

**NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, Connecticut 06776**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

**POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING NOTICE**

**DATE: February 3, 2026**  
**TIME: 7:15 P.M.**  
**PLACE: Sarah Noble Intermediate School – Library Media Center**

**REVISED AGENDA**

**New Milford Public Schools Mission Statement**

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family, and community is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Public Comment**

An individual may address the Board concerning any item on the agenda for the meeting subject to the following provisions:

- A. A three-minute time limit may be allocated to each speaker with a maximum of twenty minutes being set aside per meeting. The Board may, by a majority vote, cancel or adjust these time limits.
- B. If a member of the public comments about the performance of an employee or a Board member, whether positive, negative, or neutral, and whether named or not, the Board shall not respond to such comments unless the topic is an explicit item on the agenda and the employee or the Board member has been provided with the requisite notice and due process required by law. Similarly, in accordance with federal law pertaining to student confidentiality, the Board shall not respond to or otherwise discuss any comments that might be made pertaining to students.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action**

**A. Revised Policies for First Read:**

- 1. 4118.25            Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of  
   4218.25            Sexual Assaults of Students by School Employees
- 2. 4131                Social Media  
   4231
- 3. 4152.6             Family and Medical Leave Act  
   4252.6
- 4. 5131                Student Discipline
- 5. 5146                Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Response Policy and Reporting  
                          Procedure

**B. Policies for Second Read:**

1. 1105 Non-Discrimination (Community)
2. 4111.1 Non-Discrimination (Personnel)  
4211.1
3. 4118.113 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel)  
4218.113
4. 5000 Non-Discrimination (Students)
5. 5145.7 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

#### **4. Items of Information**

- A. 4131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Social Media  
4231 R
- B. 5131 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Discipline
- C. 1105 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Community)
- D. 4111.1 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Personnel)  
4211.1 R
- E. 4118.113 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and  
Sexual  
4218.113 R Harassment (Personnel)
- F. 5000 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students)
- G. 5145.7 R Administrative Regulations Regarding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment  
(Students)

#### **5. Public Comment**

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- A. A three-minute time limit may be allocated to each speaker with a maximum of twenty minutes being set aside per meeting. The Board may, by a majority vote, cancel or adjust these time limits.
- B. If a member of the public comments about the performance of an employee or a Board member, whether positive, negative, or neutral, and whether named or not, the Board shall not respond to such comments unless the topic is an explicit item on the agenda and the employee or the Board member has been provided with the requisite notice and due process required by law. Similarly, in accordance with federal law pertaining to student confidentiality, the Board shall not respond to or otherwise discuss any comments that might be made pertaining to students.

#### **6. Adjourn**

**Sub-Committee Members: Tammy McInerney, Chairperson**  
**Sarah Herring**  
**Leslie Sarich**  
**Joseph Failla**

**Alternates: Wendy Faulenbach**  
**Eric Hansell**

**Note: Passed during the 2024 legislative session, Section 40 of Public Act 24-41 authorizes a Board employee to conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists to make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. The Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) recently updated its mandated reporter training to include information on this preliminary inquiry. The policy has been revised to specify that any such preliminary inquiry must be conducted in accordance with the DCF training. The policy has also been updated to replace the term “Safe School Climate Coordinator” with the current statutory term, “School Climate Specialist.” Finally, the legal references have been revised, the cited statutory definitions have been updated, and there have been edits to the optional Appendices B and C to incorporate information provided by DCF.**

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**4118.25  
4218.25**

**REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN OR  
REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17a-101 et seq. requires school employees who have reasonable cause to suspect or believe (1) that any child under eighteen has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, or has been placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or (2) that any person who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, is a victim of sexual assault, and the perpetrator is a school employee, to report such suspicions to the appropriate authority. In furtherance of this statute and its purpose, it is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (“Board”) to require ALL EMPLOYEES of the Board of Education to report suspected abuse and/or neglect, nonaccidental physical injury, imminent risk of serious harm, or sexual assault of a student by a school employee, in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

1. Scope of Policy

This policy applies not only to school employees who are required by law to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect, nonaccidental physical injury, imminent risk of serious harm, or sexual assault of a student by a school employee, but to ALL EMPLOYEES of the Board of Education.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

"Abused" means that a child (a) has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon the child other than by accidental means, or (b) has injuries which are at variance with the history given of them, or (c) is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment, such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or

exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment.

"Neglected" means that a child (a) has been abandoned, or (b) is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally or morally, or (c) is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to the child's well-being, or (d) has been abused.

"School employee" means (a) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or who is working in a Board elementary, middle or high school; or (b) any other person who, in the performance of that person's duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the New Milford Public Schools ("District"), pursuant to a contract with the Board.

"Sexual assault" means, for the purposes of the mandatory reporting laws and this policy, a violation of Sections 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a of the Connecticut General Statutes. Please see Appendix A of this policy for the relevant statutory definitions of sexual assault laws and related terms covered by the mandatory reporting laws and this policy.

"Statutorily mandated reporter" means an individual required by Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17a-101 et seq. to report suspected abuse and/or neglect of children or the sexual assault of a student by a school employee. The term "statutorily mandated reporter" includes all school employees, as defined above, any person who is a licensed behavior analyst, and any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education, is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics, and is eighteen years of age or older.

### 3. What Must Be Reported

- a) A report must be made when any employee of the Board of Education in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of eighteen years:
  - i) has been abused or neglected;
  - ii) has had nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given for such injury, inflicted upon the child;
  - iii) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm; or
- b) A report must be made when any employee of the Board of Education in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person, regardless of age, who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult

education program, is a victim of the following sexual assault crimes, and the perpetrator is a school employee:

- i) sexual assault in the first degree;
- ii) aggravated sexual assault in the first degree;
- iii) sexual assault in the second degree;
- iv) sexual assault in the third degree;
- v) sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm; or
- vi) sexual assault in the fourth degree.

Please see Appendix A of this policy for the relevant statutory definitions of sexual assault laws and related terms covered by the mandatory reporting laws and this policy.

- c) The suspicion or belief of a Board employee may be based on factors including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts or statements by a child or victim, as described above, or a third party. Such suspicion or belief does not require certainty or probable cause.
- d) A Board employee is not precluded from conducting a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists to make a report. Such preliminary inquiry shall not be considered an investigation conducted by the Board. Preliminary inquiries must be conducted in accordance with the training for school employees for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect developed by the Department of Children and Families (“DCF”).

#### 4. Reporting Procedures for Statutorily Mandated Reporters

The following procedures apply only to statutorily mandated reporters, as defined above.

- a) When an employee of the Board of Education who is a statutorily mandated reporter and who, in the ordinary course of the person's employment, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or a student is a victim of sexual assault by a school employee, as described in Paragraph 3, above, the following steps shall be taken.
  - (1) The employee shall make an oral or electronic report as soon as practicable, but not later than twelve (12) hours after having reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or a student is a victim of sexual assault by a school employee.

- (a) An oral report shall be made by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of DCF or the local law enforcement agency. DCF has established a 24 hour Child Abuse and Neglect Careline at 1-800-842-2288 for the purpose of making such oral reports.
  - (b) An electronic report shall be made in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner of DCF. An employee making an electronic report shall respond to further inquiries from the Commissioner of DCF or Commissioner's designee made within twenty-four (24) hours. Such employee shall inform the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee as soon as possible as to the nature of the further communication with the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee.
- (2) The employee shall also make an oral report as soon as practicable to the Building Principal or Building Principal's designee, and/or the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. If the Building Principal is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse/neglect or sexual assault of a student, then the employee shall notify the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee directly.
  - (3) In cases involving suspected or believed abuse, neglect, or sexual assault of a student by a school employee, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall immediately notify the child's parent or guardian that such a report has been made.
  - (4) Not later than forty-eight (48) hours after making an oral report, the employee shall submit a written or electronic report to the Commissioner of DCF or the Commissioner's designee containing all of the required information. The written or electronic report should be submitted in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner of DCF. When such report is submitted electronically, the employee shall respond to further inquiries from the Commissioner of DCF or Commissioner's designee made within twenty-four (24) hours. Such employee shall inform the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee as soon as possible as to the nature of the further communication with the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee.
  - (5) The employee shall immediately submit a copy of the written or electronic report to the Building Principal or Building Principal's designee and to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
  - (6) If the report concerns suspected abuse, neglect, or sexual assault of a student by a school employee holding a certificate, authorization or permit issued by the State Department of Education, the Commissioner of DCF (or Commissioner of DCF's designee) shall submit a copy of the written or electronic report to the

Commissioner of Education (or Commissioner of Education's designee).

5. Reporting Procedures for Employees Other Than Statutorily Mandated Reporters

The following procedures apply only to employees who are not statutorily mandated reporters, as defined above.

- a) When an employee who is not a statutorily mandated reporter and who, in the ordinary course of the person's employment or profession, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or a student is a victim of sexual assault by a school employee, as described in Paragraph 3, above, the following steps shall be taken.
  - (1) The employee shall make an oral report as soon as practicable, but not later than twelve (12) hours after the employee has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed at imminent risk of serious harm or a student is a victim of sexual assault by a school employee. Such oral report shall be made by telephone or in person to the Superintendent of Schools or Superintendent's designee, to be followed by an immediate written report to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.
  - (2) If the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee determines that there is reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed at imminent risk of serious harm or a student is a victim of sexual assault by a school employee, the Superintendent or designee shall cause reports to be made in accordance with the procedures set forth for statutorily mandated reporters.
- b) Nothing in this policy shall be construed to preclude an employee reporting suspected child abuse, neglect or sexual assault by a school employee from reporting the same directly to the Commissioner of DCF.

6. Contents of Reports

Any report made pursuant to this policy shall contain the following information, if known:

- a) The names and addresses of the child\* and the child's parents or other person responsible for the child's care;
- b) the age of the child;
- c) the gender of the child;

- d) the nature and extent of the child's injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
- e) the approximate date and time the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect occurred;
- f) information concerning any previous injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect of the child or the child's siblings;
- g) the circumstances in which the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect came to be known to the reporter;
- h) the name of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
- i) the reasons such person or persons are suspected of causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect;
- j) any information concerning any prior cases in which such person or persons have been suspected of causing an injury, maltreatment or neglect of a child; and
- k) whatever action, if any, was taken to treat, provide shelter or otherwise assist the child.

\*For purposes of this Paragraph, the term "child" includes any victim of sexual assault by a school employee, as described in Paragraph 3, above.

#### 7. Investigation of the Report

- a) The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall thoroughly investigate reports of suspected abuse, neglect or sexual assault if/when such report involves an employee of the Board of Education or other individual under the control of the Board, provided the procedures in subparagraph (b), below are followed. In all other cases, DCF shall be responsible for conducting the investigation with the cooperation and collaboration of the Board, as appropriate.
- b) Recognizing that DCF is the lead agency for the investigation of child abuse and neglect reports and reports of a student's sexual assault by school employees, the Superintendent's investigation shall permit and give priority to any investigation conducted by the Commissioner of DCF or the appropriate local law enforcement agency. The Superintendent shall conduct the District's investigation and take any disciplinary action, consistent with state law, upon notice from the Commissioner of DCF or the appropriate local law enforcement agency that the District's investigation will not interfere with the investigation of the Commissioner of DCF or the local law enforcement agency.

- c) The Superintendent shall coordinate investigatory activities in order to minimize the number of interviews of any child or student victim of sexual assault and share information with other persons authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect or sexual assault, as appropriate.
- d) Any person reporting child abuse or neglect or the sexual assault of a student by a school employee, or having any information relevant to alleged abuse or neglect or of the sexual assault of a student by a school employee, shall provide the Superintendent with all information related to the investigation that is in the possession or control of such person, except as expressly prohibited by state or federal law.
- e) When the school district is conducting an investigation involving suspected abuse or neglect or sexual assault of a student by an employee of the Board or other individual under the control of the Board, the Superintendent's investigation shall include an opportunity for the individual suspected of abuse, neglect or sexual assault to be heard with respect to the allegations contained within the report. During the course of such investigation, the Superintendent may suspend a Board employee with pay or may place the employee on administrative leave with pay, pending the outcome of the investigation. If the individual is one who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the District, pursuant to a contract with the Board of Education, the Superintendent may suspend the provision of such services, and direct the individual to refrain from any contact with students enrolled in the District, pending the outcome of the investigation.

8. Evidence of Abuse, Neglect or Sexual Assault by a School Employee

- a) If, upon completion of the investigation by the Commissioner of DCF ("Commissioner"), the Superintendent has received a report from the Commissioner that the Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that (1) a child has been abused or neglected by a school employee, as defined above, and the Commissioner has recommended that such employee be placed on the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Registry, or (2) a student is a victim of sexual assault by a school employee, the Superintendent shall request (and the law provides) that DCF notify the Superintendent not later than five (5) working days after such finding, and provide the Superintendent with records, whether or not created by DCF, concerning such investigation. The Superintendent shall suspend such school employee. Such suspension shall be with pay and shall not result in the diminution or termination of benefits to such employee.
- b) Not later than seventy-two (72) hours after such suspension, the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education, or the Commissioner of Education's representative, of the reasons for and the conditions of the suspension. The Superintendent shall disclose such records to the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Education or its attorney for purposes of review of employment status or the status of such employee's certificate, permit or authorization, if any.

- c) The suspension of a school employee employed in a position requiring a certificate shall remain in effect until the Superintendent and/or Board of Education acts pursuant to the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. §10—151. If the contract of employment of such certified school employee is terminated, or such certified school employee resigns such employment, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education, or the Commissioner of Education's representative, within seventy-two (72) hours after such termination or resignation.
- d) The suspension of a school employee employed in a position requiring an authorization or permit shall remain in effect until the Superintendent and/or Board of Education acts pursuant to any applicable termination provisions. If the contract of employment of a school employee holding an authorization or permit from the State Department of Education is terminated, or such school employee resigns such employment, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education, or the Commissioner of Education's representative, within seventy-two (72) hours after such termination or resignation.
- e) Regardless of the outcome of any investigation by the Commissioner of DCF and/or the police, the Superintendent and/or the Board, as appropriate, may take disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, in accordance with the provisions of any applicable statute, if the Superintendent's investigation produces evidence that a child has been abused or neglected by a school employee or that a student has been a victim of sexual assault by a school employee.
- f) The District shall not employ a person whose employment contract is terminated or who resigned from employment following a suspension pursuant to Paragraph 8(a) of this policy and Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17a-101i, if such person is convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect or an act of sexual assault of a student, as described in Paragraph 2 of this policy.

9. Evidence of Abuse, Neglect or Sexual Assault by an Independent Contractor of the Board of Education

If the investigation by the Superintendent and/or the Commissioner of DCF produces evidence that a child has been abused or neglected, or a student has been sexually assaulted, by any individual who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the District, pursuant to a contract with the Board, the Superintendent shall permanently suspend the provision of such services, and direct the individual to refrain from any contact with students enrolled in the District.

10. Delegation of Authority by Superintendent

The Superintendent may appoint a designee for the purposes of receiving and making reports, notifying and receiving notification, or investigating reports pursuant to this policy.

11. Confidential Rapid Response Team

The Superintendent shall establish a confidential rapid response team to coordinate with DCF to (1) ensure prompt reporting of suspected abuse or neglect or sexual assault of a student by a school employee, as described in Paragraph 2, above, and (2) provide immediate access to information and individuals relevant

to the department's investigation. The confidential rapid response team shall consist of a teacher and the Superintendent, a local police officer and any other person the Board of Education, acting through its Superintendent, deems appropriate.

