandalism of property
 - c. Possession and/or use of disruptive or potentially unsafe devices (e.g., stink bombs, water pistols, air horns, lighters, etc.)
 - d. Insubordination, defiance, disrespectful behavior
 - e. Lunchroom and corridor misconduct
 - f. Physically aggressive behavior
 - g. Vulgarity, obscene gestures, pornography
- 4. ENDANGERING BEHAVIOR
 - a. Threatening behavior (e.g., threats of arson or bombs, threats to individuals)
 - b. Assault, arson, bomb
 - c. Fighting or instigating a fight (regardless of whether fight results)
 - d. Bullying (Harassment or Intimidation), including the use of AI deepfakes
 - e. Sexual harassment
 - f. Dating violence (other than assaults)/Electronic Dating Violence
 - g. Possession of weapons, bullets or potentially unsafe devices ³
 - h. False Alarm and/or False 911
 - i. Video Voyeurism ⁴
- 5. V. OTHER
 - a. Cell Phones/Recreational equipment
 - b. Dress code violations
 - c. Distribution of unauthorized material
 - d. Gambling
 - e. Headwear (e.g., hats, hoods, bandannas)
 - f. Overt display of affection
- 6. VI. SUBSTANCE ABUSE
 - a. Use/Possession of tobacco products, including electronic and non-combustible smoking devices
 - b. Possession/use/under the influence of a controlled substance, including unauthorized prescription drugs, drug derivatives, natural or synthetic substances, or alcohol
 - c. Distribution, solicitation, sale or intent of sale of controlled substances or falsely presented substances, including unauthorized prescription drugs, drug derivatives, natural or synthetic substances, or alcohol
 - d. Possession/distribution/sale of paraphernalia

¹ The following list of infractions are guidelines and not meant to be an all-inclusive list.

² R.I. Gen Laws § 16-2-9(a)(16)

³ Any student who brings a firearm or a realistic replica of a firearm within school premises, premises being used for school purposes or activities, into a vehicle used for school transportation, or onto a roadway or path along which school children or teachers are walking to school shall receive an out of school suspension for one year. The Superintendent may shorten this term, on a case-by-case basis. Law enforcement agencies shall be immediately notified of any weapons offense.

⁴ The intent to capture an image of a private area of someone without their consent and knowingly doing so when they have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Disciplinary Procedures

Student Behavior Infractions may result in the imposition of one or more of the following disciplinary measures:

Parent/Teacher Conference: A scheduled meeting between the parents/guardians of a student and their teacher(s), to discuss the student's misconduct.

Restorative Practices: Practices that focus on relationships, responsibility, and repair of harm caused by the student's misconduct. This may include payment of restitution, community service or other practices. These practices aim to address behavioral issues through dialogue, understanding and accountability.

Detention

The loss of free time before, during or after school, for up to one (1) hour.

In-School Suspension/Intervention

The removal from classes by the principal or their designee for not more than ten (10) days, and placement within the school.

Social Suspension

The exclusion from all extracurricular activities for a period of time, hosted by either the school and/or PTO/PTA.

Out-of-School Suspension

The denial of school privileges and exclusion from school by the principal or their designee for not more than ten school days.

1. Teachers and school administrators will evaluate infractions on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate consequence. Teachers and school administrators may consider the nature and circumstances of the infractions, input from staff and students, input from administrators, and the student's prior history of consequences.
2. A student may only receive an out of school suspension if the student is a disruptive student or the student represents a demonstrable threat. ⁵ A student may not receive an out of school suspension if the sole infraction is attendance related. ⁶
 - a. A disruptive student is defined as an individual who:
 - i. Exhibits persistent conduct which substantially impedes the ability of other students to learn OR
 - ii. Otherwise substantially interferes with students, staff, teachers or administrators' right to a safe and secure school, AND
 - iii. Who has failed to respond to corrective rehabilitative measures presented by staff, teachers and administrators. ⁷
3. If a student receives a suspension that is greater than ten school days, that student is entitled to an Alternative Education Program. ⁸
4. In all disciplinary matters (including in-school and out of school suspension), due process and all legally mandated procedures regarding the discipline of students with disabilities will be followed. ⁹
See: <https://ride.ri.gov/students-families/health-safety/discipline-schools>

5. If a student who has a disability or a suspected disability under IDEA or Section 504, is to receive a discipline that would change their placement, or violate an established IEP, BIP or 504 plan¹⁰ or other accommodation, they shall undergo appropriate process prior to the imposition of such discipline.¹¹
 - a. A change in placement is defined as an exclusion of more than ten (10) consecutive school days or a series of disciplinary removals that total more than ten (10) school days in a school year.
6. Suspension is defined as that act by a school administrator or by the School Committee that removes a student from school for a specific period of time, less than one-hundred eighty (180) days. Students that make threats of any kind to self or to other students/staff members may result in the student being required to submit a safety/risk assessment conducted by an outside medical professional as a condition for reinstatement to school. The student may also be required to regularly meet with the school social worker/school psychologist. Upon reentry to school a meeting involving the student, parent/guardian, principal, and school social worker/school psychologist must occur.

⁵ R.I. Gen Laws § 16-2-17 (a) and 16-2-17.1

⁶ R.I. Gen Laws § 16-19-1

⁷ Id.

⁸ R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-27

⁹ See Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1415 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794

¹⁰ A parent or guardian may request an evaluation or reevaluation under Section 504 for their child's disability based behavioral needs. See C.F.R. § 104.35

¹¹ 34 C.F.R. § 300.530(e)

Suspension Offenses

School Administrators shall utilize in-school suspension at the secondary level when appropriate and as defined by state law in order to maintain support for student learning. A parent/guardian conference is required prior to the student being reinstated from suspension.

Conduct which endangers persons or property or is seriously disruptive to the educational process. Included within, but not limited to, such prohibited conduct are the following acts:

- a. Conduct causing a threat of danger to the physical well-being of the student, or other(s), including threats made through social media or other electronic methods.
- b. Physical assault on another person on school premises, bus stops, buses, or at school sponsored events/activities.
- c. Taking or attempting to take personal property/money from another student, staff member, or the school, by means of force, or threat of force.
- d. Causing/attempting to cause damage to school property or disruption to the school environment.. Offense may result in SRO/police involvement and may require restitution.

Weapons And Violence In Schools

With this policy, the North Providence School Department adopts a Zero Tolerance for weapons in our schools. All cases will result in SRO/police involvement.

Items in the following categories are defined as **weapons**:

- Any firearm of any description, whether or not it can be fired, (e.g., pistol, blank pistol, signal pistol, starter pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, etc.).
- Any ammunition which could be used in a firearm.
- Any explosive device of any nature, including firecrackers.
- Any knife or similar bladed item dangerous to others, (e.g., Bowie, Dirck, lock blade, hunting, pen, pick, switchblade, utility, razor, etc.).
- Any martial arts device, (e.g., nunchaku, etc.).
- Any defensive weapon, (e.g., gas repellent, mace, stun gun, pepper gas, etc.).
- Any other object which school administrators could reasonably conclude is capable of inflicting bodily harm, (e.g., blackjack, chair club, knuckles, nightstick, pipe, studded bracelet, etc.).

Any other item by virtue of its shape or design which gives the appearance of any of the aforementioned, (e.g., air pistol, air rifle, BB gun, look alike, etc.).

Possession of a weapon or a replica of a weapon on school grounds, at school sponsored activities/events, or on a school bus will result in a minimum of a 1-9 day out of school suspension, and possible expulsion.

Assault

Assault is defined as an act of physical violence or an aggravated threat of physical violence by a student on another student or staff member.

When considering what constitutes aggravated assault, the factors to be weighed include: age of student(s) involved, seriousness of bodily injury, the state of mind of the individual(s) involved and other factors deemed relevant to the principal or designee.

No student will possess a weapon or demonstrate an act of violence as defined herein on any school grounds, vehicles or property on which a school activity occurs before, during or after school hours.