12. Disciplinary Action for Failure to Follow Policy

Except as provided in Section 14 below, any employee who fails to comply with the requirements of this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

13. Prohibition on Hiring Following Conviction Related to Mandatory Reporting

The District shall not hire any person whose employment contract was previously terminated by a board of education or who resigned from such employment, if such person has been convicted of a violation of Section 17a-101a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, relating to mandatory reporting, when an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual assault has been substantiated.

14. Non-Discrimination Policy/Prohibition Against Retaliation

The Board of Education expressly prohibits retaliation against individuals reporting child abuse or neglect or the sexual assault of a student by a school employee and shall not discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against any employee who, in good faith, makes a report pursuant to this policy, or testifies or is about to testify in any proceeding involving abuse or neglect or sexual assault by a school employee. The Board of Education also prohibits any employee from hindering or preventing or attempting to hinder or prevent any employee from making a report pursuant to this policy or state law concerning suspected child abuse or neglect or the sexual assault of a student by a school employee or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect or the sexual assault of a student by a school employee.

15. Distribution of Policy, Guidelines and Posting of Careline Information

This policy shall annually be distributed electronically to all school employees employed by the Board. The Board shall document that all such school employees have received this written policy and completed the training and refresher training programs required by in Section 16, below. Guidelines regarding identifying and reporting child sexual abuse developed by the Governor's task force on justice for abused children shall annually be distributed electronically to all school employees, Board members, and the parents or guardians of students enrolled in the schools under the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board shall post the Internet web site address and telephone number for the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Careline in a conspicuous location frequented by students in each school under the jurisdiction of the Board.

16. Training

- a) All new school employees, as defined above, shall be required to complete an educational training program for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Such training program shall be developed and approved by the Commissioner of DCF.
- b) All school employees, as defined above, shall take a refresher training course developed and approved by the Commissioner of DCF at least once every three years.
- c) The principal for each school shall annually certify to the Superintendent that each school employee, as defined above, working at such school, is in compliance with the training provisions in this policy and as required by state law. The Superintendent shall certify such compliance to the State Board of Education.
- d) All school employees, as defined above, shall complete the (1) training regarding the prevention and identification of, and response to, child sexual abuse and assault; (2) bystander training program; and (3) appropriate interaction with children training program. Each employee must repeat these trainings at least once every three years. Such trainings shall be identified or developed by DCF.

17. Records

- a) The Board shall maintain in a central location all records of allegations, investigations, and reports that a child has been abused or neglected by a school employee employed by the Board or that a student has been a victim of sexual assault by a school employee employed by the Board, as defined above, and conducted in accordance with this policy. Such records shall include any reports made to DCF. The State Department of Education shall have access to such records upon request.
- b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-151c, the Board shall provide the Commissioner of DCF, upon request and for the purposes of an investigation by the Commissioner of DCF of suspected

child abuse or neglect by a teacher employed by the Board, any records maintained or kept on file by the Board. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, supervisory records, reports of competence, personal character and efficiency maintained in such teacher's personnel file with reference to evaluation of performance as a professional employee of the Board, and records of the personal misconduct of such teacher. For purposes of this section, "teacher" includes each certified professional employee below the rank of superintendent employed by the Board in a position requiring a certificate issued by the State Board of Education.

18. Child Sexual Abuse and/or Sexual Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure

The Board has adopted a uniform child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault response policy and reporting procedure in connection with the implementation of the sexual assault and abuse prevention and awareness program identified or developed by DCF, as outlined in Board Policy 5146, **Child Sexual Abuse and/or Sexual Assault Response Policy and Reporting Procedure**. Upon receipt of any report of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault from any source, a school employee shall report such suspicion to the School Climate Specialist in addition to complying with the school employee's obligations under this Policy and the law regarding mandatory reporting of abuse, neglect and sexual assault.

Information regarding the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program identified or developed by DCF shall be distributed electronically to all school employees, Board members, and the parents or guardians of enrolled students on an annual basis.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

Section 10-151	Employment of teachers. Definitions. Tenure. Notice and hearing on failure to renew or termination of contract. Appeal.
Section 10-221s	Posting of Careline telephone number in schools. Investigations of child abuse and neglect. Disciplinary action.
Section 17a-101 <u>et seq.</u>	Protection of children from abuse. Mandated reporters. Educational and training programs. Model mandated reporting policy.
Section 17a-101q	Statewide Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program.
Section 17a-103	Reports by others. False reports. Notifications to law enforcement agency.
Section 46b-120	Definitions.
Section 53a-65	Definitions.

Approved: November 21, 2023  
Revised:

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

## **Appendix A**

### **RELEVANT EXCERPTS OF STATUTORY DEFINITIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RELATED TERMS COVERED BY MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS AND THIS POLICY**

An employee of the Board of Education must make a report in accordance with this policy when the employee of the Board of Education in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person, regardless of age, who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, is a victim of the following sexual assault crimes, and the perpetrator is a school employee. The following are relevant excerpts of the sexual assault laws and related terms covered by mandatory reporting laws and this policy.

#### **Intimate Parts (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-65)**

“Intimate parts” means the genital area or any substance emitted therefrom, groin, anus or any substance emitted therefrom, inner thighs, buttocks or breasts.

#### **Sexual Intercourse (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-65)**

“Sexual intercourse” means vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, fellatio or cunnilingus between persons regardless of sex. Penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse or fellatio and does not require emission of semen. Penetration may be committed by an object manipulated by the actor into the genital or anal opening of the victim's body.

#### **Sexual Contact (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-65)**

“Sexual contact” means (A) any contact with the intimate parts of a person for the purpose of sexual gratification of the actor or for the purpose of degrading or humiliating such person or any contact of the intimate parts of the actor with a person for the purpose of sexual gratification of the actor or for the purpose of degrading or humiliating such person, or (B) for the purposes of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-73a, any contact with the intimate parts of a dead human body, or any contact of the intimate parts of the actor with a dead human body, for the purpose of sexual gratification of the actor.

#### **Sexual Assault in the First Degree (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-70)**

A person is guilty of sexual assault in the first degree when such person (1) compels another person to engage in sexual intercourse by the use of force against such other person or a third person, or by the threat of use of force against such other person or against a third person which reasonably causes such person to fear physical injury to such person or a third person, or (2) engages in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is under thirteen years of age and the actor is more than two years older

than such person, or (3) commits sexual assault in the second degree as provided in section 53a-71 and in the commission of such offense is aided by two or more other persons actually present, or (4) engages in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is mentally incapacitated to the extent that such other person is unable to consent to such sexual intercourse.

### **Aggravated Sexual Assault in the First Degree (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-70a)**

A person is guilty of aggravated sexual assault in the first degree when such person commits sexual assault in the first degree as provided in section 53a-70 and in the commission of such offense (1) such person uses or is armed with and threatens the use of or displays or represents by such person's words or conduct that such person possesses a deadly weapon, (2) with intent to disfigure the victim seriously and permanently, or to destroy, amputate or disable permanently a member or organ of the victim's body, such person causes such injury to such victim, (3) under circumstances evincing an extreme indifference to human life such person recklessly engages in conduct which creates a risk of death to the victim, and thereby causes serious physical injury to such victim, or (4) such person is aided by two or more other persons actually present. No person shall be convicted of sexual assault in the first degree and aggravated sexual assault in the first degree upon the same transaction but such person may be charged and prosecuted for both such offenses upon the same information.

### **Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Minor (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-70c)**

A person is guilty of aggravated sexual assault of a minor when such person commits a violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-86, 53a-87 or 53a-196a and the victim of such offense is under thirteen years of age, and (1) such person kidnapped or illegally restrained the victim, (2) such person stalked the victim, (3) such person used violence to commit such offense against the victim, (4) such person caused serious physical injury to or disfigurement of the victim, (5) there was more than one victim of such offense under thirteen years of age, (6) such person was not known to the victim, or (7) such person has previously been convicted of a violent sexual assault.

### **Sexual Assault in the Second Degree (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-71)**

A person is guilty of sexual assault in the second degree when such person engages in sexual intercourse with another person and: (1) Such other person is thirteen years of age or older but under sixteen years of age and the actor is more than three years older than such other person; or (2) such other person is impaired because of mental disability or disease to the extent that such other person is unable to consent to such sexual intercourse; or (3) such other person is physically helpless; or (4) such other person is less than eighteen years old and the actor is such person's guardian or otherwise responsible for the general supervision of such person's welfare; or (5) such other person is in custody of law or detained in a hospital or other institution and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person; or (6) the actor is a psychotherapist and such other person is (A) a patient of the actor and the sexual intercourse occurs during the psychotherapy session, (B) a patient or former patient of the actor and such patient or former patient is emotionally dependent upon the actor, or (C) a

patient or former patient of the actor and the sexual intercourse occurs by means of therapeutic deception; or (7) the actor accomplishes the sexual intercourse by means of false representation that the sexual intercourse is for a bona fide medical purpose by a health care professional; or (8) the actor is a school employee and such other person is a student enrolled in a school in which the actor works or a school under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education which employs the actor; or (9) the actor is a coach in an athletic activity or a person who provides intensive, ongoing instruction and such other person is a recipient of coaching or instruction from the actor and (A) is a secondary school student and receives such coaching or instruction in a secondary school setting, or (B) is under eighteen years of age; or (10) the actor is twenty years of age or older and stands in a position of power, authority or supervision over such other person by virtue of the actor's professional, legal, occupational or volunteer status and such other person's participation in a program or activity, and such other person is under eighteen years of age; or (11) such other person is placed or receiving services under the direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services in any public or private facility or program and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person.

### **Sexual Assault in the Third Degree (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-72a)**

A person is guilty of sexual assault in the third degree when such person (1) compels another person to submit to sexual contact (A) by the use of force against such other person or a third person, or (B) by the threat of use of force against such other person or against a third person, which reasonably causes such other person to fear physical injury to himself or herself or a third person, or (2) subjects another person to sexual contact and such other person is mentally incapacitated or impaired because of mental disability or disease to the extent that such other person is unable to consent to such sexual contact, or (3) engages in sexual intercourse with another person whom the actor knows to be related to him or her within any of the degrees of kindred specified in section 46b-21.

### **Sexual Assault in the Third Degree with a Firearm (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-72b)**

A person is guilty of sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm when such person commits sexual assault in the third degree as provided in section 53a-72a, and in the commission of such offense, such person uses or is armed with and threatens the use of or displays or represents by such person's words or conduct that such person possesses a pistol, revolver, machine gun, rifle, shotgun or other firearm. No person shall be convicted of sexual assault in the third degree and sexual assault in the third degree with a firearm upon the same transaction but such person may be charged and prosecuted for both such offenses upon the same information.

### **Sexual Assault in the Fourth Degree (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-73a)**

A person is guilty of sexual assault in the fourth degree when: (1) Such person subjects another person to sexual contact who is (A) under thirteen years of age and the actor is more than two years older than such other person, or (B) thirteen years of age or older but under fifteen years of age and the actor is more than three years older than such other person, or (C) physically helpless, or (D) less than eighteen years old and the actor is such other person's guardian or otherwise responsible for the general supervision of such other person's welfare, or (E) in custody of law or detained in a hospital or other

institution and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person; or (2) such person subjects another person to sexual contact without such other person's consent; or (3) such person engages in sexual contact with a dead human body; or (4) such person is a psychotherapist and subjects another person to sexual contact who is (A) a patient of the actor and the sexual contact occurs during the psychotherapy session, or (B) a patient or former patient of the actor and such patient or former patient is emotionally dependent upon the actor, or (C) a patient or former patient of the actor and the sexual contact occurs by means of therapeutic deception; or (5) such person subjects another person to sexual contact and accomplishes the sexual contact by means of false representation that the sexual contact is for a bona fide medical purpose by a health care professional; or (6) such person is a school employee and subjects another person to sexual contact who is a student enrolled in a school in which the actor works or a school under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education which employs the actor; or (7) such person is a coach in an athletic activity or a person who provides intensive, ongoing instruction and subjects another person to sexual contact who is a recipient of coaching or instruction from the actor and (A) is a secondary school student and receives such coaching or instruction in a secondary school setting, or (B) is under eighteen years of age; or (8) such person subjects another person to sexual contact and (A) the actor is twenty years of age or older and stands in a position of power, authority or supervision over such other person by virtue of the actor's professional, legal, occupational or volunteer status and such other person's participation in a program or activity, and (B) such other person is under eighteen years of age; or (9) such person subjects another person to sexual contact who is placed or receiving services under the direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services in any public or private facility or program and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person.

## APPENDIX B

### Operational Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect

The purpose of this policy is to provide consistency for staff in defining and identifying operational definitions, evidence of abuse and/or neglect and examples of adverse impact indicators.

The following operational definitions are working definitions and examples of child abuse and neglect as used by the Connecticut DCF.

For the purposes of these operational definitions,

- A person responsible for a child's health, welfare or care means:
  - the child's parent, guardian, or foster parent; an employee of a public or private residential home, agency or institution or other person legally responsible under State law for the child's welfare in a residential setting; or any staff person providing out-of-home care, including center-based child day care, family day care, or group day care.
- A person given access to a child is a person who is permitted to have personal interaction with a child by the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care or by a person entrusted with the care of a child.
- A person entrusted with the care of a child is a person who is given access to a child by a person responsible for the health, welfare or care of a child for the purpose of providing education, child care, counseling, spiritual guidance, coaching, training, instruction, tutoring or mentoring.
- **Note:** Only a "child" as defined in the policy above may be classified as a victim of child abuse and/or neglect; only a "person responsible," "person given access," or "person entrusted" as defined above may be classified as a perpetrator of child abuse and/or neglect.
  - While only a child under eighteen may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, a report under mandatory reporting laws and this policy is required if an employee of the Board of Education in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person, regardless of age, who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, is a victim of sexual assault, as set forth in this policy, and the perpetrator is a school employee.

### Physical Abuse

**A child may be found to have been physically abused who:**

- has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means,

- is in a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment, and/or
- has injuries at variance with the history given of them.

**Evidence of physical abuse includes, but is not limited to the following:**

- excessive physical punishment;
- bruises, scratches, lacerations;
- burns, and/or scalds;
- reddening or blistering of the tissue through application of heat by fire, chemical substances, cigarettes, matches, electricity, scalding water, friction, etc.;
- injuries to bone, muscle, cartilage, ligaments: fractures, dislocations, sprains, strains, displacements, hematomas, etc.;
- head injuries;
- internal injuries;
- death;
- misuse of medical treatments or therapies;
- malnutrition related to acts of commission or omission by an established caregiver resulting in a child's malnourished state that can be supported by professional medical opinion;
- deprivation of necessities acts of commission or omission by an established caregiver resulting in physical harm to child; and/or
- cruel punishment.

**Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Sexual Abuse/Exploitation**

**Sexual Abuse/Exploitation** is any incident involving a child's non-accidental exposure to sexual behavior.

**Evidence of sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to the following:**

- rape;
- penetration: digital, penile, or foreign objects;
- oral / genital contact;
- indecent exposure for the purpose of sexual gratification of the offender, or for purposes of shaming, humiliating, shocking or exerting control over the victim;
- incest;
- fondling, including kissing, for the purpose of sexual gratification of the offender, or for purposes of shaming, humiliating, shocking or exerting control over the victim;
- sexual exploitation, including: possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online enticement of a child for sexual acts, child prostitution, child-sex tourism, unsolicited obscene material sent to a child, or misleading domain name likely to attract a child to an inappropriate website;

- coercing or forcing a child to participate in, or be negligently exposed to, pornography and/or sexual behavior;
- disease or condition that arises from sexual transmission; and/or
- other verbal, written or physical behavior not overtly sexual but likely designed to “groom” a child for future sexual abuse.