Police Involvement

1. In all cases where weapons or aggravated assault in schools or on school grounds or at authorized school activities on/off campus, local police must be called, and all confiscated weapons are to be turned over to the police department.
2. A log of all confiscated weapons will be kept by the school administration and will be available to be reviewed by the local police.
3. If a student is a special education student, verbally inform the police of the student's disability. Send an incident report to the Director of Student Services.
4. School Administrators will ensure all School Resource Officers (SRO) and/or any other law enforcement personnel are informed of students' cultural and language differences. Additionally, NPSD will invite SROs to participate in related district professional development opportunities.

Statement of Enforcement

1. This policy will be implemented according to the due process provisions applicable to regular and special education students. For students with disabilities and 504 Plans, the implementation of this policy will be in accordance with approved local procedures, as well as state and federal regulations governing the suspension or removal of special education students from school programs. Serious offenses must immediately be reported to the Director of Student Services.
2. Decisions regarding the specific length of a student's suspension will be made by the appropriate authority of the School Committee. Any student suspended from school may not participate in school functions or be on school premises until formally reinstated.
3. Each school will undertake activities designed to develop a school wide acceptance of positive behavior standards and expectations. It is expected that all students will report incidents of bullying and weapons. Schools are encouraged to maintain open and consistent communication with parents/guardians and the community to support positive behavior and optimum learning.
4. In the enforcement of this policy, School Administrators may authorize, with reasonable cause a search of student lockers, personal items and vehicles as follows:
 - a. Students have full responsibility for the security of their lockers. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that lockers are locked and that the keys and combinations are not given to others. Students should not place, keep, or maintain any article or material that is forbidden by District policy in lockers.
 - b. School officials may search lockers or personal items if there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by District policy. Students shall be responsible for any prohibited items found in their lockers.

Due Process Procedures

Short-Term Suspension 1-9 days

1. Short-term suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference between a School Administrator, student and any staff member involved. At this time the student can present relevant information.
2. The Administrator will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) immediately to inform them of the length of the suspension and to arrange a parent conference.
3. The Administrator shall, when feasible, within 24 hours of the beginning of the short term suspension, send a notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the suspended student stating the specific act(s) for which the suspension was imposed.
4. A student will be granted reinstatement after a suspension contingent upon a conference with the Administrator and the student(s)' parent(s)/guardian(s).
5. Parents/guardians may request work that will be missed during the suspension. Students are expected to make up all assignments missed during the suspension within a reasonable time frame.

For suspensions of special education students exceeding 5 days, the Director of Student Services must be notified by the School Administrator.

Long Term Suspension (Ten (10) days or more)

Prior to suspensions or expulsion, except for such times as not feasible, where the student's presence endangers people or property or their disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice or hearing will follow as soon as practicable, the student will be afforded:

1. A clear, written statement of the reason for suspension or expulsion.
2. Notice of the right to prompt public or private hearing at the student's election and the right to be represented by counsel at such hearing; and
3. If a hearing is requested, the student will be given prompt notice setting the time and place to be reasonably set, so as to allow sufficient time for preparation, without undue delay.
4. If no hearing is requested within seven (7) days of written notice, the School Committee may act upon the request to suspend or expel at earliest convenience without further notice to parent or guardian.
5. For 504 or special education students, the Director of Special Services must be notified before this action is taken.

In the event a student has not attained the age of majority (18 years), the parent/guardian will be afforded the procedures stated in sections 1, 2, 3 & 4 above. Such notice shall be written in the parent's spoken language, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.

The student will be afforded a hearing at which the student will have the right to:

1. Representation and participation by counsel and cross-examine witnesses and to present witnesses on behalf of the student.
2. There will be a complete and accurate (stenographic or electronic) record of the hearing including all exhibits. The record will be preserved for transmission to the Commissioner of Education, as soon as possible, in the event of an appeal.
3. The student will be provided with a copy of the record without cost.
4. A written decision will be made, within a reasonable time, based exclusively on the record detailing the reasons and factual basis therefore.
5. The student will be promptly provided with a copy of said decision.
6. A copy of the decision, together with the record, will be promptly forwarded to the Commissioner of Education if there is an appeal.

Appeals

The Department will implement the following procedure for discipline, including in school and out of school suspension:

1. When a student is considered for an in school or out of school suspension, before a decision is made, the student will be entitled to a meeting before the principal or designee at which time the student shall be provided an opportunity to discuss the violation of the code of conduct. During this meeting, the student will be provided with oral notice of the allegations, and if the student denies these allegations, the school will provide an explanation of the evidence they possess. Then, the student will be provided with an opportunity to present additional information and/or an explanation for the student's actions.
 - a. After this meeting, the student and parent will be informed of the decision to suspend the student, either in school or out of school, within one day. This notification can be provided either orally, in person or over the phone, or through electronic mail or regular mail.
 - b. If there is an emergency requiring the student's immediate removal after an incident, as determined in the judgment of the principal or their designee, then this meeting will occur as soon as the student can be present for the meeting.¹²
2. Upon issuing a decision for an in school or out of school suspension the principal or their designee

shall provide a parent or guardian with written notice, either in hand, through regular mail, to the parent or guardian's last known address as reported on school records or through electronic mail, informing the parent or guardian of the issuance of an in school or out of school suspension involving their student and the reason(s) for it.

3. The student, parent or guardian may request an appeal of the School Committee's decision to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Bus Rules And Regulations

School Bus Transportation is considered a privilege, not a right, and is an extension of the school system. A student's misconduct at a bus stop or on a bus could lead to transportation being withdrawn, in cases of persistent behavior. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to report any dangerous or hazardous situations which they may observe at the bus stop or on the bus. Please refer to the [Transportation Policy](#) for Bus Procedures and [Code of Conduct for Pupils](#).

North Providence Schools' Dress Code Policy

North Providence Public Schools is committed to being a diverse and inclusive community and respects students' rights to express themselves through their dress. As such, the responsibility for the dress and appearance of the students will rest with individual students and their parents. They have the right to determine how the student will dress provided that their attire meets minimum requirements for health and safety and does NOT:

- Defame, demean or promote violence or aggression against any individual or group
- Promote the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products
- Reference sexually provocative or explicit content
- Cause disorder or disruption in the school

Guidelines for student dress, which will be developed and enforced by the administration in individual schools, shall be written in a manner free from discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, disability, pregnancy or a related condition, veteran status, age, or homelessness. School administrators are authorized to take action when students' attire does not meet the stated requirements. Enforcement of the dress code should be done in the least restrictive manner to reduce disruption to the student's school day, minimize the loss of instructional time, and preserve the respect and dignity of both the student and the school community. Student dress should not pose a clear and present danger to the student's health and safety, cause interference with schoolwork, or create a classroom or school disorder.

¹² "Students whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process may be immediately removed from school." *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (1975)

The School Committee recognizes that a student may be exempt from the provisions of the dress code if granted by the building Principal upon presentation of substantive evidence. All exceptions will be reviewed periodically by the Principal.

Materials

Basic school materials are provided without additional charge. It is important for children to learn to be responsible for their materials. Therefore, it is expected that payment will be made for lost or damaged school property. Books taken home should be covered.

Lost And Found

Each year a large amount of clothing and other articles turn up in our Lost and Found Department. Each school has an area set aside for these items, and children and parents have an opportunity to look through these items at any time during the course of the school year. Parents can be helpful by labeling their children's articles of clothing and lunch boxes.

Closing of School

On extremely stormy days it may be necessary to close or delay school. If such is the case, an automated computerized all-call system as well as radio/TV stations WPRO AM, WWBB, WWLI, WHJJ, WSNE, WPRO-TV (Channel 12), WJAR-TV (Channel 10), WLNE-TV (Channel 6) will make the announcement from 6:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.