Legal References: Federal Law 18 U.S.C. 2251 Sexual Exploitation of Children.

## **Human Trafficking**

### **Human Trafficking includes, but is not limited to:**

sex trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; and

labor trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

## **Emotional Maltreatment-Abuse**

### **Emotional Maltreatment-Abuse is an:**

act(s), statement(s), or threat(s), which

- has had, or is likely to have an adverse impact on the child; and/or
- interferes with a child’s positive emotional development.

### **Evidence of emotional maltreatment-abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following:**

- rejecting;
- degrading;
- isolating and/or victimizing a child by means of cruel, unusual, or excessive methods of discipline; and/or
- exposing the child to brutal or intimidating acts or statements.

### **Indicators of Adverse Impact of emotional maltreatment-abuse may include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- depression;
- withdrawal;
- low self-esteem;
- anxiety;
- fear;
- aggression/ passivity;

- emotional instability;
- sleep disturbances;
- somatic complaints with no medical basis; inappropriate behavior for age or development;
- suicidal ideations or attempts;
- extreme dependence;
- academic regression; and/or
- trust issues.

### **Physical Neglect**

#### **A child may be found neglected who:**

- has been abandoned;
- is being denied proper care and attention physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally;
- is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to the child's well-being; and/or
- has been abused.

#### **Evidence of physical neglect includes, but is not limited to:**

- inadequate food;
- malnutrition;
- inadequate clothing;
- inadequate housing or shelter;
- erratic, deviant, or impaired behavior by the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care; by a person given access to the child; or by a person entrusted with the child's care which adversely impacts the child;
- permitting the child to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to the child's well-being including, but not limited to, the following:
  - substance abuse by caregiver, which adversely impacts the child physically;
  - psychiatric problem of the caregiver which adversely impacts the child physically;
  - exposure to family violence which adversely impacts the child physically;
  - exposure to violent events, situations, or persons that would be reasonably judged to compromise a child's physical safety;
  - non-accidental, negligent exposure to drug trafficking and/or individuals engaged in the active abuse of illegal substances;
  - voluntarily and knowingly entrusting the care of a child to individuals who may be disqualified to provide safe care, *e.g.*, persons who are subject to active protective or restraining orders; persons with past history of violent/drug/sex crimes; persons appearing on the Central Registry;
  - non-accidental or negligent exposure to pornography or sexual acts;

- inability to consistently provide the minimum of child-caring tasks;
- inability to provide or maintain a safe living environment;
- action/inaction resulting in death;
- abandonment;
- action/inaction resulting in the child's failure to thrive;
- transience;
- inadequate supervision: creating or allowing a circumstance in which a child is alone for an excessive period of time given the child's age and cognitive abilities;
- holding the child responsible for the care of siblings or others beyond the child's ability; and/or
- failure to provide reasonable and proper supervision of a child given the child's age and cognitive abilities.

**Note:**

- Inadequate food, clothing, or shelter or transience finding must be related to caregiver acts of omission or commission and not simply a function of poverty alone.
- Whether or not the adverse impact has to be demonstrated is a function of the child's age, cognitive abilities, verbal ability and developmental level.
- The presence of legal or illegal substances in the bodily fluids of (1) a parent or legal guardian or (2) a pregnant person shall not form the sole or primary basis for any action or proceeding by the Department. Any action or proceeding by the Department must be based on harm or risk of harm to a child and the parent or guardian's ability to provide appropriate care for the child.
- Adverse impact may not be required if the action/inaction is a single incident that demonstrates a serious disregard for the child's welfare.

### **Medical Neglect**

**Medical Neglect** is the unreasonable delay, refusal or failure on the part of the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care or the person entrusted with the child's care to seek, obtain, and/or maintain those services for necessary medical, dental or mental health care when such person knows, or should reasonably be expected to know, that such actions may have an adverse impact on the child.

**Evidence of medical neglect includes, but is not limited to:**

- frequently missed appointments, therapies or other necessary medical and/or mental health treatments;
- withholding or failing to obtain or maintain medically necessary treatment from a child with life-threatening, acute or chronic medical or mental health conditions; and/or
- withholding medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.

**Note:** Failure to provide the child with immunizations or routine well-child care in and of itself does not constitute medical neglect.

### **Educational Neglect**

Except as noted below, **Educational Neglect** occurs when a school-aged child has excessive absences from school through the intent or neglect of the parent or caregiver.

**Definition of School-Aged Child:** Except as noted below, a school-aged child is a child five years of age and older and under 18 years of age who is not a high school graduate.

**Note:** Excessive absenteeism and school avoidance may be presenting symptoms of a failure to meet the physical, emotional or medical needs of a child. Careline staff shall consider these potential additional allegations at the time of referral.

#### **Criteria:**

- **For children school-aged to age 12, excessive absenteeism** may be indicative of the parent's or caregiver's failure to meet the educational needs of a student.
- **For children older than age 12, excessive absenteeism**, coupled with a failure by the parent or caregiver to engage in efforts to improve the child's attendance, may be indicative of educational neglect.
  - For children older than age 12, excessive absenteeism through the child's own intent, despite the parent's or caregiver's efforts, is not educational neglect. Rather, this is truancy, which is handled through the school district.

**Child's Characteristics.** In determining the criteria for excessive absenteeism, the following characteristics of the child shall be considered by the social worker:

- Age;
- Health;
- Level of functioning;
- Academic standing; and
- Dependency on parent or caregiver

**Parent or Caregiver's Characteristics.** In determining the criteria for excessive absenteeism, the following characteristics of the parent or caregiver shall be considered by the social worker:

- Rationale provided for the absences;
- Efforts to communicate and engage with the educational provider; and
- Failure to enroll a school-aged child in appropriate educational programming (including homeschooling)

### **Exceptions (in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184):**

1. A parent or person having control of a child may exercise the option of not sending the child to school at age five (5) or age six (6) years by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. In these cases, educational neglect occurs if the parent or person having control of the child has registered the child at age five (5) or age (6) years and then does not allow the child to attend school or receive home instruction.
2. A parent or person having control of a child seventeen (17) years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school and enroll such child in an adult education program. Such parent or person shall personally appear at the school district office and sign an adult education withdrawal and enrollment form.

**Note:** Failure to sign a registration option form for such child is not in and of itself educational neglect.

### **Emotional Neglect**

**Emotional Neglect** is the denial of proper care and attention, or failure to respond, to a child's affective needs by the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care; by the person given access to the child; or by the person entrusted with the child's care which has an adverse impact on the child or seriously interferes with a child's positive emotional development.

**Note:** Whether or not the adverse impact has to be demonstrated is a function of the child's age, cognitive abilities, verbal ability and developmental level. Adverse impact is not required if the action/inaction is a single incident which demonstrates a serious disregard for the child's welfare.

**Note:** The adverse impact may result from a single event and/or from a consistent pattern of behavior and may be currently observed or predicted as supported by evidence-based practice.

### **Evidence of emotional neglect includes, but is not limited to, the following:**

- inappropriate expectations of the child given the child's developmental level;
- failure to provide the child with appropriate support, attention and affection;
- permitting the child to live under conditions, circumstances or associations; injurious to the child's well-being including, but not limited to, the following:
  - substance abuse by caregiver, which adversely impacts the child emotionally;
  - psychiatric problem of the caregiver, which adversely impacts the child emotionally; and/or
  - exposure to family violence which adversely impacts the child emotionally.

**Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- depression;
- withdrawal;
- low self-esteem;
- anxiety;
- fear;
- aggression/ passivity;
- emotional instability;
- sleep disturbances;
- somatic complaints with no medical basis;
- inappropriate behavior for age or development;
- suicidal ideations or attempts;
- extreme dependence;
- academic regression; and/or
- trust issues.

### **Moral Neglect**

**Moral Neglect:** Exposing, allowing, or encouraging the child to engage in illegal or reprehensible activities by the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care or person given access or person entrusted with the child's care.

**Evidence of Moral Neglect includes but is not limited to:**

- stealing;
- using drugs and/or alcohol; and/or
- involving a child in the commission of a crime, directly or by caregiver indifference.

## **Appendix C**

### **INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

#### **Indicators of Physical Abuse**

##### **HISTORICAL**

- Delay in seeking appropriate care after injury
- No witnesses
- Inconsistent or changing descriptions of accident by child and/or parent
- Child's developmental level inconsistent with history
- History of prior "accidents"
- Absence of parental concern
- Child is handicapped (physically, mentally, developmentally) or otherwise perceived as "different" by parent
- Unexplained school absenteeism
- History of precipitating crisis

##### **PHYSICAL**

- Soft tissue injuries on face, lips, mouth, back, buttocks, thighs or large areas of the torso
- Clusters of skin lesions; regular patterns consistent with an implement
- Shape of lesions inconsistent with accidental bruise
- Bruises/welts in various stages of healing
- Burn pattern consistent with an implement on soles, palms, back, buttocks and genitalia; symmetrical and/or sharply demarcated edges
- Fractures/dislocations inconsistent with history
- Laceration of mouth, lips, gums or eyes
- Bald patches on scalp
- Abdominal swelling or vomiting
- Adult-size human bite mark(s)
- Fading cutaneous lesions noted after weekends or absences
- Rope marks

##### **BEHAVIORAL**

- Wary of physical contact with adults
- Affection inappropriate for age
- Expresses fear of parents
- Reports injury by parent
- Reluctance to go home
- Feels responsible (punishment "deserved")
- Poor self-esteem
- Clothing covers arms and legs even in hot weather

## **Indicators of Sexual Abuse**

### **HISTORICAL**

- Vague somatic complaint
- Excessive school absences
- Inadequate supervision at home
- History of urinary tract infection or vaginitis
- Complaint of pain; genital, anal or lower back/abdominal
- Complaint of genital itching
- Any disclosure of sexual activity, even if contradictory

### **PHYSICAL**

- Discomfort in walking, sitting
- Evidence of trauma or lesions in and around mouth
- Vaginal discharge/vaginitis
- Vaginal or rectal bleeding
- Bruises, swelling or lacerations around genitalia, inner thighs
- Dysuria
- Vulvitis
- Any other signs or symptoms of sexually transmitted disease
- Pregnancy

### **BEHAVIORAL**

- Low self-esteem
- Change in eating pattern
- Unusual new fears
- Regressive behaviors
- Personality changes (hostile/aggressive or extreme compliance)
- Depression
- Decline in school achievement
- Social withdrawal or poor peer relationships
- Indicates sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge for age
- Seductive behavior, promiscuity or prostitution
- Substance abuse
- Suicide ideation or attempt
- Runaway

## **Indicators of Emotional Abuse**

### **HISTORICAL**

- Parent ignores/isolates/belittles/rejects/scapegoats child
- Parent's expectations inappropriate to child's development
- Prior episode(s) of physical abuse
- Parent perceives child as "different"

## **PHYSICAL**

- (Frequently none)
- Failure to thrive
- Speech disorder
- Lag in physical development
- Signs/symptoms of physical abuse

## **BEHAVIORAL**

- Poor self-esteem
- Regressive behavior (sucking, rocking, enuresis)
- Sleep disorders
- Adult behaviors (parenting sibling)
- Antisocial behavior
- Emotional or cognitive developmental delay
- Extremes in behavior - overly aggressive/compliant
- Depression
- Suicide ideation/attempt

### **Indicators of Physical Neglect**

## **HISTORICAL**

- High rate of school absenteeism
- Frequent visits to school nurse with nonspecific complaints
- Inadequate supervision, especially for long periods and for dangerous activities
- Child frequently unattended; locked out of house
- Parental inattention to recommended medical care
- No food intake for 24 hours
- Home substandard (no windows, doors, heat), dirty, infested, obvious hazards
- Family member addicted to drugs/alcohol

## **PHYSICAL**

- Hunger, dehydration
- Poor personal hygiene, unkempt, dirty
- Dental cavities/poor oral hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing for weather/size of child, clothing dirty; wears same clothes day after day
- Constant fatigue or listlessness
- Unattended physical or health care needs
- Infestations
- Multiple skin lesions/sores from infection

## **BEHAVIORAL**

- Comes to school early, leaves late
- Frequent sleeping in class
- Begging for/stealing food
- Adult behavior/maturity (parenting siblings)
- Delinquent behaviors

**Note: This policy and its accompanying regulations were updated to clarify the legal guidelines regarding a board of education’s limited right, as a public employer, to regulate certain forms of employee speech in the context of social media.**

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**4131  
4231**

## **POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING SOCIAL MEDIA**

The New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the importance and utility of social media and networks for its employees. The laws regarding social media continue to evolve and change. Nothing in this policy, its implementing regulations or its enforcement is intended to limit an employee’s right to use social media or personal online accounts under applicable law, as it may evolve. The Board acknowledges, for example, that its employees have the right under the First Amendment, in certain circumstances, to speak out on matters of public concern. The Board will resolve any conflict between this policy and applicable law in favor of the law.

Ordinarily, the use of social media by employees, including employees’ use of personal online accounts, will not be a legal or policy issue. However, the Board will regulate disruptive communications and/or actions by members of the school community when school officials determine that such communications or actions:

- 1) cause legally sufficient interference with, disruption to, or undermining of the effective operation of the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”) or a school or program operated by the District such that regulation of such communications comports with the First Amendment and other applicable laws;
- 2) are used to engage in harassing, defamatory, obscene, abusive, discriminatory, threatening, or similarly inappropriate communications (e.g., when such speech relates to a matter of public concern and its disruptive impact outweighs the importance of the speech);
- 3) create a hostile work environment;
- 4) breach confidentiality obligations of Board employees; and/or
- 5) violate the law, Board policies, and/or other school rules or regulations.

Employees’ use of social media on behalf of the District will be addressed as speech pursuant to duty under applicable First Amendment principles.

The Board, through its Superintendent, will adopt and maintain administrative regulations to implement this policy.

### Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amend. I  
Pickering v. Board of Education, 391 U.S. 563 (1968)  
Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138 (1983)

Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006)

Lindke v. Freed, 601 U.S. 187 (2024)

Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Conn. Constitution, Article I, Sections 3, 5, 6

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-40x

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-51q

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183

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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Milford, Connecticut

## ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

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Ordinarily, the use of social media by employees, including employees’ use of personal online accounts, will not be a legal or policy issue. However, the Board will regulate disruptive communications and/or actions by members of the school community when school officials determine that such communications or actions:

- 1) cause legally sufficient interference with, disruption to, or undermining of the effective operation of the Board or the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”) or a school or program operated by the District such that regulation of such communications comports with the First Amendment and other applicable laws;
- 2) are used to engage in harassing, defamatory, obscene, abusive, discriminatory, threatening, or similarly inappropriate communications (e.g., when such speech relates to a matter of public concern and its disruptive impact outweighs the importance of the speech);
- 3) create a hostile work environment;
- 4) breach confidentiality obligations of Board employees; and/or
- 5) violate the law, Board policies, and/or other school rules or regulations.

Employees’ use of social media on behalf of the District will be addressed as speech pursuant to duty under applicable First Amendment principles.

### **Definitions**

“*Social media*” includes a variety of online tools and services that allow users to publish content and interact with their audiences. By way of example, social media includes, but is not limited to, the following websites or applications, including an employee’s personal online account using such social media:

- (1) social-networking (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn, BlueSky);
- (2) blogs and micro-blogs (e.g., X, Tumblr, Medium);
- (3) content-sharing (e.g., Scribd, SlideShare, DropBox, Box, iCloud);
- (4) image sharing, video sharing or livestreaming (e.g., TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitch, Discord);

- (5) other sharing sites or apps such as by sound, location, news, or messaging, etc. (e.g., Reddit, Kik, SoundCloud, WhatsApp). The rapid speed at which technology continuously evolves makes it difficult, if not impossible, to identify all types of social media.

“*Board of Education*” or “*Board*” includes all names, logos, buildings, images, and entities under the authority of the Board and/or the District.

“*Electronic communications device*” includes any electronic device that is capable of transmitting, accepting or processing data, including, but not limited to, a computer, computer network and computer system, and a cellular or wireless device.

“*Personal online account*” includes any online account that is used by an employee exclusively for personal purposes and unrelated to any business purpose of the Board, including, but not limited to electronic mail, social media, and retail-based Internet websites. Personal online account does not include any account created, maintained, used or accessed by an employee for a business, educational, or instructional purpose of the Board.

### **Rules Concerning District-Sponsored Social Media Activity**

1. In order for an employee to use social media sites as an educational tool or in relation to extracurricular activities or programs of the District, the employee must seek and obtain the prior permission of the employee’s supervisor.
2. Employees may not use personal online accounts to access social media for classroom activities without express permission of the employee’s supervisor. Where appropriate and with permission, District-sponsored social media accounts should be used for such purposes.
3. If an employee wishes to use social media sites to communicate meetings, activities, games, responsibilities, announcements, etc., for a school-based club, school-based activity, official school-based organization, or official school-based sports team (collectively, a “school-based group”), the employee must also comply with the following rules:
  - The employee must receive the permission of the employee’s immediate supervisor.
  - The employee must not use the employee’s personal online account for such purpose but shall use a Board-issued account.
  - The employee must ensure that such social media use is compliant with all Board policies, regulations, and applicable state and federal law, including the provision of required legal notices and permission slips to parents.
  - The employee must set up the school-based group as a group list which will be “closed” (e.g., membership in the group is limited to students, parents/guardians, and appropriate school personnel), and “monitored” (e.g., the employee has the ability to access and supervise communications on the social media site).

- Parents/guardians shall be permitted to access any page that their child has been invited to join.
  - Access to the page may only be permitted for educational purposes related to the school-based group.
  - The employee responsible for the page will monitor it regularly. If members of the group are permitted to contribute or comment on the site, the employee will monitor the communications and address any inappropriate communications in a manner designed to be consistent with Board policies, administrative regulations, and applicable law.
  - The employee's supervisor shall be permitted access to any page established by the employee for a school-based group or school-related purpose.
  - Employees are required to maintain appropriate professional boundaries in the establishment and maintenance of all such District-sponsored social media activity.
4. Employees are prohibited from making harassing, defamatory, obscene, abusive, discriminatory or threatening or similarly inappropriate statements in their social media communications using District-sponsored sites or accounts or through Board-issued electronic accounts.
  5. Employees are required to comply with all Board policies and procedures and all applicable laws with respect to the use of electronic communications devices, networks, Board-issued accounts, or when accessing District-sponsored social media sites or while using personal devices on the District's wireless network or while accessing District servers.
  6. The Board reserves the right to monitor all employee use of District computers and other electronic devices, including employee blogging and social networking activity. An employee should have no expectation of personal privacy in any communication made through social media, including personal online accounts, while using District electronic communications devices or while accessing District networks from a privately owned device.
  7. All communications through District-sponsored social media or Board-issued electronic accounts must comply with the Board's policies concerning confidentiality, including the confidentiality of student information. If an employee is considering sharing information and is unsure about the confidential nature of the information, the employee shall consult with the employee's supervisor prior to communicating such information.
  8. An employee may not link a District-sponsored social media page to any personal online account or sites not sponsored by the District.
  9. An employee may not use District-sponsored social media or Board-issued electronic accounts for communications for private financial gain, political, commercial, advertisement, proselytizing or solicitation purposes.

10. An employee may not use District-sponsored social media or Board-issued electronic accounts in a manner that misrepresents the views of the Board, individual school, or District, or in a manner that could reasonably be construed as such.

### **Rules Concerning Personal Online Accounts**

1. The Board understands that employees access social media and the web for personal matters. The Board reserves the right to monitor all employee use of District electronic communications devices, including a review of online and personal social media activities using such devices. An employee should have no expectation of personal privacy in any personal communication made through social media while using District computers, District-issued cellular telephones, other electronic communications devices or when accessing District networks. While the Board reserves the right to monitor use of its electronic communications devices, employees may engage in incidental personal use of social media in the workplace so long as such use is not during times the employee is responsible for supervising or instructing students or otherwise engaged in their job duties, does not interfere with operations and productivity, and does not violate other Board policies and/or procedures.
2. An employee may not mention, discuss, reference, or link to the Board of Education, the District or its individual schools, programs or school-based groups, including sports teams, using personal online accounts or other sites or applications in a manner that could reasonably be construed as an official Board or District communication, unless the employee also states within the communication that such communication is the personal view of the employee of the District and that the views expressed are the employee's alone and do not represent the views of the District or the Board. An example of such a disclaimer is: "The opinions and views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position or opinion of the school district or Board of Education." For example, except as may be permitted by Board policy, employees may not provide job references for other individuals on social media that indicate that such references are made in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or District.
3. Employees should be aware that, in certain circumstances, their posts on personal social media pages could be considered "mixed use" for both personal and government (e.g., school district) action. To avoid a finding of state action on their personal pages, employees should take reasonable steps to refrain from posting anything that could be interpreted as an official action attributable to the Board or the District. Employees who fail to make clear that they are speaking in their personal, not official, capacity may expose themselves to liability in certain circumstances, including the liability associated with deleting comments from and/or blocking an individual from their social media pages.
4. Employees should not use the buildings, grounds or equipment of the District to which they have access as an employee to record any audio or video file intended to be posted to personal social media. This provision shall not prevent employees from creating personal social media posts in appropriate circumstances when in the

buildings or on the grounds of the District as a community member, for example, when attending a school event as a parent.

5. Employees are required to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with students, parents and guardians, and colleagues. For example, absent an unrelated online relationship (*e.g.*, relative, family friend, other affiliation (such as scout troop, religious affiliation, or community organization) or pre-existing personal friendship unrelated to school), it is not appropriate for a teacher or administrator to “friend,” “follow,” or otherwise establish special relationships with selected students, parents, or guardians through personal online accounts, and it is not appropriate for an employee to give students or parents access to personal postings unrelated to school.
6. Employees are advised to refrain from engaging in harassing, defamatory, obscene, abusive, discriminatory or threatening or similarly inappropriate communications through personal online accounts. Such communications reflect poorly on the District’s reputation, can affect the educational process and may substantially and materially interfere with an employee’s ability to fulfill the employee’s professional responsibilities.
7. Employees are individually responsible for their personal communications through social media and personal online accounts. Employees may be sued by other employees, parents, guardians, or others, and any individual that views an employee’s communication through social media and personal online accounts as defamatory, pornographic, proprietary, harassing, libelous or creating a hostile work or educational environment. In addition, employees should consider refraining from posting anything that belongs to another person or entity, such as copyrighted publications or trademarked images. As all of these activities are outside the scope of employment, employees may be personally liable for such claims.
8. Employees are required to comply with all Board policies and procedures with respect to the use of electronic communications devices when accessing personal online accounts and/or social media through District computer systems. Any access to personal online accounts and/or personal social media activities while on school property or using District equipment must comply with those policies and may not interfere with an employee’s duties at work.
9. All communications through personal online accounts and/or social media must comply with the Board’s policies concerning confidentiality, including the confidentiality of student information. If an employee is considering sharing information and is unsure about the confidential nature of the information, the employee shall consult with the employee’s supervisor prior to communicating such information.
10. An employee may not post official Board or District material using a personal online account without written permission of the employee’s supervisor.

11. All of the Board's policies and administrative regulations apply to employee use of personal online accounts in the same way that they apply to conduct that occurs in the workplace and off duty conduct.

### **Access to Personal Online Accounts**

1. An employee may not be required by the employee's supervisor to provide the employee's username, password, or other means of authentication of a personal online account.
2. An employee may not be required to authenticate or access a personal online account in the presence of the employee's supervisor.
3. An employee may not be required to invite or accept an invitation from the employee's supervisor or required to join a group with the employee's personal online account.

### **Use of Crowdfunding Activities**

Prior to engaging in any crowdfunding activities (*e.g.*, DonorsChoose, Kickstarter, GoFundMe, etc.) for the Board, its schools, classes, or extracurricular teams or clubs, an employee must first apply in writing to the building principal and receive approval for the crowdfunding activity. Such written application must include the name of the website or application to be utilized, a full description of the reason for the crowdfunding activity, a copy of the proposed personal profile to be listed on the site/application, and the proposed content to be uploaded to the crowdfunding website or application, including images. Any money received from crowdfunding activities must be deposited directly into a school activity fund and may not first be received by the employee. Crowdfunding activities must comply with all Board policies, regulations and procedures, and shall not include photos of students or the sharing of any confidential student information.

### **Disciplinary Consequences**

Violation of the Board's policy concerning the use of social media or these administrative regulations may lead to discipline up to and including the termination of employment consistent with state and federal law. An employee may face disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment if an employee transmits, without the Board's permission, confidential information to or from the employee's personal online account.

An employee may not be disciplined for failing to provide the employee's username, password, or other authentication means for accessing a personal online account, failing to authenticate or access a personal online account in the presence of the employee's supervisor, or failing to invite the employee's supervisor or refusing to accept an invitation sent by the employee's supervisor to join a group affiliated with a personal online account, except as provided herein.

Notwithstanding, the Board may require that an employee provide the employee's username, password, or other means of accessing or authenticating a personal online

account for purposes of accessing any account or service provided by the Board for business purposes or any electronic communications device supplied by or paid for, in whole or in part, by the Board.

Nothing in this policy or regulations shall prevent the District from conducting an investigation for the purpose of ensuring compliance with applicable state or federal laws, regulatory requirements, or prohibitions against work-related employee misconduct based on the receipt of specific information about an activity on an employee's personal online account or based on specific information about the transfer of confidential information to or from an employee's personal online account. During the course of such investigation, the District may require an employee to allow the District to access the employee's personal online account for the purpose of conducting such investigation. However, the employee will not be required to provide the employee's username and/or password or other authentication means in order for the District to access the personal online account.

Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amend. I  
Pickering v. Board of Education, 391 U.S. 563 (1968)  
Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138 (1983)  
Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006)  
Lindke v. Freed, 601 U.S. 187 (2024)  
Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 through 2520

Conn. Constitution, Article I, Sections 3, 5, 6  
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-40x  
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d  
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-51q  
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183

Regulation Approved: March 18, 2025  
Revised:

**Note: Effective October 1, 2025, Public Act 25-174 made significant revisions to two state laws: the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act (“CT FMLA”) and Connecticut Paid Family and Medical Leave (“CT Paid Leave”), extending coverage to employees of public school operators whose positions do not require a license under Chapter 166 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The FMLA policy was updated with these changes.**

<b>Series 4000</b>	<b>4152.6</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>4252.6</b>

## **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE**

### ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this policy is to apprise employees of their rights and establish guidelines for leaves taken by employees of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”), under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (“Federal FMLA”) and/or the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act (“CT FMLA”) and applicable Connecticut state law. This policy is not intended to, and does not, recite every provision of applicable law and regulations.

### ***ELIGIBILITY***

An employee who has been employed by the Board for at least twelve (12) months, and who has worked at least 1,250 actual work hours during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the start of a leave, is eligible for unpaid leave under the Federal FMLA. A full-time instructional employee meets the 1,250 hours of service requirement unless the Board can demonstrate that such employee did not meet the 1,250 hours of service requirement in the 12-month period prior to the start of leave.

An employee working for the Board in a position that does not require a professional certification under Chapter 166 of the Connecticut General Statutes (*i.e.*, a “noncertified employee”) is eligible for unpaid leave under the CT FMLA if such employee has been employed by the Board for at least three (3) months in the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the start of such leave.

### ***DEFINITIONS***

**Genetic information:** For purposes of this policy, “genetic information” includes an individual’s family medical history, an individual’s or family member’s genetic tests, and/or the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services or participated in clinical research which includes genetic services. “Genetic information” includes genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member utilizing assistive reproductive technology.

**Instructional employee:** For purposes of this policy, an “instructional employee” is defined as a teacher or other employee of the Board who is employed principally in an instructional capacity and whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting, and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The

term does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal function actual teaching or instructing, nor auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily non-instructional employees.

**Noncertified employee:** For purposes of this policy, “noncertified employee” means an employee employed by the Board in a position that does not require a professional certification under Chapter 166 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### ***REASONS FOR LEAVE***

#### (a) Federal FMLA

Leaves under the Federal FMLA may be taken for the following reasons:

- incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care, or child birth;
- to care for the employee’s newborn child;
- the placement of a child with the employee by adoption or for foster care;
- to care for the employee’s spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition;
- to care for the employee's own serious health condition that renders the employee unable to perform the functions of the employee’s position;
- to care for a covered injured or ill servicemember (see below – Length of Leave – for further information); or
- to address a qualifying exigency arising out of an employee’s spouse, child, or parent’s military service, including one or more of the following reasons (note – more detailed information on the following categories is available from the Human Resources office:
  - short-notice deployment;
  - military events and related activities;
  - childcare and school activities;
  - financial and legal arrangements;
  - counseling;
  - rest and recuperation;
  - post-deployment activities;
  - parental care leave for military member’s parent who is incapable of self-care and care is necessitated by the military member’s covered active duty; and/or
  - additional activities that arise out of the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member, provided that the Board and the employee agree that such leave qualifies as an exigency, and agree to both the timing and the duration of such leave.

#### (b) CT FMLA

Leaves under the CT FMLA may be taken for the following reasons:

- upon the birth of the employee’s newborn child, and to care for the newborn child;
- upon the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, and to care for the newly placed child;

- to care for the employee's family member, if such family member has a serious health condition;
- because of the employee's own serious health condition, including any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care, that renders the employee unable to perform the functions of the employee's position;
- in order to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor;
- to care for an injured or ill servicemember who is the employee's spouse, parent, child or next of kin (see below – Length of Leave – for further information); or
- to address a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, child, or parent of the employee is on active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the armed forces.

For purposes of determining whether an employee has a qualifying reason for leave under the CT FMLA, "family member" is defined as a spouse, sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild or parent, or an individual related to the employee by blood or affinity whose close association the employee shows to be the equivalent of those family relationships.

### ***LENGTH OF LEAVE***

#### (a) Basic FMLA Leave Entitlement

- (1) Leaves under the Federal FMLA: If a leave is requested for a Federal FMLA-qualifying reason, an employee may take up to a total of twelve (12) weeks unpaid family or medical leave in the 12-month entitlement period.
- (2) Leaves under CT FMLA: If a leave is requested for a CT FMLA-qualifying reason, an eligible employee may take up to a total of twelve (12) weeks unpaid family or medical leave in the 12-month entitlement period, except that the employee may take up to two (2) additional workweeks of leave during such twelve (12)-month period for a serious health condition resulting in incapacitation that occurs during pregnancy. These additional two (2) weeks are only available during pregnancy.

The 12-month entitlement period for family or medical leave is measured on the basis of a "rolling" 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.