It will be the policy of the School Department to close school only in case of extreme weather conditions; otherwise, regular sessions will be held. In the event of needing to close schools, we will make all attempts to implement our Virtual Learning Plan (posted on <https://nprovschools.org/>). ***Parents are urged, therefore, when schools are open on stormy days, to exercise their personal judgment as to the wisdom of sending their children to school.***

Emergency School Closing (Early Dismissal)

Official announcements will be made over the same automated computerized all-call system, radio and television stations. Since it is impossible to contact families individually, parents are advised to make provisions for an alternate emergency location should the parents not be at home.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

The elementary schools participate in the School Breakfast, Milk and Lunch Programs which make daily breakfasts, milk and lunch available to the pupils at a very low cost. Applications for free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches are sent home at the beginning of the school year and are available at the school anytime thereafter. It is strongly encouraged that all students complete and return these documents in a timely fashion. Parents and guardians can log into [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com), using their child's SASID in order to make payments for money owed on breakfast and lunch. School department officials will reach out periodically to inform families of money owed.

Report to Parents

Pupils in Kindergarten-5th Grade receive report cards three times a year, in December, March and at the end of the school year. Report cards are standard based. See this link on how to view report cards.

https://nprovschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/SKY_Family_ReportCards.pdf

Parent-Teacher Conferences

North Providence Schools will hold one designated Parent-Teacher Conference night in November of each school year. Additional conferences can be held on an individual basis, based on parent and/or teacher request.

The North Providence Public Schools encourages parent visits to schools. These visits will ultimately result in establishing friendly relations between teachers and parents, which in turn, will benefit your child. Parents must call the school during the day to arrange for a conference, thus ensuring that the teacher will be free to devote complete thought to the situation. Conferences between teachers and parents are a part of our reporting-to-parents program.

There may be times when the teacher or principal will request parents to come to school to discuss some phase of the child's work. These meetings or conferences should be viewed as a means for both parents and teachers to get to know each other and thus to reach a common understanding of the child's abilities and limitations. We work on the principle that the more we know about your child the more we can help him/her.

Grading Policy

Introduction

Grades are an important measurement of a student's success in school and should represent a student's academic achievement of state standards. The North Providence Public Schools (the "District") adopts this grading policy to establish guidelines and procedures related to reporting student progress toward and achievement of the learning objectives in a course/class.

Policy

All grading practices adopted by Administration must support the learning process and promote student success. Evaluation of a student's performance in a course/class is documented by numbered and lettered grades. A letter grade indicates the level of performance and will become a part of the student's permanent academic record.

Purpose of Grades

All grading practices adopted by the Administration of the District will support the learning process and promote student success. The primary purpose for grading student work and eventually assigning a summative grade is to communicate to students and families the achievement status against the instruction and curriculum of the District to students, parents, and others during and at the conclusion of each grading period. In combination with instruction, reteaching, feedback, and assessment, students, parents, and others will have a strong understanding of how students have measured against the standards set forth in the curriculum through instruction reteaching, feedback, and assessment. Grades will be comprised of evaluation, assessments, assignments, and other coursework submitted for Grading.

Grading Factors

Grades will accurately reflect students' knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge. Unless specifically part of the curriculum, behavior, class participation and/or attendance, attitude, attendance at an event, will not be factored into summative quarterly, semester or end of the year grades. Grades will primarily be based upon assessments (e.g., major course assessments, common assessments, unit assessments, district assessments, performance tasks, major projects, research papers, and/or other district approved assessments) which measure important learning.

Student work habits will not be considered in student grades and will be reported separately. Grades shall reflect student level of understanding and mastery of state and course standards. Unless specifically part of the curriculum, behavior, class participation, and attendance are not considered in grading.

Grade appeals

All grade appeals may be initiated by the parent, legal guardian, or student aged 18 or older within five (5) days of the release of report cards. Quarter, trimester, and final grades are appealable. All grade appeals shall follow the procedures outlined in the corresponding Grading Protocol.

Development of protocol

The Superintendent of Schools/designee shall develop a protocol and procedures to facilitate this policy.

[Grading Protocol](#)

Parent-Teacher Organizations

Only through parent-school teamwork and effort toward consistent goals can a child gain full benefit from a school program. Elementary schools have separate Parent-Teacher organizations. It is our sincere hope that every family with children in the schools will become active members in the school's Parent-Teacher group.

Health

Before your child enters school, teach him the basic health habits such as bathing, combing and brushing hair, cleaning nails, going to the toilet without help, washing hands after using the toilet before lunch, using a tissue correctly, eating three well-balanced meals daily and getting enough sleep each night.

The supportive parent will see to it that the child is in the best health before sending the child off to school and that the child is properly clothed for weather conditions. Layers of clothing are best to allow for adjustments to heat the building.

Please keep your child home when they show any deviation from normal health. If you plan to be away from home, kindly provide a place for your child to stay until you return in the event the child becomes ill in school.

Notify the school immediately of changes in emergency numbers.

North Providence Public Schools makes every effort to control the spread of communicable diseases. If your child has any of the suspicious symptoms, they will be sent home as protection to all. You should call the child's school for information on the confinement periods for contagious diseases.

School nurses are assigned to each school. They will make arrangements to have your child's eyes and ears tested. The nurse will be happy to talk about any health problem concerning your child. However, the nurse will not diagnose a child's illness.

Vision, Hearing, Dental Screening

Beginning with the first year of enrollment, all children are given, hearing, and dental screenings. Children are tested annually for sight and periodically for hearing. Parents will receive notification if their child fails. It is recommended that parents consult with their family physician for any recommendations that they may offer regarding remedial treatment. Each classroom teacher is made aware of vision and hearing deficiencies in order that consideration may be given to seating the child advantageously in the classroom.

Homebound Instruction Due to Illness

Students physically unable to attend school are provided with home instruction under certain conditions of

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prolonged absence. The parents should inform the school nurse and principal when it is known that a student is going to be unable to attend school for a lengthy period.

Eligibility for temporary homebound instruction is determined based on medical evidence submitted by a licensed physician. A student must have a physical or mental health condition, injury, or illness that will require the student to be homebound or hospitalized as diagnosed and confirmed by a licensed physician.

The North Providence School Department shall thereafter provide temporary homebound instruction at a rate of five (5) hours per school week at the elementary level and (6) hours per school week at the secondary level, including tutoring if necessary, in accordance with the Temporary Homebound Instruction Protocol. When necessary, tutoring will be provided at no cost to the parent/guardian or adult student.

The goal of short-term homebound instruction is to facilitate the student's return to school within a specific time.

Medications

Medications may only be taken in school when prescribed by a physician and only after the parent has contacted the school nurse and provided the appropriate documentation. In addition, parents are advised not to send any type of medication to school with a child unless the form for Dispensing Medicine in School has been filed with the nurse. **Only the school nurse or child's parent or legal guardian may dispense medication.**

Special Services

Classroom teachers alone cannot assume responsibility for the many services that children need. Specialists include the school nurse, the doctor, the dentist, school psychologist, social worker, the reading teacher and the librarian who assist the classroom teacher in attempting to meet the educational needs of each child. Specialists also contribute to the curriculum in such fields as art, library, science, music and physical education. They serve to help teachers in units of work in which equipment or special skills may be needed. The administration and teachers believe by working together, we ensure the best education for all children. The Special Education Department services special needs children who qualify for this program. These children are provided with a full range of services. Referrals to Special Education are initiated through the school Educational Evaluation Team.

Every student during the first year of enrollment in the school shall be screened for speech defects by a trained and qualified person.

The Multi-lingual Learners (MLL) department provides language experiences for students who are not fluent in English.

Libraries

Each elementary school has a central school library and classroom book collections. The school libraries provide reference materials which support and supplement the school curriculum, teach proper library procedure, and provide material for the development of independent reading.

Educational Trips

Students have the opportunity to take school sponsored educational trips to further some educational activity or to answer some curricula needs. Most of the educational trips take place during the regular school day. Permission forms are sent to all parents/guardians stating the times of each trip.

Acceptable Use Policy

This Acceptable Use Agreement has six conditions or facets of being a Digital Citizen.

Respect Yourself - I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate, I will consider the information and images that I post online. I will not post personal information about my life, experiences, experimentation or relationships. I will not be obscene. I will never input my personal details - such as my last name, address, school name, or photos of myself or others - into any AI tool.