An employee may be entitled to leave under the Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA. To the extent an employee is eligible for and qualifies for leave under both laws, the employee's Federal FMLA and CT FMLA leave will run concurrently.

#### (b) Leave to Care for an Injured or Ill Servicemember

In addition to the reasons for leave listed above, an eligible employee may take up to twenty-six (26) workweeks of Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave during a 12-month period to care for a covered servicemember and/or covered veteran who is the employee's spouse, parent, child or next of kin, and who incurred a serious injury or illness in the line of duty and while on active duty in the Armed Forces or had a

preexisting injury or illness prior to beginning active duty that was aggravated by service in the line of duty in the Armed Forces.

When combined with any other type of Federal FMLA or CT FMLA-qualifying leave, total leave time may not exceed twenty-six (26) weeks in a single twelve (12) month period. Standard leave procedures described below apply to all requests for and designation of leave for this purpose. *However*, in the case of leave to care for a servicemember with a serious injury or illness, the 12-month period begins on the day such leave actually commences.

### ***TYPES OF LEAVE AND CONDITIONS***

#### **(a) Full-Time, Intermittent and Reduced Schedule Leave**

Full-time leave excuses the employee from work for a continuous period of time. Full-time unpaid leave may be taken for any of the reasons permitted by the Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA.

Intermittent leave means leave taken due to a single qualifying reason in separate periods of time rather than for one continuous period of time. Examples of intermittent leave include: leave taken one day per week over a period of a few months or leave taken on an occasional/as-needed basis for medical appointments.

Reduced schedule leave is leave that reduces the employee's usual number of work hours per day for some period of time. For example, an employee may request half-time work for a number of weeks so the employee can assist in the care of a seriously ill parent.

Intermittent or reduced schedule Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave may be taken (a) when medically necessary for an employee's or covered family member's serious health condition, or for a covered servicemember's serious illness or injury, and (b) the need for leave can be best accommodated through an intermittent or reduced schedule leave. In addition, Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule basis (1) due to a qualifying exigency, or (2) to effectuate the placement of a child for adoption or foster care before the placement of the child in the home.

If foreseeable intermittent or reduced schedule leave is medically required based upon planned medical treatment of the employee or a covered family member or a covered servicemember, including during a period of recovery from an employee's or covered family member's serious health condition or a serious injury or illness of a covered servicemember, the Board may, in its sole discretion, temporarily transfer the employee to another job with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the type of leave requested.

Under the Federal FMLA, special arrangements may be required of an instructional employee who needs to take intermittent or reduced-schedule leave which will involve absence for more than twenty (20) percent of the work days in the period over which the leave will extend (for example, more than five days over a five-week period), if the leave is to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition, to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness, or for the

employee's own serious health condition, which is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment. In such situations, the Board may require the instructional employee to transfer temporarily to another job or take leave for a particular duration, not to exceed the duration of the planned medical treatment.

(b) Both Spouses Working for the Same Employer

If both spouses are eligible employees of the Board and request Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave for the birth, placement of a child by adoption or for foster care, or to care for a parent (or family member, for purposes of CT FMLA leave) with a serious health condition, they only will be entitled to a maximum combined total leave equal to twelve (12) weeks in the 12-month entitlement period. If either spouse (or both) uses a portion of the total 12-week entitlement for one of the purposes in the preceding sentence, each is entitled to the difference between the amount the employee has taken individually and the 12 weeks for Federal and/or CT FMLA leave for other qualifying reasons in the 12-month entitlement period.

(c) Leave Taken by Instructional Employees Near the End of an Academic Term

If Federal FMLA leave taken by an instructional employee for any reason begins more than five (5) weeks before the end of an academic term, the Board may require that instructional employee to continue the leave until the end of the term if the leave will last at least three (3) weeks and the instructional employee would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the term.

If the instructional employee begins Federal FMLA leave during the five-week period preceding the end of an academic term for a reason other than the instructional employee's own serious health condition, the Board may require the instructional employee to continue taking leave until the end of the term if the leave will last more than two (2) weeks and the instructional employee would return to work during the two-week period before the end of the term.

If the instructional employee begins Federal FMLA leave during the three-week period preceding the end of an academic term for a reason other than the instructional employee's own serious health condition, the Board may require the instructional employee to continue taking leave until the end of the term if the leave will last more than five (5) working days.

### ***REQUESTS FOR LEAVE***

(a) Foreseeable Leave

An employee must notify the Department of Human Resources of the need for a family or medical leave at least thirty (30) days before the leave is to begin if the need for the leave is foreseeable based on the expected birth of the employee's child, placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, planned medical treatment for the employee's or a covered family member's serious health condition, or the planned medical treatment for a serious injury or illness of a covered servicemember. If 30 days-notice is not practicable, then the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable

under the circumstances, usually the same day or the next business day after the employee becomes aware of the need for Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave.

(b) Unforeseeable Leave

When the employee's need for leave is not foreseeable, an employee must provide notice as practicable under the circumstances.

***SCHEDULING PLANNED MEDICAL TREATMENT***

When planning medical treatment for foreseeable Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave, an employee must consult with the Department of Human Resources and make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the Board's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider. Similarly, if an employee needs leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment, the employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the Board's operations. Ordinarily, the employee should consult with the Department of Human Resources prior to scheduling the treatment in order to work out a treatment schedule that best suits the needs of the Board and the employee. The Board and the employee shall attempt to work out a schedule for leave that meets the employee's needs without unduly disrupting the Board's operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider as to any modification of the treatment schedule.

***REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS/DOCUMENTATION***

For leaves taken for any Federal FMLA or CT FMLA-qualifying reason, an employee must submit completed certification form(s) supporting the need for leave. The appropriate form(s) will be provided to the employee. The employee must submit a complete and sufficient certification form(s) as required within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the request for the completed certification. If it is not practicable for the employee to provide the completed form by the due date despite the employee's diligent, good faith efforts, the employee must inform the Department of Human Resources of the reason(s) for delay and what efforts the employee undertook to obtain the required certification. Federal FMLA- and/or CT FMLA-protected leave may be delayed or denied, in accordance with applicable law, if the employee does not provide a complete and sufficient certification as required. Depending on the reason for leave, an employee may be required to submit medical certification from the employee's health care provider, medical certification the employee's family member's health care provider, and/or other documentation (e.g., to establish a family relationship, military active duty orders, etc.). In certain circumstances and under certain conditions, employees may also be required to obtain second or third medical opinions and/or recertifications, in accordance with applicable law.

If an employee takes leave for the employee's own serious health condition (except on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis), prior to returning to work the employee must provide a medical fitness-for-duty certification that the employee is able to resume work and the health condition that created the need for the leave no longer renders the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the job. This certification must be submitted to the Department of Human Resources. If the employee is unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of the employee's position, the

Board will determine whether the employee is eligible for additional Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave (if the eligible for such leave and such leave has not been exhausted) or whether an accommodation is appropriate, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In connection with the Board's request for medical information, employees must be aware that the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 ("GINA") prohibits employers and other entities covered by Title II of GINA from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, the Board requests that employees not provide any genetic information when responding to a request for medical information.

Note: The medical certification form should include the above language related to GINA.

### ***USE OF PAID LEAVE***

Paid leave, which has been accrued in accordance with applicable law, the relevant collective bargaining agreement (if any), and/or Board policy ("PTO") will be substituted for any unpaid portions of family or medical leave taken for any reason that is also a qualifying reason for using such accrued paid leave. In such instance, the employee's accrued paid leave and Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA-qualifying leave will run concurrently. The employee must satisfy any procedural requirements applicable to the use of paid leave, but only in connection with the receipt of such payment. An employee who is approved for CT FMLA leave may retain up to two weeks of their accrued paid time off that would otherwise be required to run concurrently with CT FMLA leave.

Where a noncertified employee's accrued paid leave is not substituted for the entire period of unpaid leave for a qualifying reason under the CT FMLA and/or Connecticut law regarding leave for victims of family violence and sexual assault, the employee may apply for and be provided with compensation through the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program ("CT Paid Leave") for all or part of any unpaid leave, provided the employee qualifies for payments under the program. Noncertified employees may apply to the Connecticut Paid Medical and Family Leave Insurance Authority ("Authority") for partial income replacement benefits when they need leave for (1) any of the reasons that qualify for CT FMLA; and/or (2) if an employee is a victim of family violence or sexual assault, to seek medical care or psychological or other counseling for physical or psychological injury or disability for the victim; to obtain services from a victim services organization on behalf of the victim; to relocate due to such family violence or sexual assault; or to participate in any civil or criminal proceeding related to or resulting from such family violence or sexual assault. Eligible employees shall apply directly to the Authority, which is responsible for determining an employee's eligibility for CT Paid Leave benefits and the amount of such benefit. The Board will provide the Authority with all requested information regarding an employee's application for CT Paid Leave, in accordance with applicable law.

***[OPTIONAL: The Board shall require employees to use applicable PTO concurrently with their CT FMLA leave, subject to their right to retain up to two weeks of accrued PTO. If, after exhausting other applicable PTO, an employee does not wish***

***to retain two weeks of accrued PTO while on approved CT FMLA leave, the Board shall permit the employee to receive these accrued PTO benefits concurrently with their CT Paid Leave benefits, if any, provided the total compensation of such covered employee during such period of leave shall not exceed such covered employee's regular rate of compensation.]***

In addition, in cases involving absences due to a Workers' Compensation injury that also qualifies as an FMLA serious health condition, and if the employee (and the employee's collective bargaining agent, if applicable) and the Board agree to do so, the Board will apply the employee's available accrued paid leave in increments as a supplement to the Workers' Compensation weekly benefit in an appropriate amount so that the employee can maintain the employee's regular weekly income level.

### ***MEDICAL INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS***

During family or medical leaves approved in accordance with the Federal FMLA, the Board will continue to pay its portion of medical insurance premiums for the period of unpaid Federal FMLA. The employee must continue to pay the employee's share of the premium, and failure to do so may result in loss of coverage. If the employee does not return to work after expiration of the leave, the employee will be required to reimburse the Board for payment of medical insurance premiums during the family or medical leave, unless the employee does not return because of a serious health condition or circumstances beyond the employee's control.

During a Federal FMLA and/or CT FMLA leave, an employee shall not accrue any benefits such as seniority, pension, sick or vacation leave, unless otherwise required by any applicable collective bargaining agreement or Board policy. However, unused employment benefits accrued by the employee up to the day on which the leave begins will not be lost upon return to work. Leave taken under this policy does not constitute an absence under the Board's attendance policy, if any.

### ***REINSTATEMENT***

Except for circumstances unrelated to the taking of a family or medical leave pursuant to this policy, and unless an exception applies, an employee who returns to work following the expiration of a family or medical leave is entitled to return to the job such employee held prior to the leave or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay and benefits.

### ***COMPLAINTS***

The Federal FMLA and CT FMLA prohibit employers from interfering with, restraining, or denying any rights provided by the respective laws. The Federal FMLA and CT FMLA also prohibit employers from terminating or discriminating against any individual for opposing any unlawful practice or being involved in any proceeding related to the Federal FMLA or CT FMLA, respectively. The CT FMLA also prohibits employers from interfering with, restraining, or denying any rights provided by CT Paid Leave and/or terminating or discriminating against an employee for applying for CT Paid Leave benefits.

An employee alleging a violation of the Federal FMLA may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division. Such complaint should be filed

within a reasonable time of when the employee discovers that the employee's Federal FMLA rights have been violated. In no event may a complaint be filed more than two (2) years after the action which is alleged to be a violation of the Federal FMLA occurred, or three years in the case of a willful violation. An employee may also be able to bring a private civil action for violations.

An employee alleging a violation of the CT FMLA may file a complaint with the Connecticut Department of Labor within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the employer action that prompted the complaint, unless good cause exists for the late filing. Upon receipt of any such complaint, the Connecticut Department of Labor Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, shall conduct an investigation and make a finding regarding jurisdiction and whether a violation of the CT FMLA has occurred. An employee alleging a violation of the CT FMLA may also bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against the employer within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the employer action alleged to be in violation of the CT FMLA. Such action may be brought by an employee without first filing an administrative complaint.

### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

Questions regarding family or medical leave may be directed to the Superintendent or designee. Federal FMLA and CT FMLA do not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

#### Legal References:

##### Connecticut:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-51kk et seq.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-49e et seq.

Regs. Conn. State Agencies 31-51qq, et seq.

Public Act 25-174, "An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State and Concerning Grant Programs, State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects, Revisions to the School Building Projects Statutes and Various Provisions Revising and Implementing the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027"

##### Federal:

Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 U.S.C. Section 2601 et seq., as amended

29 CFR Part 825.100 et seq.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, 42 USC 2000ff et seq.

29 CFR 1635.1 et seq.

Approved: August 15, 2023  
Revised:

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

**Note: In 2023, the General Assembly passed legislation, now codified at Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-222aa *et seq.*, making significant changes to the statutory provisions related to school climate. Among other things, the revised law contains a new definition of bullying and requires boards of education to address challenging behavior in accordance with the revised school climate law. In light of these changes, the Student Discipline policy was revised to reflect that, when appropriate, the school district will implement strategies to address student behavior, consistent with the School Climate Policy, with or without engagement with the discipline process. The revised policy also incorporates the updated definition of bullying and the definition of challenging behavior.**

**In addition, the definition of a protected class has been expanded to include individuals who are victims of sexual assault or human trafficking, as required by Public Act 25-139. The list of conduct that may lead to disciplinary action was also expanded to include the use of language, imagery, symbols, or conduct that demeans, threatens, or discriminates against an individual on the basis of their membership in a protected class. Language concerning the unauthorized possession, display, or dissemination of images depicting nudity, including synthetically created images, has also been updated to reflect the federal Take It Down Act and recent changes in Connecticut law. The Board has an opportunity to expand the policy’s definition of generative artificial intelligence (“AI”) to include more systems than ChatGPT.**

**Further, the revised policy incorporates new procedural requirements for suspension and expulsion hearings. Specifically, Public Act 25-93 requires school personnel to consult with the district’s local homeless education liaison to determine whether a student is homeless, and, if so, to consider the impact of homelessness on the student’s behavior before proceeding with suspension or expulsion.**

**The policy has also been updated to ensure compliance with the IDEA when a student who is eligible for special education and related services under the IDEA has been suspended for ten (10) school days in the same school year, even if not consecutive. In that circumstance, the district must provide such student with services to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and make progress toward meeting the goals in the student’s IEP.**

**Finally, legal references throughout the policy have been updated to reflect current statutory citations.**

**Series 5000  
Students**

**5131**

## **POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) to create a school environment that promotes respect of self, others, and property within the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”). Compliance with this policy will enhance the Board and the District’s ability to maintain discipline and reduce interference with the educational

process that can result from student misconduct. Pursuant to this policy, the District shall promote the utilization of consistent discipline practices, both within and across schools in the District, while also promoting the consideration of individual circumstances arising in each student disciplinary matter.

Where appropriate, the District utilizes strategies that teach, encourage, and reinforce positive student behavior. Such strategies include, but are not limited to, using evidence and research-based interventions, including restorative practices, and may be implemented with or without imposing discipline, as appropriate. In addition to implementing this Student Discipline policy, the District shall address student behavior in accordance with the Board's School Climate Policy, Restorative Practices Response Policy, and any school rules, student handbook, and/or code of conduct provisions regarding the same.

I. Definitions

- A. **Bullying** means unwanted and aggressive behavior among children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.
- B. **Cannabis** means marijuana, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 21a-240.
- C. **Challenging Behavior** means behavior that negatively impacts school climate or interferes, or is at risk of interfering, with the learning or safety of a student or the safety of a school employee.
- D. **Dangerous Instrument** means any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a "vehicle" or a dog that has been commanded to attack.
- E. **Deadly Weapon** means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon or metal knuckles. A weapon such as a pellet gun and/or air soft pistol may constitute a deadly weapon if such weapon is designed for violence and is capable of inflicting death or serious bodily harm. In making such determination, the following factors should be considered: design of weapon; how weapon is typically used (e.g., hunting); type of projectile; force and velocity of discharge; method of discharge (e.g., spring v. CO2 cartridge) and potential for serious bodily harm or death.
- F. **Electronic Defense Weapon** means a weapon which by electronic impulse or current is capable of immobilizing a person temporarily, but is not capable of inflicting death or serious physical injury, including a stun gun or other conductive energy device.
- G. **Emergency** means a situation in which the continued presence of the student in school poses such a danger to persons or property or such a

disruption of the educational process that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.

- H. **Exclusion** means any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes.
- I. **Expulsion** means the exclusion of a student from school privileges for more than ten (10) consecutive school days and shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, exclusion from the school to which such student was assigned at the time such disciplinary action was taken. The expulsion period may not extend beyond one (1) calendar year.
- J. **Firearm**, as defined in 18 U.S.C § 921, means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon, (c) a firearm muffler or silencer, or (d) any destructive device. The term firearm does not include an antique firearm. As used in this definition, a "**destructive device**" includes any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas device, including a bomb, a grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, or any other similar device; or any weapon (other than a shotgun or shotgun shell which the Attorney General finds is generally recognized as particularly suited for sporting purposes) that will, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by explosive or other propellant, and which has a barrel with a bore of more than ½" in diameter. The term "destructive device" also includes any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A "destructive device" does not include: an antique firearm; a rifle intended to be used by the owner solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes; or any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon.
- K. **Generative Artificial Intelligence ("AI")** refers to a technology system, including but not limited to ChatGPT, **[NOTE TO CLIENT: add other AI systems the District wishes to include as examples]** capable of learning patterns and relationships from data, enabling it to create content, including but not limited to text, images, audio, or video, when prompted by a user.
- L. **Protected Class Harassment** is a form of discrimination on the basis of any protected characteristic (or protected class) including race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law ("Protected Class"). Harassment constitutes unlawful discrimination when it creates a hostile environment, which occurs when the harassment is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or

persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual's association with someone in a Protected Class may be a form of Protected Class harassment.

- M. **In-School Suspension** means an exclusion from regular classroom activity for no more than five (5) consecutive school days, but not exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. No student shall be placed on in-school suspension more than fifteen (15) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one (1) school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion.
- N. **Martial Arts Weapon** means a nunchaku, kama, kasari-fundo, octagon sai, tonfa or chinese star.
- O. **Removal** is the exclusion of a student from a classroom for all or part of a single class period, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond ninety (90) minutes.
- P. **School Days** shall mean days when school is in session for students.
- Q. **School-Sponsored Activity** means any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board and includes activities conducted on or off school property.
- R. **Seriously Disruptive of the Educational Process**, as applied to off-campus conduct, means any conduct that markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operation of a school.
- S. **Suspension** means the exclusion of a student from school and/or transportation services only, provided such suspension shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed; and further provided no student shall be suspended more than ten (10) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless such student is granted a formal hearing as provided below.
- T. **Synthetically created image** means any photograph, film, videotape or other image of a person that (A) is (i) not wholly recorded by a camera, or (ii) either partially or wholly generated by a computer system, and (B) depicts, and is virtually indistinguishable from what a reasonable person would believe is the actual depiction of, an identifiable person.
- U. **Weapon** means any BB gun, any blackjack, any metal or brass knuckles, any police baton or nightstick, any dirk knife or switch knife, any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released

from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, any stiletto, any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches and over in length, any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument, unless permitted by law under Section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

- V. Notwithstanding the foregoing definitions, the reassignment of a student from one regular education classroom program in the District to another regular education classroom program in the District shall not constitute a suspension or expulsion.
- W. For purposes of this policy, references to “school”, “school grounds” and “classroom” shall include physical educational environments, including on school transportation, as well as environments in which students are engaged in remote learning, which means instruction by means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a remote learning model.

## II. Scope of the Student Discipline Policy

### A. *Conduct on School Grounds, on School Transportation, or at a School-Sponsored Activity:*

1. Suspension. Students may be **suspended** for conduct on school grounds, on school transportation, or at any school-sponsored activity that **violates a publicized policy of the Board or is seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangers persons or property.**
2. Expulsion. Students may be **expelled** for conduct on school grounds, on school transportation, or at any school-sponsored activity that either **(1) violates a publicized policy of the Board and is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or (2) endangers persons or property.**

### B. *Conduct off School Grounds:*

Discipline. Students may be disciplined, including suspension and/or expulsion, for conduct off school grounds if such conduct **violates a publicized policy of the Board and is seriously disruptive of the educational process.**

### C. *Seriously Disruptive of the Educational Process:*

In making a determination as to whether off campus conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the Administration and the Board may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to, the following factors: **(1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the**

**school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon**, as defined in Section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and **whether any injuries occurred;** and (4) **whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol**. The Administration and/or the Board may also consider (5) **whether the off-campus conduct involved the illegal use of drugs**.

D. *Misconduct Involving Cannabis:*

A student shall not have greater discipline, punishment, or sanction for the use, sale, or possession of cannabis on school property than a student would face for the use, sale, or possession of alcohol on school property, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

III. Actions Leading to Disciplinary Action, including Removal from Class, Suspension and/or Expulsion

Conduct that is considered to violate a publicized policy of the Board includes the offenses described below. Any such conduct may lead to disciplinary action (including, but not limited to, removal from class, suspension and/or expulsion in accordance with this policy):

1. Striking or assaulting a student, member of the school staff or other person(s).
2. Theft.
3. The use of obscene or profane language or gestures.
4. The possession, display and/or dissemination of obscenity or pornographic images or the unauthorized or inappropriate possession, display and/or dissemination of images, pictures or photographs depicting nudity, including intimate synthetically created images.
5. Violation of smoking, dress, transportation regulations, or other regulations and/or policies governing student conduct.
6. Refusal to obey a member of the school staff, law enforcement authorities, or school volunteers, or disruptive classroom behavior.
7. The use of one or more of the following: objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression); other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership; display of images or symbols commonly associated

with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class; graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful, or humiliating based on Protected Class membership; bigoted conduct or communications; and/or physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

8. Any act of Protected Class Harassment or reprisal or retaliation against any individual for reporting in good faith incidents of Protected Class Harassment, or who participate in the investigation of such reports.
9. Refusal by a student to respond to a staff member's request for the student to provide the student's name to a staff member when asked, misidentification of oneself to such person(s), lying to school staff members or otherwise engaging in dishonest behavior.
10. Inappropriate displays of public affection of a sexual nature and/or sexual activity on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity.
11. A walk-out from or sit-in within a classroom or school building or school grounds.
12. Blackmailing, threatening or intimidating school staff or students (or acting in a manner that could be construed to constitute blackmail, a threat, or intimidation, regardless of whether intended as a joke), including the use of AI to engage in such conduct.
13. Possession and/or use of any weapon, weapon facsimile, deadly weapon, martial arts weapon, electronic defense weapon, pistol, knife, blackjack, bludgeon, box cutter, metal knuckles, pellet gun, air pistol, explosive device, firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, whether functional or not, or any other dangerous object or instrument. The possession and/or use of any object or device that has been converted or modified for use as a weapon.
14. Possession of any ammunition for any weapon described above in Paragraph 13.
15. Unauthorized entrance into any school facility or portion of a school facility or aiding or abetting an unauthorized entrance.
16. Possession or ignition of any fireworks, combustible or other explosive materials, or ignition of any material causing a fire. Possession of any materials designed to be used in the ignition of combustible materials, including matches and lighters.

17. Possession, sale, distribution, use, or consumption of tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes), electronic cannabis delivery system, or vapor products, or the unlawful possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption of drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages (or any facsimile of tobacco, drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages, or any item represented to be tobacco, drugs or alcoholic beverages), including being under the influence of any such substances or aiding in the procurement of any such substances. For the purposes of this Paragraph 17, the term “electronic nicotine delivery system” shall mean an electronic device used in the delivery of nicotine or other substances to a person inhaling from the device, and includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device, including, but not limited to, electronic cigarette liquid. For purposes of Paragraph 17, the term “electronic cannabis delivery system” shall mean an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of cannabis to a person inhaling the device and includes, but is not limited to, a vaporizer, electronic pipe, electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device. For the purposes of Paragraph 17, the term “vapor product” shall mean any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may or may not include nicotine and is inhaled by the user of such product. For the purposes of this Paragraph 17, the term "drugs" shall include, but shall not be limited to, any medicinal preparation (prescription and non-prescription) and any controlled substance whose possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption is illegal under state and/or federal law, including cannabis.
18. Sale, distribution, or consumption of substances contained in household items; including, but not limited to glue, paint, accelerants/propellants for aerosol canisters, and/or items such as the aerators for whipped cream; if sold, distributed or consumed for the purpose of inducing a stimulant, depressant, hallucinogenic or mind-altering effect.
19. Possession of paraphernalia used or designed to be used in the consumption, sale or distribution of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, as described in Paragraph 17 above. For purposes of this policy, drug paraphernalia includes any equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing controlled drugs or controlled substances

into the human body, including but not limited to items such as "bongs," pipes, "roach clips," vials, tobacco rolling papers, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled drugs or controlled substances, including cannabis.

20. The destruction of real, personal or school property, such as, cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property in any way.
21. Accumulation of offenses such as school and class tardiness, class or study hall cutting, or failure to attend detention.
22. Trespassing on school grounds while on out-of-school suspension or expulsion.
23. Making false bomb threats or other threats to the safety of students, employees, and/or other persons.
24. Defiance of school rules and the valid authority of teachers, supervisors, administrators, other employees and/or law enforcement authorities.
25. Throwing snowballs, rocks, sticks and/or similar objects, except as specifically authorized by school employees responsible for student supervision.
26. Unauthorized and/or reckless and/or improper operation of a motor vehicle on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity.
27. Leaving school grounds, school transportation or a school-sponsored activity without authorization.
28. Use of or copying of the academic work of another individual and presenting it as the student's own work, without proper attribution; the unauthorized use of AI for the completion of class assignments; or any other form of academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism.
29. Possession and/or use of a cellular telephone, radio, portable audio player, CD player, blackberry, tablet, personal data assistant, walkie talkie, Smartphone, mobile or handheld device, or similar electronic device, on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity in violation of Board policy and/or administrative regulations regulating the use of such devices.
30. Possession and/or use of a beeper or paging device on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity without the written permission of the principal or designee.

31. Unauthorized use of or tampering with any school computer, computer system, computer software, Internet connection or similar school property or system, or the use of such property or system for inappropriate purposes, including using AI in a manner that disrupts or undermines the effective operation of the school district or is otherwise seriously disruptive to the educational process.
32. Possession and/or use of a laser pointer, unless the student possesses the laser pointer temporarily for an educational purpose while under the direct supervision of a responsible adult.
33. Hazing.
34. Challenging behavior, including, but not limited to, bullying, as defined in the Board's School Climate Policy and above.
35. Cyberbullying, defined as any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.
36. Acting in any manner that creates a health and/or safety hazard for employees, students, third parties on school property or the public, regardless of whether the conduct is intended as a joke, including but not limited to violating school or District health and safety protocols.
37. Engaging in a plan to stage or create a violent and/or sexual situation or activity for the purposes of recording it by electronic means and/or recording such situation or activity by electronic means. Reporting recordings to school officials may warrant exceptions from disciplinary action in certain circumstances.
38. The unauthorized publication or dissemination of a recording (photographic or audio) of another individual without permission of the individual or a school employee. Reporting recordings to school officials may warrant exceptions from disciplinary action in certain circumstances.
39. Using computer systems, including email, remote learning platforms, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, AI, or other forms of electronic communications, to engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy.
40. Use of a privately owned electronic or technological device in violation of school rules, including the unauthorized recording

(photographic or audio) of another individual without permission of the individual or a school employee.

41. Engaging in teen dating violence, defined as any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, which occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.
42. Any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.
43. Any other violation of school rules or regulations or a series of violations which makes the presence of the student in school seriously disruptive of the educational process and/or a danger to persons or property.

#### IV. Discretionary and Mandatory Expulsions

- A. An administrator responsible for a school program (“responsible administrator”) may consider recommendation of expulsion of a student in **grades three to twelve, inclusive**, in a case where the responsible administrator has reason to believe the student has engaged in conduct described at Sections II.A. or II.B., above.
- B. A responsible administrator must recommend expulsion proceedings in all cases against any student in **grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive**, whom the District Administration has reason to believe:
  1. was in possession on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity of a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, martial arts weapon, or firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921 as amended from time to time; or
  2. **off school grounds, possessed a firearm** as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-35, or **possessed and used a firearm** as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, a **deadly weapon**, a **dangerous instrument** or a **martial arts weapon** in the **commission of a crime** under chapter 952 of the Connecticut General Statutes; or
  3. was engaged **on or off school grounds or school transportation in offering for sale or distribution a controlled substance** (as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 21a-240(9)), whose manufacturing, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting, or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering or administering is subject to criminal penalties under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§21a-277 and 21a-278. Sale or distribution of less than one (1) kilogram of cannabis is not subject to mandatory expulsion.

The terms “**dangerous instrument,**” “**deadly weapon,**” “**electronic defense weapon,**” “**firearm,**” and “**martial arts weapon,**” are defined above in Section I.

C. In any preschool program provided by the Board or provided by a regional educational service center or a state or local charter school pursuant to an agreement with the Board, no **student enrolled in such a preschool program** shall be expelled from such preschool program, except an expulsion hearing shall be conducted by the Board in accordance with Section IX of this policy whenever the Administration has reason to believe that that a student enrolled in such preschool program was in **possession of a firearm** as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, as amended from time to time, on or off school grounds, on school transportation, or at a preschool program-sponsored event. The term “**firearm**” is defined above in Section I.

D. Upon receipt of an expulsion recommendation, the Superintendent may conduct an inquiry concerning the expulsion recommendation.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a student should or must be expelled, the Superintendent or designee shall forward such recommendation to the Board so that the Board can consider and act upon this recommendation.

E. In keeping with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d and the Gun-Free Schools Act, it shall be the policy of the Board to expel a student in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, for one (1) full calendar year for the conduct described in Section IV.B(1), (2) and (3) of this policy and to expel a student enrolled in a preschool program for one (1) calendar year for the conduct described in Section IV.C. For any mandatory expulsion offense, the Board may modify the term of expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

V. Procedures Governing Behavior that Causes a Serious Disruption

A. A school principal or other school administrator shall notify a parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of other students; caused self-harm; or caused physical harm to a teacher, another student, or other school employee not later than twenty-four (24) hours after such behavior occurs.

B. Such notice shall include, but not be limited to, informing such parent or guardian that the teacher of record in the classroom in which such behavior occurred may request a behavior intervention meeting.

C. If the teacher of record in the classroom ultimately requests a behavior intervention meeting with the crisis intervention team for the school, the parent or guardian must be notified that such meeting will occur.