Protect Yourself - I will ensure that the information I post online does not put me at risk. I will not publish my contact details or a schedule of my activities. I will protect my passwords and accounts. I will immediately tell a teacher if I see AI-generated content that makes me feel uncomfortable, confused, or unsafe. I will only use AI tools that my teacher has specifically approved for my age and when allowed by policy and with my teacher's help.

Respect Others - I will show respect to others. I will not use the internet to bully, harass, or hurt other people. I will not use AI to create or share "Deepfakes" (fake images, videos, or voices) that could trick or embarrass others. I will not visit websites that are mean, inappropriate, or racist. I will not enter other people's private digital spaces or accounts.

Protect Others - I will protect my classmates by reporting mean behavior and not forwarding inappropriate materials. I will not use AI tools to pretend to be someone else. I will not use AI to copy or "mimic" the voice or writing style of a friend, classmate, or teacher.

Respect School Property I will take care of any school equipment or tools that I use. I will let the teacher know if any equipment is not working properly or needs to be repaired.

Don't Steal I will not steal content, media or information. I will only use properly purchased and licensed content, media and software. I will properly purchase my music and other media, and refrain from distributing these.

Honor Intellectual Property - I will ask permission to use work produced by others. I will cite all websites, books, and media I use in my projects. I will always tell my teacher if I used an AI tool to help me. I will never turn in AI-generated work and claim I wrote it myself.

Respect District Safeguards - I will respect and honor the safeguards put in place by the district to protect the safety of the school community. I understand that because I am under 13, I will only use AI tools when my teacher is helping me or if it is part of my special learning plan (IEP/504).

By signing this agreement / handbook , I undertake to always act in a manner that is respectful to myself and others, to act appropriately in a moral and ethical manner. I agree to follow the principles of digital citizenship outlined in this agreement and accept that failing to follow these tenets will have consequences.

Student Policy - Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications

All users of the North Providence School District computer systems by either students or employees are subject to this Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). This bulletin will undergo periodic review to ensure District data systems are used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner, and such use must be in support of the District's business and education objectives.

Teachers, administrators, and other school personnel should ensure district data systems are used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner, and such use must be in support of the District's business and education objectives.

Philosophy of Use

Access to computers, computing equipment, e-mail and the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and Web sites while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. The district provides students with computing and Internet access to further educational goals and objectives. However, students may find ways to access materials that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. The district believes the benefits of access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed any disadvantages.

Explicit Age-Based Restrictions on the Use of AI

The North Providence School Department is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and compliant digital learning environment. In strict adherence to federal privacy regulations and district AI safety protocols, the **direct use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools by students under the age of 13 is prohibited** in schools.

An exception to the under-13 restriction is granted when the use of an AI assistant is a documented accommodation within a student's approved **Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan**. In these instances, the tool must be district approved and used under direct teacher supervision to ensure it is serving the student's specific educational goals and adhering to all safety standards as described in the AI Policy.

Teachers in any grade level may utilize AI platforms to generate or enhance instructional materials for classroom use, provided they vet all output for bias, diversity, and accuracy and exercise professional judgment regarding its developmental appropriateness before presenting it to students. Teachers are not allowed to directly show or project AI output in real time to students to ensure students are engaging with teacher-verified content rather than unfiltered algorithmic outputs.

Student Rights and Responsibilities For Using the District Network

The district provides a computer network for students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. The network is available to conduct research, save student work and files, and communicate with others via email. Access is a privilege, not a right, and therefore entails responsibility. Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. All users will comply with all district regulations and will honor signed agreements. Students and parents shall be required to sign the North Providence School District Acceptable Use Policy annually before Internet or electronic communication accounts shall be accessed and be allowed. Personal Internet use, Students' home use, and personal Internet use can have an impact on the school and on other students. If a student's personal Internet expression - such as a threatening message to another student or a violent Web site - creates a likelihood of material disruption of the school's operations, the student may face school discipline and criminal penalties.

Teacher Supervision

During the instructional day, teachers make reasonable efforts to supervise student use of the district's Internet system in a manner that is appropriate to the student's age and circumstances of use.

Student IDs and Passwords

The district may provide any student with a unique Internet ID and password for that student's use only. All secondary students will receive an email account and elementary students by request for Teacher led projects. Students shall not share their passwords with anyone else, nor shall students use anyone else's password, regardless of how the password is obtained. Students who suspect that someone has discovered their password should contact a teacher at their school immediately. Students shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users.

Protection of Identifying Information

When sending electronic messages on the district's network or to users outside the network, students shall not include information that identifies themselves or other students. Identifying information includes, but is not limited to, last names, addresses, telephone numbers, family information, or any other personal information that, when combined, could be used to identify someone that can then be used inappropriately.

To protect student privacy and safety, the following rules regarding images and AI must be followed:

- **Photos and Media:** Students shall not post or share photos or videos of themselves or others that include identifying information (such as wearing a school uniform with a visible logo or being in a recognizable location).
- **AI Tools:** Students are strictly prohibited from inputting personal details - including last names, addresses, school names, or photos of themselves or others - into any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool or Large Language Model.
- **Deepfakes:** Students shall not use AI to create, post, or distribute "Deepfakes" or any manipulated images, audio, or video of other students or staff members.
- **Personal Identification:** Students shall identify themselves by first names only in electronic communications.
- **Meetings:** Students should never arrange face-to-face meetings with persons met on the Internet or through electronic communications.

Students must abide by all laws, this Acceptable Use Policy, and all District security policies to ensure a safe learning environment.

Using proxy sites to bypass district filters

The North Providence School District utilizes filtering and blocking software to maintain a safe and secure digital environment for all students. Any attempt to bypass these established safeguards is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and will result in disciplinary action.

Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to:

- **Proxy Servers:** Using school systems or personal devices to access "proxy sites" or other tools designed to bypass the district's established network filters.
- **AI "Jailbreaking":** Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or Large Language Models to generate code, instructions, or methods intended to "jailbreak" district devices or circumvent security protocols.
- **Security Tampering:** Attempting to disable, modify, or tamper with the district's filtering service or network security systems.

Access to Restricted Use and Physical Computer Damage

Student use of school district computer equipment and network is limited to the educational purposes. Improper uses include, but are not limited to, gaining illegal access to school district records, files, computer programs,

student records, and other information maintained by the school district.

Students shall not damage district or outside computing devices, systems or networks or interfere with another's ability to use a computing system or network. Students should not bypass or disable district network security systems.

Use of non-district software and applications

Students shall not install any non-district approved application software or browser add-ons on the district network or school workstations.

Students may NOT download inappropriate files onto district network resources, district accounts, onto devices. Inappropriate files include, but are not limited to, games, music, video or audio files, or material protected by the district's filtering or blocking software.

Filtering Software

Filtering Software

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the district has installed filtering and/or blocking software to restrict access to Internet sites containing material harmful to minors, such as sexually explicit or other inappropriate materials. The software works by scanning for objectionable words or concepts as determined by the school district.

AI and Dynamic Content

Students and parents should be aware that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models can generate text, images, and media in real-time. Because this content is created instantly, it may occasionally bypass traditional internet filters that rely on lists of known "bad" websites. The use of AI to intentionally generate or seek out material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful, or otherwise inappropriate is strictly prohibited and is a violation of this policy.

Reporting and Responsibility

No Internet filter is foolproof. A user who incidentally connects to an inappropriate site, or who encounters inappropriate content generated by an AI tool, must immediately disconnect from the site or close the tool and notify a teacher or supervisor. If a user sees another user accessing inappropriate sites or using AI to create harmful material, he or she should notify a teacher or supervisor immediately.

Cyber Bullying

North Providence Public Schools does not tolerate bullying and harassment. Students shall not use any Internet or other communication device, such as cell phones, computers, or Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, to intimidate, bully, harass, or embarrass other students or staff members. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Synthetic Media:** Using AI to create, post, or distribute "Deepfakes," which include manipulated images, videos, or fabricated audio intended to trick, mock, or embarrass others.
- **Digital Impersonation:** Using AI tools to mimic the voice, writing style, or digital persona of a peer or staff member to spread misinformation or cause distress.
- **Harmful Content:** Using any online tool to produce derogatory, offensive, or harassing text or media directed at any member of the school community. Students who engage in such activity on school grounds, or who engage in such activity off-campus and create a material disruption of school operations, shall be subject to the penalties outlined in the NPSD Safe School Act Statewide Bullying Policy, as well as possible criminal prosecution.

Intellectual Property

Students must request permission to use resources and suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, and other media. Students must agree to not steal content, media, or information and to only use properly purchased and licensed content, media, and software. Students are expected to understand that the direct use of AI tools is prohibited for students under the age of 13 (with some exceptions for IEP and 504 plans). If AI tools are accessed outside of school, any resulting content must be disclosed to the teacher and may not be submitted as their own original work. Students must cite the use of any sources in their assignments (as specified by their teacher), and understand that presenting the work of others, including AI-generated output, as their own work is considered plagiarism and academic dishonesty, and is a violation of our district policies. For more information about copyright, please see <http://www.copyright.gov>. For more information, you may find our policies at <https://nprovschools.org/district-policies>.

District Access to Student Files and Emails

Students should have no expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the content of electronic communications or other computer files that they send or receive on the school computer network or store in student directories.

The Director Technology or other designated district employee may, at any time, review the subject, content, and appropriateness of electronic communications or other computer files and may remove them, if warranted.

Personal Mobile Technology (including wearables)

In accordance with Rhode Island General Law § 16-21-43, the North Providence Public Schools maintains a "bell-to-bell" policy to reduce distractions, protect student privacy, and foster an environment focused on learning.

Usage Restrictions

Students are prohibited from having physical access to personal electronic devices - including smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, smart glasses, headsets or earbuds and other internet-enabled devices - during the entirety of the school day. Upon entering the building, all personal devices must be powered off and stored in a designated inaccessible location until the end of the school day. This policy applies to all personal communication devices in a student's possession; the use or possession of "burner" phones or secondary devices to circumvent these rules is strictly prohibited. This includes smartwatches and other wearable devices that can send or receive messages, access the internet, or capture media, and must be powered off and stored during school hours.

Required Exceptions

In compliance with state law, exceptions to this restriction will be granted only for the following reasons:

- **Educational Accommodations:** Use of assistive technology as documented in a student's approved Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.
- **Medical Necessity:** Use of a device to monitor a medical condition (e.g., glucose monitoring, hearing aid, prescription glasses) as documented by a healthcare provider and school nurse.
- **Language Support:** Use of a device to support Emergent Multilingual Learners (MLL) as part of an approved language access program.
- **Emergencies:** Access may be granted in the event of an emergency as determined by school administration.

District Liability

The district is not responsible for the loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to any student-owned electronic devices brought onto school grounds.

Elementary School Policy Concerning Devices

Chromebooks are provided for all educational purposes. Students may bring learning devices (privately owned Chromebook for example) in accordance with the Bring Your Own Device Policy. Any other personal devices must be stowed away during school time. School staff reserve the right to store any devices that disrupt a school day. School officials and staff are prohibited from searching the contents of any personal electronic device that is stored and not in the student's possession. You may find a copy of the BYOD policy and our Student Cell Phone Use Policy at <https://nprovschools.org/district-policies>.

Inappropriate Photos/Videos/Media

It is an explicit part of this policy that a student may not possess, view, send, or share pictures or text having sexual content while the student is on school grounds, at school sponsored events or on school buses or other vehicles provided by North Providence Schools. This policy strictly prohibits sexual material in electronic or any other form and includes but is not limited to the sexual material contained in a cellular telephone, camera phone, or sexual material transmitted by text message, e-mail, or any electronic communication device. This also includes any synthetic or deep-fake images created by an AI tool. A student who violates this policy is subject to suspension or expulsion.

School personnel are required to report to law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any student or other person is involved with child exploitation or child pornography. Students and parents need to be aware of the consequences - some of them life-altering-of having sexual material at school, including on your cell phone or other electronic communication device.

Discipline

North Providence Public Schools may apply discipline up to and including suspension and/or expulsion for specific student violations of the Internet and Electronic Mail Permission and Use Regulations. Students who violate the Internet-use rules set forth in this regulation will be subject to the penalties established in the Code of Student Conduct.

Students are expected to review the student handbook before using school computers or the district network. In addition, violations also may result in:

- Immediate removal from the computer network at any time without warning.
- Removal from the computer network for a specified period of time as determined by the principal, if the violation is limited to one computer and/or is contained in the school building.
- Removal from the computer network for a specified period of time as determined jointly by the principal in consultation with the Director of Technology and the other district staff, if the violation significantly threatens or damages district wide network resources, i.e., Web site, e- mail network, online grading system, etc.
- Permanent removal from the computer network for the duration of a student's enrollment in the district as determined by district administration.
- District retains right to terminate access
- North Providence School District technology staff may terminate a user's network access and this agreement at any time without warning.
- Unauthorized computer or network use subject to prosecution.
- Students who engage in unauthorized computer or network use may be subject to imprisonment, fines, and civil liability under applicable state and federal laws. Unauthorized computer or network use may also result in disciplinary measures consistent with the school district's policies and regulations, including suspension and expulsion.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent a teacher or instructor from establishing additional rules and conditions, subject to the ultimate control of the district administration and the District's School Committee.

Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy And Grievance Procedure

The North Providence Public Schools (the "District") is committed to maintaining and promoting an educational environment free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment. The civil rights of all school community members are guaranteed by law, and the protection of those rights is important to the District. Discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, genetic information or testing, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability (hereinafter "membership in a protected class") will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any student or any other individual who has complained of discrimination, including harassment, or individuals who have cooperated with an investigation of such a complaint, is also unlawful and will not be tolerated. The District will promptly investigate, remedy any harm, seek to protect students and/or employees, and to prevent recurrence of such conduct. This policy applies to conduct directed toward students and other persons associated with the educational community by all other persons associated with the educational community including, but not limited to, students, District employees, the School Committee, school volunteers, parents and independent contractors. (For a complaint of disability discrimination that is NOT harassment, please refer to the District's Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability policy/procedure.)

I. What is Discrimination, Including Harassment?

- A. Discrimination:** Treating persons differently, or interfering with or preventing them from enjoying the advantages or privileges afforded to others because of their membership in a protected class.
- B. Harassment:** Oral, written, graphic, electronic, or physical conduct relating to a person's actual or perceived membership in a protected class that is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit that person's ability to participate in the District's programs or activities by creating a hostile educational environment.

Harassing conduct based on a person's protected status may include, but is not limited to:

- Degrading, demeaning, insulting, or abusive verbal or written statements
- Taking personal belongings, taunting, teasing, name-calling, or spreading rumors
- Drawing or writing graffiti, slogans, visual displays, or symbols on school or another's property
- Telling degrading or offensive jokes
- Unwanted physical contact of any kind
- Physical violence, threats of bodily harm, physical intimidation, or stalking
- Threatening letter, emails, instant messages, or websites that come within the scope of the District's disciplinary authority
- Defacing, damaging, or destroying school or another's property.

Harassing conduct does not have to be directed towards a particular individual. Other members of the same protected class may be considered the victim of harassment by virtue of being exposed, even indirectly, to the harassing conduct.

II. Sample of Conduct Which May Constitute Specific Types of Harassment

The following is not intended as an inclusive list of conduct that may violate this policy.

Disability Harassment:

Unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a person based on his/her disability or perceived disability, including damaging or interfering with use of necessary equipment, intimidating manner of movement, using disability-related slurs, or invading personal space to intimidate.

National Origin Harassment:

Unwelcome verbal, written or physical contact directed at a person based on his/her national origin, ancestry, or ethnic background such as negative comments about surnames, customs, language, accents, immigration status or manner of speaking.

Racial Harassment:

Unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a person based on his/her race or color, including racial slurs or insults based on characteristics of a person's race or color, racial graffiti or symbols, hostile acts based on a race, nicknames based on racial stereotypes, negative comments about appearance, imitating mannerisms, taunting, or invading personal space to intimidate.