- D. If a behavior intervention meeting occurs, the crisis intervention team shall, not later than seven (7) days after the behavior intervention meeting, provide to the parent or guardian of such student, in the dominant language of such parent or guardian, a written summary of such meeting, including, but not limited to, the resources and supports identified.

VI. Procedures Governing Removal from Class

- A. A student may be removed from class by a teacher or administrator if the student deliberately causes a serious disruption of the educational process. When a student is removed by a teacher, the teacher must send the student to a designated area and notify the building principal or designee at once.
- B. A student may not be removed from class more than six (6) times in one school year nor more than twice in one week unless the student is referred to the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee and granted an informal hearing at which the student should be informed of the reasons for the disciplinary action and given an opportunity to explain the situation.
- C. The parents or guardian of any minor student removed from class shall be given notice of such disciplinary action within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of such removal from class.

VII. Procedures Governing Suspension

- A. The responsible administrator or the administrator's designee shall have the right to suspend a student for breach of conduct as noted in Section II of this policy for not more than the following: five (5) consecutive school days for an in-school suspension; ten (10) consecutive school days for an out-of-school suspension for students in grades three through twelve, inclusive; or five (5) consecutive school days for an out-of-school suspension for students in grades preschool to two, inclusive. In cases where suspension is contemplated, the following procedures shall be followed.
  - 1. Unless an emergency situation exists, no student shall be suspended prior to having an informal hearing before the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee at which the student is informed of the alleged misconduct and given an opportunity to respond. In the event of an emergency, the informal hearing shall be held as soon after the suspension as possible.
  - 2. Prior to conducting the informal hearing referenced above, an administrator, school counselor or school social worker at the student's school must contact the District's Homeless Education Liaison to determine whether the student is a homeless child or youth, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. If a student is determined to be a homeless child or youth, the

responsible administrator or the administrator's designee must consider the impact of homelessness on the student's behavior during the informal hearing.

3. If suspended, such suspension shall be an in-school suspension, except the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee may impose an out-of-school suspension on any student:
  - a. in grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, during the informal hearing, (i) the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee determines that the student poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student should be excluded from school during the period of suspension; or (ii) the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate based on evidence of (A) the student's previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such student, and (B) previous efforts by the District Administration to address the student's disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies, or
  - b. in grades preschool to two, inclusive, if the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee
    - (i) determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such student based on evidence that such student's conduct on school grounds is behavior that caused physical harm;
    - (ii) requires that such student receives services that are trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program ("IEP") or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") for such student upon such student's return to school immediately following the out-of-school suspension; and
    - (iii) considers whether to convene a Planning and Placement Team ("PPT") meeting for the purposes of conducting an evaluation to determine whether such student may require special education or related services.
4. Evidence of past disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion of a student who is the subject of an informal hearing may be received by responsible

administrator or the administrator's designee, but only considered in the determination of the length of suspensions.

5. By telephone, responsible administrator or the administrator's designee shall make reasonable attempts to immediately notify the parent or guardian of a minor student following the suspension and to state the cause(s) leading to the suspension.
6. Whether or not telephone contact is made with the parent or guardian of such minor student, responsible administrator or the administrator's designee shall forward a letter promptly to such parent or guardian to the last address reported on school records (or to a newer address if known by the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee), offering the parent or guardian an opportunity for a conference to discuss same.
7. In all cases, the parent or guardian of any minor student who has been suspended shall be given notice of such suspension within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of the suspension.
8. Not later than twenty-four (24) hours after the commencement of the suspension, the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee shall also notify the Superintendent or designee of the name of the student being suspended and the reason for the suspension.
9. The student shall be allowed to complete any classwork, including examinations, without penalty, which the student missed while under suspension.
10. The Administration may, in its discretion, shorten or waive the suspension period for a student who has not previously been suspended or expelled, if the student completes an Administration-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Administration. Such Administration-specified program shall not require the student and/or the student's parents to pay for participation in the program. The Superintendent may delegate this authority to building or program level administrators.
11. Notice of the suspension shall be recorded in the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school. In cases where the student's period of suspension is shortened or waived in accordance with Section VII.A(10), above, the Administration may choose to expunge the suspension notice from the cumulative record at the time the student completes the Administration-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Administration. The

Superintendent may delegate this authority to building or program level administrators.

12. If the student has not previously been suspended or expelled, and the Administration chooses to expunge the suspension notice from the student's cumulative record prior to graduation, the Administration may refer to the existence of the expunged disciplinary notice, notwithstanding the fact that such notice may have been expunged from the student's cumulative file, for the limited purpose of determining whether any subsequent suspensions or expulsions by the student would constitute the student's first such offense.
  13. The decision of the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee with regard to disciplinary actions up to and including suspensions shall be final.
  14. During any period of suspension served out of school, the student shall not be permitted to be on school property and shall not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, unless the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee specifically authorizes the student to enter school property for a specified purpose or to participate in a particular school-sponsored activity.
- B. In cases where a student's suspension will result in the student being suspended more than ten (10) times or for a total of fifty (50) days in a school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, the student shall, prior to the pending suspension, be granted a formal hearing before the Board. The responsible administrator or the administrator's designee shall report the student to the Superintendent or designee and request a formal Board hearing. If an emergency situation exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the suspension as possible.

#### VIII. Procedures Governing In-School Suspension

- A. The responsible administrator or the administrator's designee may impose in-school suspension in cases where a student's conduct endangers persons or property, violates school policy or seriously disrupts the educational process as determined by the responsible administrator or the administrator's designee.
- B. In-school suspension may not be imposed on a student without an informal hearing by responsible administrator or the administrator's designee.
- C. In-school suspension may be served in the school or program that the student regularly attends or in any other school building within the jurisdiction of the Board.

- D. No student shall be placed on in-school suspension more than fifteen (15) times or for a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion.
- E. The parents or guardian of any minor student placed on in-school suspension shall be given notice of such suspension within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of the period of the in-school suspension.

IX. Procedures Governing Expulsion Hearing

A. ***Emergency Exception:***

Except in an emergency situation, the Board shall, prior to expelling any student, conduct a hearing to be governed by the procedures outlined herein and consistent with the requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d or Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233l, if applicable, as well as the applicable provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 4-176e to 4-180a, and § 4-181a. Whenever an emergency exists, the hearing provided for herein shall be held as soon as possible after the expulsion.

B. ***Hearing Panel:***

- 1. Expulsion hearings conducted by the Board will be heard by any three or more Board members. A decision to expel a student must be supported by a majority of the Board members present, provided that no less than three (3) affirmative votes to expel are cast.
- 2. Alternatively, the Board may appoint an impartial hearing board composed of one (1) or more persons to hear and decide the expulsion matter, provided that no member of the Board may serve on such panel.

C. ***Hearing Notice and Rights of the Student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):***

- 1. Written notice of the expulsion hearing must be given to the student, and, if the student is a minor, to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) at least five (5) business days before such hearing, not including the day of such hearing.
- 2. A copy of this Board policy on student discipline shall also be given to the student, and if the student is a minor, to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), at the time the notice is sent that an expulsion hearing will be convened.

3. The written notice of the expulsion hearing shall inform the student of the following:
  - a. The date, time, place and nature of the hearing, including if the hearing will be held virtually, via video conference.
  - b. The legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held, including a reference to the particular sections of the legal statutes involved.
  - c. A short, plain description of the conduct alleged by the Superintendent or designee.
  - d. The student may present as evidence relevant testimony and documents concerning the conduct alleged and the appropriate length and conditions of expulsion; and that the expulsion hearing may be the student's sole opportunity to present such evidence.
  - e. The student may cross-examine witnesses called by the Superintendent or designee.
  - f. The student may be represented by an attorney or other advocate of the student's choice at the student's expense or at the expense of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
  - g. A student is entitled to the services of a translator or interpreter, to be provided by the Board, whenever the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) requires the services of an interpreter because they do not speak the English language or are disabled.
  - h. The conditions under which the Board is not legally required to give the student an alternative educational opportunity (if applicable).
  - i. Information concerning the parent's(s') or guardian's(s') and the student's legal rights and about free or reduced-rate legal services and how to access such services.
  - j. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.
4. Prior to conducting the expulsion hearing, an administrator, school counselor, or school social worker at the student's school must contact the District's Homeless Education Liaison to determine

whether the student is a homeless child or youth, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

**D. *Hearing Procedures:***

1. The hearing will be conducted by the Presiding Officer, who will call the meeting to order, introduce the parties, Board members and others participating in the hearing (if applicable), briefly explain the hearing procedures, and swear in any witnesses called by the Superintendent/designee or the student. If an impartial board or more than one person has been appointed, the impartial board shall appoint a Presiding Officer.
2. The hearing will be conducted in executive session. A verbatim record of the hearing will be made, either by tape or digital recording or by a stenographer. A record of the hearing will be maintained, including the verbatim record, all written notices and documents relating to the case and all evidence received or considered at hearing.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall bear the burden of production to come forward with evidence to support its case and shall bear the burden of persuasion. The standard of proof shall be a preponderance of the evidence.
4. Formal rules of evidence will not be followed. The Board (or the impartial board) has the right to accept hearsay and other evidence if it deems that evidence relevant or material to its determination. The Presiding Officer will rule on testimony or evidence as to it being immaterial, irrelevant and/or any other objections to its submission.
5. The hearing will be conducted in two (2) parts. In the first part of the hearing, the Board (or the impartial board) will receive and consider evidence regarding the conduct alleged by the Administration.
6. In the first part of the hearing, the charges will be introduced into the record by the Superintendent or designee.
7. Each witness for the Superintendent or designee will be called and sworn. After a witness has finished testifying, the witness will be subject to cross-examination by the opposite party or the witness' legal counsel, by the Presiding Officer and by Board members (or the impartial board).
8. The student shall not be compelled to testify at the hearing.

9. After the Superintendent or designee has presented the Administration's case, the student will be asked if the student has any witnesses or evidence to present concerning the charges. If so, the witnesses will be sworn, will testify, and will be subject to cross examination and to questioning by the Superintendent or designee, the Presiding Officer and/or by the Board (or the impartial board). The student may also choose to make a statement at this time. If the student chooses to make a statement, the student will be sworn and subject to cross examination and questioning by the Superintendent or designee, the Presiding Officer and/or by the Board (or the impartial board). Concluding statements will be made by the Superintendent or designee and then by the student and/or the student's representative.
10. In cases where the student has denied the allegation, the Board (or the impartial board) must determine whether the student committed the offense(s) as charged by the Superintendent or designee.
11. If the Board (or the impartial board) determines that the student has committed the conduct as alleged, then the Board (or the impartial board) shall proceed with the second portion of the hearing, during which the Board (or the impartial board) will receive and consider relevant evidence regarding the length and conditions of expulsion.
12. When considering the length and conditions of expulsion, the Board (or the impartial board) may review the student's attendance, academic and past disciplinary records. The Board (or the impartial board) may not review notices of prior expulsions or suspensions which have been expunged from the student's cumulative record, except as so provided in Section VII.A (10), (11), (12), above, and Section XI, below. The Board (or the impartial board) may ask the Superintendent or designee for a recommendation as to the discipline to be imposed.
13. Evidence of past disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of a student being considered for expulsion may be considered only during the second portion of the hearing, during which the Board (or the impartial board) is considering length of expulsion and nature of alternative educational opportunity to be offered.
14. If a student is determined to be a homeless child or youth as described in Subsection IX.C(4), the Board (or the impartial board) must consider the impact of homelessness on the student's behavior. Such student may not be expelled without a plan of interventions and supports to mitigate the impact of homelessness on the student's behavior. If the student is identified as a homeless child or youth and is expelled more than one time, the student shall

be provided a meeting with the District's Homeless Education Liaison.

15. Where administrators presented the case in support of the charges against the student, neither such administrative staff nor the Superintendent or designee shall be present during the deliberations of the Board (or the impartial board) either on questions of evidence or on the final discipline to be imposed. The Superintendent or designee may, after reviewing the incident with administrators, and reviewing the student's records, make a recommendation to the Board (or the impartial panel) as to the appropriate discipline to be applied.
16. The Board (or the impartial board) shall make findings as to the truth of the charges, if the student has denied them; and, in all cases, the disciplinary action, if any, to be imposed. While the hearing itself is conducted in executive session, the vote regarding expulsion must be made in open session and in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of the student's name and other personally identifiable information.
17. Except for a student who has been expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in subsection IV.B(1) and (2) above, the Board (or the impartial board) may, in its discretion, shorten or waive the expulsion period for a student who has not previously been suspended or expelled, if the student completes a Board-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board (or the impartial board). The Board-specified program shall not require the student and/or the student's parents to pay for participation in the program.
18. The Board (or the impartial board) shall report its final decision in writing to the student, or if such student is a minor, also to the parent(s) or guardian(s), stating the reasons on which the decision is based, and the disciplinary action to be imposed. Said decision shall be based solely on evidence presented at the hearing. The parents or guardian or any minor student who has been expelled shall be given notice of such disciplinary action within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the institution of the period of the expulsion.
19. The hearing may be conducted virtually, via video conference, at the direction of the Board (or the impartial board), in the event school buildings are closed to students or individuals are provided limited access to school buildings due to a serious health or other emergency. Any virtual hearing must provide the student the due process rights identified in this Subsection D.

F. ***Presence on School Grounds, on School Transportation, and Participation in School-Sponsored Activities During Expulsion:***

During the period of expulsion, the student shall not be permitted to be on school property or on school transportation, and shall not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, except for the student's participation in any alternative educational opportunity provided by the District in accordance with this policy, unless the Superintendent or designee specifically provides written permission for the student to enter school property or school transportation for a specified purpose or to participate in a particular school-sponsored activity.

G. ***Stipulated Agreements:***

In lieu of the procedures used in this Section, the Superintendent or designee and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student facing expulsion may choose to enter into a Joint Stipulation of the Facts and a Joint Recommendation to the Board concerning the length and conditions of expulsion. Such Joint Stipulation and Recommendation shall include language indicating that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) understand their right to have an expulsion hearing held pursuant to these procedures, and language indicating that the Board, in its discretion, has the right to accept or reject the Joint Stipulation of Facts and Recommendation. If the Board (or the impartial board) rejects either the Joint Stipulation of Facts or the Recommendation, an expulsion hearing shall be held pursuant to the procedures outlined herein. If the student is eighteen years of age or older, the student shall have the authority to enter into a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation on the student's own behalf.

If the parties agree on the facts, but not on the disciplinary recommendation, the Superintendent or designee and the parents (or legal guardians) of a student facing expulsion may also choose to enter into a Joint Stipulation of the Facts and submit only the Stipulation of the Facts to the Board (or the impartial board) in lieu of holding the first part of the hearing, as described above. Such Joint Stipulation shall include language indicating that the parents and/or student over the age of 18 understand their right to have a hearing to determine whether the student engaged in the alleged misconduct and that the Board, in its discretion, has the right to accept or reject the Joint Stipulation of Facts. If the Board (or the impartial board) rejects the Joint Stipulation of Facts, a full expulsion hearing shall be held pursuant to the procedures outlined herein.

X. **Alternative Educational Opportunities for Expelled Students**

A. ***Students under sixteen (16) years of age:***

Whenever the Board expels a student under sixteen (16) years of age, it shall offer any such student an alternative educational opportunity.

**B. *Students sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age:***

1. The Board shall provide an alternative educational opportunity to a sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) year-old student expelled for the first time if the student requests it and if the student agrees to the conditions set by the Board (or the impartial board). Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the placement of a student who is at least seventeen years of age in an adult education program. Any student participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school as a condition to participation in the adult education program.
2. The Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) who is expelled for a second, or subsequent, time.
3. The Board shall count the expulsion of a student when the student was under sixteen (16) years of age for purposes of determining whether an alternative educational opportunity is required for such student when the student is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen.