Religious Harassment:

Unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a person based on his/her religion, including derogatory comments about religious beliefs, traditions, practices (includes non-belief), or religious clothing.

Sexual Orientation Harassment:

Unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct, directed at a person based on his/her actual or perceived sexual orientation, such as anti-gay slurs or insults, imitating mannerisms. Taunting, or invading personal space to intimidate.

Sexual Harassment:

Quid pro quo sexual harassment occurs when a person in a supervisory position explicitly or implicitly conditions participation in a program or activity or bases a decision concerning another on the other person's submission to unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether or not the other person submits to the conduct. *Quid pro quo* sexual harassment, occurs, for example when a school employee causes a student to believe s(he) must submit to sexual advances to receive a better grade than deserved, or is threatened with a loss of a promised college application recommendation unless the student dates the employee.

Hostile environment sexual harassment occurs when unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a student, a school employee, or a third party on school property or at a school related activities is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the District's programs or activities by creating a hostile, humiliating, intimidating, or offensive educational environment. A victim may also be someone affected by conduct directed toward another individual.

Sexual harassment may occur adult to student, student to student, student to adult, adult to adult, male to female, female to male, female to female, and male to male.

Depending on the circumstances, sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- **Verbal forms of sexual harassment**, including repeated unwanted requests for dates, sexual rumors, sexually explicit jokes, howling, whistles, catcalls, soliciting conversation regarding sexual activity and experiences, making unwanted gender-based references to a person's physical characteristics.
- **Written forms of sexual harassment**, including offensive gestures following or stalking another, cornering or blocking a person, leering, pressuring for sexual activities
- **Nonverbal forms of sexual harassment**, including offensive gestures, following or stalking another, concerning or blocking a person, leering, pressuring for sexual activities
- **Visual forms of sexual harassment**, including displaying sexually suggestive or sexually provocative photographs, pictures, objects, cartoons, or posters; or
- **Unwelcome physical touching**, including grabbing, groping, squeezing, sexual fondling, kissing, brushing against another's body, body hugs, and other unwelcome contact.

III. Responsibilities of all Persons Associated with Educational Community

Each member of the educational community is personally responsible for ensuring that his/her conduct does not in any way harass or discriminate against any other person that he/she has contact with in the performance of his/her duties or studies or while acting as a member of the school community. In addition, each member of the educational community is required to fully cooperate in any investigation of alleged discrimination, including harassment. Further, District employees are obligated to intervene and stop any discrimination, including harassment that they witness and to immediately report to the building principal instances of discrimination, including harassment that are reported to them, they observe, or of which they otherwise learn.

IV. Designated Officials for Addressing Discrimination and Harassment Complaints

In each school building, the Principal is responsible for receiving and investigating reports and complaints of violations of this Policy at the school level. Individuals may file a report or complaint of discrimination, including harassment, with the Principal. In the event that the Complaint alleges violations against the principal, the Complaint shall be delivered to the Superintendent, who shall appoint an individual to conduct the investigation.

V. Procedure for Reporting Discrimination and Harassment

The following complaint procedure has been established to ensure prompt and effective investigation into allegations of discrimination, including harassment. (For a complaint of disability discrimination that is NOT harassment, please refer to the District's Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability policy/procedure.)

A person who believes that he or she had been harassed or otherwise discriminated against, is encouraged to report the situation to the Principal immediately. Reports/complaints are to be filed within ninety (90) days after: the discriminatory conduct or the individual reasonably becomes aware of the conduct. (Note: this filing period may be extended for good cause.) The report can be written or oral and should consist of the following:

1. the specific conduct objected to,
2. the date(s) and time(s) such conduct took place,
3. the name(s) of the alleged harasser(s) or person believed to be discriminating against them,
4. the location(s) where the conduct occurred,
5. the name(s) of any witness(es),
6. action sought to remedy the situation, and
7. any other details or information requested by the investigating official.

In addition, the person should provide the Principal with any documentation (emails, notes, pictures, electronic or recorded media, etc.) or other information in support of the allegation of discrimination, including harassment.

VI. Investigation of Complaints

Upon receipt of a report or complaint, the Principal shall facilitate a prompt investigation. The investigation must allow for the complainant, the subject of the complaint, and the alleged harasser to provide information, including the names of witnesses or other evidence, relevant to the investigation of the complaint. The principal will also endeavor to promptly interview and obtain detailed written statements from the complainant, the subject of the complaint, the alleged harasser, as well as any potential witnesses. The principal will also review any other documents or information that he or she believes is relevant to the investigation.

In the event that an investigation reveals that the alleged action or actions do not constitute discrimination or harassment as defined in this policy, but that the underlying conduct may meet the definition of bullying or cyberbullying as set forth in the District's Bullying Policy, then the results of the investigation should be

forwarded and/or reviewed in conjunction with the provisions of that policy. If necessary, the investigation may be re-opened under the parameters of that policy.

Conclusion of Investigation

A written determination regarding the complaint and any resolution will be provided by the principal to the complainant and the accused within thirty (30) school/working days of the complaint.

If a violation is found to have occurred, the District will take steps to prevent reoccurrence of the violation and correct its discriminatory effect on the person(s) affected. Such steps may include appropriate disciplinary action (including but not limited to suspension of student(s) and termination of employee(s)), counseling, development of a safety plan and other remedies, as appropriate.

Appeal Process

The complainant may request reconsideration of the determination and/or resolution of a complaint by notifying the Superintendent in writing or verbally within seven (7) school/working days of receipt of the written determination of the Principal. The Superintendent or his/her designee will respond to such a request within thirty (30) school/working days of receipt of the request for reconsideration; his/her decision is final.

VII. Confidentiality

Investigations of discrimination, including harassment complaints shall be conducted in such a manner as to disclose information only to those who need to know and as necessary to gain information pertinent to the investigation. Please note, some level of disclosure may be necessary in the course of conducting interviews in connection with investigation of any complaint under this policy. The North Providence Public Schools shall endeavor to keep such information as confidential as it can without compromising the thoroughness of the investigation.

VIII. State and Federal Authorities

In addition to the process described above, the complainant may, at any time, file a complaint with to the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or other appropriate federal or state agency charged with enforcement of state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination, including harassment based on membership in a protected class.

U.S Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights John W. McCormack Building
5 Post Office Square, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 289-0111 <http://www.ed.gov>

Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
Telephone: (401) 222-4600 <http://www.ride.ri.com>

North Providence School District Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based On Disability

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA") and their implementing regulations, no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in the North Providence School District ("District"). The District does not discriminate in admission or access to, participation or treatment, or employment in, its programs or activities. As such, the District's policies and practices will not discriminate against students and employees and with disabilities, will provide equal opportunity to employment, and will make accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities its facilities, programs, and activities. Disability discrimination will not be permitted in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District. As used in this policy and as defined under Section 504/ADA (as the same may be amended from time to time), "an individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

The Section 504 regulations also require a school district to provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to each eligible student who has a disability and is in the school district's jurisdiction. Under Section 504, FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student's individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met and are based upon adherence to the applicable Section 504 and Title II regulations.

1. Free and Appropriate Public Education for Students

The District is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who are disabled within the definition of Section 504. Under Section 504, the District must provide a free appropriate public education to each qualified disabled child. A free appropriate public education, under Section 504, consists of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the individual student's needs and based on adherence to the regulatory requirements on educational setting, evaluation, placement, and procedural safeguards. 34 CFR 104.33, 104.34, 104.35, and 104.36. A student may be handicapped within the meaning of Section 504 and therefore entitled to regular or special education and related aids and services under the Section 504 regulations, even though the student may not be eligible for special education and related services under IDEIA. Parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s)/ ("parents") are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process, 504 plan development, 504 meetings, etc.

The District will provide non-academic extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford qualified persons with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities. The District will verify that persons with disabilities participate with persons without disabilities in such activities and services to the maximum extent appropriate.

Any parent who disagrees with a decision made by the District or the disagrees with the student's 504 team may follow the "Grievance Procedure for Addressing Discrimination" set forth below **OR** may request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer at the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) **OR** may file a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Contact information for RIDE and OCR can be found at the end of this policy.

2. Employment Practices

Discrimination Prohibited

In accordance with Section 504/ADA, no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be subjected to discrimination in employment under any of the District's programs or activities. Further, the District will take positive steps to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities. The District will not limit, segregate or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of disability. Additionally, the District will not participate in any contractual or other relationships that have the effect of subjecting qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees to discrimination on the basis of disability.

Reasonable Accommodation

The District will make reasonable accommodations to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, unless accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the District's program and/or activities.

3. Facilities and Programs

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by people with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies. This includes, but is not limited to, providing accommodations to parents with disabilities necessary for them to participate as other parents are allowed to participate in their child's educational programs or meetings pertinent thereto.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to people with disabilities. Programs and activities will be designed and scheduled so that the location and nature of the facility or area of the program will not deny a student with a disability the opportunity to participate on the same basis as a student without disabilities. The District will meet its obligation through such means as redesigning equipment, reassignment of classes or other services to accessible buildings, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, alteration of existing facilities and/or construction of new facilities, or any other method that results in making its programs and activities accessible to people with disabilities. In choosing among available methods for meeting its obligations, the district will give priority to those methods that serve people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate.

Designated Officials for Addressing Discrimination Complaints

In each school building, the Principal is responsible for receiving and investigating reports and complaints of violations of this Policy at the school level. Individuals may file a report or complaint of discrimination with the Principal. In the event that the Complaint alleges violations against the principal or the Director of Special Education, the Complaint shall be delivered to the Superintendent, who shall appoint an individual to conduct the investigation.

Grievance Procedure for addressing Discrimination

The following complaint procedure has been established to ensure prompt and effective investigation into allegations of disability discrimination. If the complaint pertains to allegations of disability-based harassment,

refer to the District's Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedure.

A person who believes that he or she had been discriminated against is encouraged to report the situation to the Principal immediately. Reports/complaints are to be filed within ninety (90) days after the conduct complained of occurred or the time the individual reasonably becomes aware of the conduct. (Note: this filing period may be extended for good cause.) The report can be written or oral and should consist of the following:

1. The specific action objected to, including but not limited to a team decision, action, or refusal to take an action requested by the parent or alleged denial of FAPE
2. the date(s) and time(s) such action or refusal to take an action or alleged denial of FAPE took place,
3. the name(s) of the District staff or other persons believed to be discriminating against them,
4. the name(s) of any witness(es),
5. action sought to remedy the situation, and
6. any other details or information requested by the investigating official.

In addition, the person should provide the Principal with any documentation (emails, notes, pictures, etc.) or other information in support of the allegation of discrimination.

Investigation of Complaints

Upon receipt of a report or complaint, the Principal shall facilitate a prompt investigation. The investigation must allow for the complainant, the subject of the complaint, and the individual alleged to have discriminated to provide information, including the names of witnesses or other evidence, relevant to the investigation of the complaint. The principal will also endeavor to promptly interview and obtain detailed written statements from the complainant, the subject of the complaint, the individual alleged to have discriminated, as well as any potential witnesses. The principal will also review any other documents or information that he or she believes is relevant to the investigation.

A written determination regarding the complaint and any resolution will be provided by the principal to the complainant and the accused within thirty (30) school/working days of the complaint.

Appeal Process

The complainant may request reconsideration of the determination and/or resolution of a complaint by notifying the Superintendent in writing or verbally within seven (7) school/working days of receipt of the written determination of the Principal. The Superintendent or his/her designee will respond to such a request within thirty (30) school/working days of receipt of the request for reconsideration; his/her decision is final.

If a violation is found to have occurred, the District will take steps to prevent reoccurrence of the violation and correct its discriminatory effect on the person(s) affected.

If the violation involves the denial of a free and appropriate public education to a student or students, such steps may include re-convening of the 504 team, revision of a 504 plan, compensatory services, development of a safety plan and other remedies, as appropriate.

If the violation involves an employment issue, such steps may include appropriate discipline up to and including possible termination of any employee violating this policy and/or such other remedies as are appropriate.

Confidentiality

Investigations of discrimination complaints shall be conducted in such a manner as to disclose information only to those who need to know or those who may have information pertinent to the investigation. Please note, some level of disclosure may be necessary in the course of conducting interviews in connection with investigation of any complaint under this policy. The North Providence Public Schools shall endeavor to keep such information as confidential as it can without compromising the thoroughness of the investigation.

State and Federal Authorities

In addition to the process described above, the complainant may, at any time, file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or other appropriate federal or state agency charged with enforcement of state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination.

U.S Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights John W. McCormack Building
5 Post Office Square, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 289-0111 <http://www.ed.gov>

Rhode Island Department of Education 255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
Telephone: (401) 222-4600 <http://www.ride.ri.com>

North Providence Public Schools - Bullying & Harassment Policy

Introduction

This **Statewide Bullying Policy** is promulgated pursuant to the authority set forth in §16-21-34 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. Known as the Safe School Act, the statute recognizes that the bullying of a student creates a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the student's health and negatively affect learning. Bullying undermines the safe learning environment that students need to achieve their full potential. The purpose of the Policy is to ensure a consistent and unified statewide approach to the prohibition of bullying at school.

Nothing in this policy prohibits North Providence Public from complying with federal anti-discrimination laws.

Definitions

BULLYING means the use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression - **including AI generated or synthetic media** - or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student that:

- a) Causes physical or emotional harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
- b) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself/them or of damage to his/her/their property;
- c) Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment for the student;
- d) Infringes on the rights of the student to participate in school activities; or
- e) Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

If the electronic expression or AI-generated media is created off-campus and without the use of District technology, it shall fall under this policy only if it creates a material and substantial disruption to the educational environment or the daily operations of the school.

The expression, physical act or gesture may include, but is not limited to, an incident or incidents that may be reasonably perceived as being motivated by characteristics such as:

Race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or mental, physical, or sensory disability, intellectual ability or by any other distinguishing characteristic.

Bullying most often occurs as repeated behavior and often is not a single incident between the bullying/cyber-bullying offender(s) and the bullying victim(s).

CYBER-BULLYING means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, texting or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Forms of cyber-bullying may include but are not limited to:

- a) The creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
- b) The knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages;
- c) The distribution by electronic means of communication to more than one person or the posting of materials on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the creation, impersonation, or distribution results in any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (a) to (e) of the definition of bullying.
- d) The creation, distribution, or posting of AI-generated images, videos, or audio recordings that appear to be authentic representations of a student or staff member but are fabricated, used for harassment or impersonation; or
- e) Utilizing generative AI tools to mimic the writing style or voice of another individual to send messages or post content that causes emotional harm.

AT SCHOOL means:

- a) on school premises,
- b) at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises,
- c) on a school-transportation vehicle,
- d) at an official school bus stop,
- e) using property or equipment provided by the school, or
- f) acts which create a material and substantial disruption of the education process or the orderly operation of the school.

AI Assisted Technology

Software applications that utilize artificial intelligence to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding natural language (Generative AI) or recognizing patterns.

School Climate

Bullying, cyber-bullying, and retaliation against any person associated with a report of bullying or the investigation thereof is prohibited in all schools that are approved for the purpose of the compulsory attendance statute (§§16-19-1 and 16-19-2). School staff shall take all reasonable measures to prevent bullying at school. Such measures may include professional development and prevention activities, parental workshops, and student assemblies among other strategies. School faculty, administration and staff, at all times, will model courteous behavior to each other, to students, and to school visitors. Abusive or humiliating language or demeanor will not be accepted. Additionally, students and their families are expected to exhibit courteous behavior to all members of the learning community in school and at school sponsored events.

Policy Oversight And Responsibility

The school principal, director, or head of school shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this bullying policy.

The school principal, director, or head of school shall provide the superintendent, school committee and/or school governing board with a summary report of incidents, responses, and any other bullying-related issues at least twice annually.

For public schools, the prevention of bullying shall be part of the school district strategic plan (§ 16-7.1-2(e)) and school safety plan (§16-21-24).

Information Dissemination

General Notification

The school principal, director or head of school shall ensure that students, staff, volunteers, and parents/legal guardians are provided information regarding this Policy. This information shall include methods of discouraging and preventing this type of behavior, the procedure to file a complaint, and the disciplinary action that may be taken against those who commit acts in violation of this policy.

This policy shall be:

- a) Distributed annually to students, staff, volunteers, and parents/legal guardians
- b) Included in student codes of conduct, disciplinary policies, and student handbooks
- c) A prominently posted link on the home page of the school /district website

Notice of AI-Enabled Harassment

In alignment with state guidance on the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the district shall provide explicit notice regarding the intersection of AI and cyberbullying. This information, made available on the district website and referenced in the student handbook, shall include:

- a) **Synthetic Content Disclosure:** Notice that "electronic expression" includes the unauthorized creation or distribution of AI-generated images, audio, or video (Deepfakes) intended to harass or impersonate others.
- b) **Awareness of Heightened Risk:** Education for students and families on the "heightened risk" posed by AI tools which make it easier to create "fake information with the potential for significant harm".
- c) **Academic and Behavioral Expectations:** Clear communication that students are responsible for all digital content generated under their accounts, including synthetic media that causes a material disruption to the school environment.

Mandatory Distribution Channels

This policy, including the specific notices regarding AI and synthetic media, shall be:

- a) Distributed annually to students, staff, volunteers, and parents/legal guardians.
- b) Included in student codes of conduct, disciplinary policies, and student handbooks.
- c) A prominently posted link on the home page of the school/district website.

Reporting

The school principal, director or head of school shall establish, and prominently publicize to students, staff, volunteers, and parents/guardians, how a report of bullying may be filed and how this report will be acted upon.

[Bullying and/or Cyberbullying Report Form](#)

The victim of bullying, anyone who witnesses an incidence of bullying, and anyone who has credible information that an act of bullying has taken place may file a report of bullying.

Any student or staff member who believes he/she/they is/are being bullied should immediately report such circumstances to an appropriate staff member, teacher or administrator.

Parents/Guardians of the victim of bullying and parents/ guardians of the alleged perpetrator of the bullying shall be notified within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident report. When there is a reasonable suspicion that a child is either a bully or a victim of bullying, the parents/ guardians of the child will be notified immediately by the principal, director or head of school.

Responsibility of Staff: School staff, including volunteers, who observe an act of bullying or who have reasonable grounds to believe that bullying is taking place must report the bullying to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Responsibility of Students: Students who observe an act of bullying or who have reasonable grounds to believe that bullying is taking place must report the bullying to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. The victim of bullying, however, shall not be subject to discipline for failing to report the bullying. Student reports of bullying or retaliation may be made anonymously, provided, however, that no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Prohibition against Retaliation: Retaliation or threats of retaliation in any form designed to intimidate the victim of bullying, those who are witnesses to bullying, or those investigating an incident of bullying shall not be tolerated. Retaliation or threat of retaliation will result in the imposition of discipline in accordance with the school behavior code.

False Reporting/Accusations: A school employee, school volunteer or student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying or retaliation shall be disciplined in accordance with the school behavior code.

Reports in Good Faith: A school employee, school volunteer, student, parent/ legal guardian, or caregiver who promptly reports, in good faith, an act of bullying to the appropriate school official designated in the school's policy shall be immune from a cause of action for damages arising from reporting bullying.

Investigation/Response

General Investigation Protocol The school principal, director or head of school shall promptly investigate all allegations of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. If the allegation is found to be credible, appropriate disciplinary actions, subject to applicable due process requirements, will be imposed.

AI-Generated Evidence and Technical Literacy When an investigation involves electronic expression, administrators must evaluate the authenticity of the evidence to account for the potential for significant harm from AI-generated fake information.

- a) **Authentication Standards:** Administrators shall take reasonable steps to verify if digital evidence (images, audio, or text) has been altered or created using generative AI tools.
- b) **Administrative Training:** Building administrators shall receive training to recognize the markers of synthetic media and evaluate AI-generated evidence to ensure fair judgment and avoid "arbitrary and capricious" findings.

Verified Human Oversight To mitigate the risks of emerging technology, human judgment must remain the central authority in all bullying determinations.

- a) **Mandatory Review:** No disciplinary action shall be taken based solely on the output of an AI detection tool or automated software.
- b) **Contextual Evaluation:** Investigators must consider the intent and the material and substantial disruption caused to the school environment, regardless of whether the content was human or AI-authored.

Clinical Assessment The investigation will include an assessment by the school psychologist and/or social worker of what effect the bullying, harassment or intimidation - including harm from synthetic media - has had on the victim. A student who engages in continuous and/or serious acts of bullying will also be referred to the school psychologist and/or social worker.

Police Notification Immediate notification of the local law enforcement agency will be made when circumstances warrant the pursuit of criminal charges against the perpetrator.

Protection If a student is the victim of serious or persistent bullying:

- a) The school principal, director or head of school will intervene immediately to provide the student with a safe educational environment.
- b) The interventions will be developed, if possible, with input from the student, his/her/their parent/guardian, and staff.
- c) The parents/guardians of a victim shall also be notified of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation.

Disciplinary Action

Authority and Intent The disciplinary actions for violations of the bullying policy shall be determined by the school/district appropriate authority. Disciplinary actions for violations of the bullying policy shall balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior, ensuring the severity of the disciplinary action shall be aligned to the severity of the bullying behavior.

AI-Related Disciplinary Considerations When bullying involves the use of Artificial Intelligence or synthetic media, the district shall consider the following factors in determining discipline:

- a) **Content Impact:** The degree to which the AI-generated content (e.g., deepfakes or impersonations) caused a "material and substantial disruption" to the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.
- b) **Intent and Scope:** Whether the AI was used to intentionally bypass safety protocols or to amplify harassment through automated means.
- c) **Mandatory Remediation:** In cases of AI misuse, disciplinary action should include a mandatory "AI Literacy" restorative component to ensure the student understands the legal and ethical implications of synthetic media.

Range of Disciplinary Actions The range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a perpetrator for bullying, cyberbullying - including AI-enabled infractions - or retaliation shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) Admonitions and warnings
- b) Parental/ Guardian notification and meetings
- c) Detention
- d) In-school suspension

- e) Loss of school-provided transportation or loss of student parking pass
- f) Loss of the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities
- g) Loss of the opportunity to participate in school social activities
- h) Loss of the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises or middle school promotional activities
- i) Police contact
- j) School suspension: No student shall be suspended from school unless it is deemed to be a necessary consequence of the violation of this Policy.

Social Services/Counseling

Referral to appropriate counseling and/or social services currently being offered by schools or communities shall be provided for bullying victims, perpetrators and appropriate family members of said students.

Social Networking

Students shall be prohibited from accessing social networking sites in school, except for educational or instructional purposes and with the prior approval from school administration.

Other Redress

This section does not prevent a victim of bullying, cyber-bullying or retaliation from seeking redress under any other available law, either civil or criminal. This section does not create or alter any tort liability.

Adoption of Policy

The North Providence School Committee hereby adopts this policy, in its entirety effective immediately.

Handbook Acknowledgments

Parent / Guardian Receipt of Elementary School Handbook

Student Information

Student's Name _____

School _____

Parent / Guardian Section

I have read the North Providence School District's Elementary Handbook. I agree to comply with all the policies listed within and I have discussed the information contained in this handbook with my child. I shall do everything possible to support my child's education and work with my child's teachers to make this a successful school year.

Parent / Guardian Signature _____

Student Section

By signing this agreement, I agree to comply with all the policies listed within and I undertake to always act in a manner that is respectful to myself and others, to act appropriately in a moral and ethical manner.

Student's Signature _____

Teacher _____ Grade _____

RETURN THIS COMPLETED PAGE TO YOUR SCHOOL