**C. *Students eighteen (18) years of age or older:***

The Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to expelled students eighteen (18) years of age or older.

**D. Content of Alternative Educational Opportunity**

1. For the purposes of Section X, and subject to Subsection X.E, below, any alternative educational opportunity to which an expelled student is statutorily entitled shall be (1) alternative education, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-74j and in accordance with the *Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled*, adopted by the Connecticut State Board of Education (“CSBE”), with an individualized learning plan, if the Board provides such alternative education, or (2) in accordance with the *Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled*, adopted by the CSBE.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations concerning alternative educational opportunities, which administrative regulations shall be in compliance with the standards adopted by the CSBE. Such administrative regulations shall include, but are not limited to, provisions to address student placement in alternative education; individualized learning plans;

monitoring of students placements and performance; and a process for transition planning.

E. ***Students identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”):***

Notwithstanding Subsections X.A. through D. above, if the Board expels a student who has been identified as eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”), it shall offer an alternative educational opportunity to such student in accordance with the requirements of IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time, and in accordance with the *Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled*, adopted by the CSBE.

F. ***Students for whom an alternative educational opportunity is not required:***

The Board may offer an alternative educational opportunity to a student for whom such alternative educational opportunity is not required by law or as described in this policy. In such cases, the Board, or if delegated by the Board, the Administration, shall determine the components, including nature, frequency and duration of such services, of any such alternative educational opportunity.

XI. Notice of Student Expulsion on Cumulative Record

Notice of expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student’s cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion of a student in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, based upon possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the District if the student graduates from high school.

In cases where the student’s period of expulsion is shortened or waived in accordance with Section IX.D(17), above, the Board may choose to expunge the expulsion notice from the cumulative record at the time the student completes the Board-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Except as may be specified by the Board in an expulsion hearing decision, the Board delegates the authority to make decisions pertaining to expungement to the Superintendent.

If a student’s period of expulsion was not shortened or waived, the Board may choose to expunge the expulsion notice from the student’s cumulative record prior to graduation if such student has demonstrated to the Board that the student’s conduct and behavior in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement. In deciding whether to expunge the expulsion notice, the Board may receive and consider evidence of any subsequent disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of the student. Except as may be specified by the Board in an expulsion hearing decision, the

Board delegates the authority to make decisions pertaining to expungement to the Superintendent.

If the student has not previously been suspended or expelled, and the Administration chooses to expunge the expulsion notice from the student's cumulative record prior to graduation, the Administration may refer to the existence of the expunged notice, notwithstanding the fact that such notice may have been expunged from the student's cumulative file, for the limited purpose of determining whether any subsequent suspension or expulsion by the student would constitute the student's first such offense.

## XII. Change of Residence During Expulsion Proceedings

### A. ***Student moving into the District:***

1. If a student enrolls in the District while an expulsion hearing is pending in another public school district, such student shall not be excluded from school pending completion of the expulsion hearing unless an emergency exists, as defined above. The Board shall retain the authority to suspend the student or to conduct its own expulsion hearing. The procedures outlined above in Section IX and consistent with the requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d or Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233l, if applicable, as well as the applicable provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 4-176e to 4-180a, and § 4-181a shall be utilized for any hearing conducted under this section.
2. Where a student enrolls in the District during the period of expulsion from another public school district, the Board may adopt the decision of the student expulsion hearing conducted by such other school district. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with statutory requirements. The Board (or the impartial board) shall make its determination pertaining to expulsion based upon a hearing held by the Board (or the impartial board), which hearing shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis of the previous public school district's expulsion would also warrant expulsion by the Board. The procedures outlined above in Section IX and consistent with the requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d or Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233l, if applicable, as well as the applicable provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 4-176e to 4-180a, and § 4-181a shall be utilized for any hearing conducted under this section.

### B. ***Student moving out of the District:***

Where a student withdraws from school after having been notified that an expulsion hearing is pending, but before a decision has been rendered by

the Board, the notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative record and the Board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If the Board subsequently renders a decision to expel the student, a notice of the expulsion shall be included on the student's cumulative record.

XIII. Procedures Governing Suspension and Expulsion of Students Identified as Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA")

A. ***Suspension of IDEA students:***

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a responsible administrator suspends a student identified as eligible for services under the IDEA (an "IDEA student") who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the District that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The responsible administrator shall make reasonable attempts to immediately notify the parents of the student of the decision to suspend on the date on which the decision to suspend was made, and a copy of the special education procedural safeguards must either be hand-delivered or sent by mail to the parents on the date that the decision to suspend was made.
2. During the period of suspension, the District is not required to provide any educational services to the IDEA student beyond that which is provided to all students suspended by the District, except as set forth in subsection (3) below.
3. If an IDEA student is being suspended and that student has already been removed from their current placement for ten (10) school days in the same school year, school personnel, in consultation with at least one of the student's teachers, must determine the extent to which services are needed so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP, so long as the suspension does not constitute a change in placement. If the suspension constitutes a change in placement, subsection (B) below will apply.

B. ***Expulsion and Suspensions that Constitute Changes in Placement for IDEA students:***

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the Administration recommends for expulsion an IDEA student who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the District that applies to all students, the procedures described in this section shall apply. The procedures described in this section shall also apply for students whom the Administration has

suspended in a manner that is considered under the IDEA, as it may be amended from time to time, to be a change in educational placement:

1. Upon the decision by the Administration to recommend expulsion or impose a suspension that would constitute a change in educational placement, the Administration shall promptly notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student of the recommendation of expulsion or the suspension that would constitute a change in educational placement, and provide the parents(s)/guardian(s) a copy of the special education procedural safeguards either by hand-delivery or by mail (unless other means of transmission have been arranged).
2. The District shall immediately convene the student's planning and placement team ("PPT"), but in no case later than ten (10) school days after the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement was made. The student's PPT shall consider the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension which constitutes a change in placement, in order to determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability.
3. If the student's PPT finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion or the suspension that constitutes a change in placement.
4. If the student's PPT finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion or suspension that constitutes a change in placement.
5. During any period of expulsion, or suspension of greater than ten (10) days per school year, the Administration shall provide the student with an alternative education program in accordance with the provisions of the IDEA.
6. When determining whether to recommend an expulsion or a suspension that constitutes a change in placement the responsible administrator (or designee) should consider the nature of the misconduct and any relevant educational records of the student.

**C. *Removal of Special Education Students for Certain Offenses:***

1. A responsible administrator may remove a student eligible for special education under the IDEA to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student:

- a. Was in possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930(g)(2), as amended from time to time, on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, or
  - b. Knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity; or
  - c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, on school transportation, or at a school function.
2. The following definitions shall be used for this subsection XIII.C.:
- a. **Dangerous weapon** means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2.5 inches in length.
  - b. **Controlled substance** means a drug or other substance identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 812(c).
  - c. **Illegal drug** means a controlled substance but does not include a substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or under any other provision of federal law.
  - d. **Serious bodily injury** means a bodily injury which involves: (A) a substantial risk of death; (B) extreme physical pain; (C) protracted and obvious disfigurement; or (D) protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

XIV. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Identified as Eligible under Section 504

- A. Except as provided in subsection B below, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the Administration recommends for expulsion a student identified as eligible for educational accommodations under Section 504 who has violated any rule or code of conduct of the District that applies to all students, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The parents of the student must be notified of the decision to recommend the student for expulsion.
  2. The District shall immediately convene the student's Section 504 team ("504 team") for the purpose of reviewing the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion. The 504 team will determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability.
  3. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration shall not proceed with the recommended expulsion.
  4. If the 504 team finds that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the Administration may proceed with the recommended expulsion.
- B. The Board may take disciplinary action for violations pertaining to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol against any student with a disability who currently is engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol to the same extent that such disciplinary action is taken against nondisabled students. Thus, when a student with a disability is recommended for expulsion based solely on the illegal use or possession of drugs or alcohol, the 504 team *shall not be required to meet* to review the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to the recommendation for expulsion.

XV. Procedures Governing Expulsions for Students Placed in a Juvenile Detention Center

- A. Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently placed in a juvenile detention center or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this section. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of placement in a juvenile detention center or other residential placement.
- B. If a student who committed an expellable offense seeks to return to the District after participating in a diversionary program or having been placed in a juvenile detention center or any other residential placement and such student has not been expelled by the Board for such offense under subdivision (A) of this subsection, the Board shall allow such student to return and may not expel the student for additional time for such offense.

XVI. Early Readmission to School

An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. The Board delegates the authority to make decisions on readmission requests to the Superintendent. Students desiring readmission to school shall direct such readmission requests to the Superintendent. The Superintendent has the discretion to approve or deny such readmission requests, and may condition readmission on specified criteria.

XVII. Dissemination of Policy

The District shall, at the beginning of each school year and at such other times as it may deem appropriate, provide for an effective means of informing all students, parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of this policy.

XVIII. Compliance with Documentation and Reporting Requirements

- A. The District shall include on all disciplinary reports the individual student's state-assigned student identifier (SASID).
- B. The District shall report all suspensions and expulsions to the State Department of Education.
- C. If the Board expels a student for sale or distribution of a controlled substance, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 21a-240(9), whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is the subject to criminal penalties under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 21a-277 and 21a-278, the District shall refer such student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training and inform the agency of its action.
- D. If the Board expels a student for possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3, the District shall report the violation to the local police.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

- § 10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds
- § 10-16 Length of school year
- § 10-74j Alternative education
- §§ 4-176e through 4-180a and § 4-181a Uniform Administrative Procedures Act
- §§ 10-222aa through 10-222kk School climate
- §§ 10-233a through 10-233f Suspension and expulsion of students
- § 10-233l Expulsion and suspension of children in preschool programs

- § 10-236c Disruptive or harmful behavior. Behavior intervention meetings for certain students. Notice to parents
- § 10-253 School privileges for children in certain placements, nonresident children, children in temporary shelters, homeless children and children in juvenile detention facilities. Liaison to facilitate transitions between school districts and juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- § 19a-342a Use of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product prohibited. Exceptions. Signage required. Penalties
- § 21a-240 Definitions
- § 21a-277 Penalty for illegal manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing
- § 21a-278 Penalty for illegal manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, or administration by non-drug-dependent person
- §§ 21a-408a through 408p Palliative use of marijuana
- § 29-35 Carrying of pistol or revolver without permit prohibited. Exceptions
- § 29-38 Weapons in vehicles
- § 46a-58 Deprivation of rights. Desecration of property. Placing of burning cross or noose on property. Penalty. Restitution
- § 53a-3 Definitions
- § 53-206 Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited
- § 53-344 Sale or delivery of cigarettes or tobacco products to persons under twenty-one.
- § 53-344b Sale and delivery of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor products to persons under twenty-one years or age

Public Act 25-168, Sec. 261, “An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget.” (definition of “synthetically created image”)

Public Act 25-93, “An Act Increasing Resources for Students, Schools and Special Education.”

Public Act 25-139, “An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims.”

*Packer v. Board of Educ. of the Town of Thomaston*, 717 A.2d 117 (Conn. 1998).

*State v. Hardy*, 896 A.2d 755 (Conn. 2006).

*State v. Guzman*, 955 A.2d 72 (Conn. App. Ct. 2008).

Connecticut State Department of Education, *Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled*, adopted January 3, 2018.

Federal law:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*, as amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-446.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.*

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, *et seq.*

18 U.S.C. § 921 (definition of “firearm”)

18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2) (definition of “dangerous weapon”)

18 U.S.C. § 1365(h)(3) (identifying “serious bodily injury”)

21 U.S.C. § 812(c) (identifying “controlled substances”)

34 C.F.R. § 300.530 (defining “illegal drugs”)

Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7961

*Honig v. Doe*, 484 U.S. 305 (1988)

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, *Resource on Confronting Racial Discrimination in Student Discipline (May 2023)*

Take It Down Act, Public L. 119-12

McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11343a

Approved: February 18, 2025

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Revised:

New Milford, Connecticut

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING ALTERNATIVE  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS**

I. Applicability of these Administrative Regulations

These administrative regulations shall apply in cases when, pursuant to state law, a student in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”) is entitled to an alternative educational opportunity during a period of expulsion.

II. Responsible Personnel

The administrator responsible for a school program (“responsible administrator”) from which the student has been expelled, or designee(s), shall maintain responsibility for compliance with these administrative regulations relative to the individual student who is being provided with the alternative educational opportunity.

III. Student Placement Procedures

- A. After a student has been expelled, and unless extraordinary circumstances exist, the responsible administrator, or designee(s), will take the following steps:
  - 1. Meet with the expelled student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to the student’s placement in an alternative educational setting to provide information concerning the potentially appropriate alternative educational opportunities for the student and to inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student of the right to apply for early readmission to school in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-233d(j).
  - 2. Consult with relevant school personnel from the school from which the student was expelled, who are knowledgeable about the student, to obtain information regarding the student’s academic, social, and behavioral history that will help inform the decision concerning an appropriate alternative educational opportunity. Such information may be gathered by written reports.
  - 3. After placement options have been shared with the parent(s)/guardian(s), convene a placement meeting at which all alternative educational opportunities are explored and a placement decision is made.
- B. The educational programming and placement for expelled students who are eligible to receive special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) shall be determined by the student’s Planning and Placement Team (“PPT”). In such case, Subsection A above shall not apply.

IV. Individualized Learning Plan

## A. Development of the Individualized Learning Plan

After the student has been accepted into an alternative educational placement, the responsible administrator, or designee, will develop an Individualized Learning Plan (“ILP”) that will govern the programming for the student for the period of expulsion. To develop the ILP, the responsible administrator, or designee, will collaborate with school personnel from the school or program from which the student was expelled, the student and the parent/guardian, and will review all relevant student records.

## B. Contents of the Individualized Learning Plan

1. The ILP will reference student records with information relevant to the provision of an alternative educational opportunity. These records may include:
  - a. Student success plan (for students who have a student success plan as mandated by state law, the student success plan may inform the ILP but does not replace the ILP);
  - b. Individualized education program (“IEP”);
  - c. Section 504 Plan;
  - d. Individualized health care plan or emergency care plan; and/or
  - e. Other relevant academic and behavioral data.
2. The ILP will address the following:
  - a. The student’s academic and behavioral needs and appropriate academic and behavioral goals and interventions, including the student’s core classes at the time of expulsion and the student’s current placement or progress in the curriculum for those classes so that the student has an opportunity to continue to progress in the Board’s academic program and earn graduation credits, if applicable;
  - b. Benchmarks to measure progress towards the goals and ultimately, progress towards graduation;
  - c. Provision for the timing and method for reviewing the student’s progress in the alternative educational opportunity and for communicating that progress to the parent/guardian or student. For most students, monitoring and reviewing the student’s progress will include monitoring the student’s

attendance, work completion and progress toward meeting the relevant academic standards for particular coursework, and thus progressing toward graduation, if applicable. The student's progress and grades will be communicated to the parents/guardians or student with the same frequency as similar progress for students in the regular school environment is reported and communicated to parents/guardians or students. The student's progress and grades will also be reported to the school or program from which the student was expelled;

- d. Provision for the timely transfer of the student's records both from the student's school or program to the alternative educational opportunity provider, and also from the alternative educational opportunity provider to the student's school or program; and
- e. The possibility of early readmission to the school or program from which the student was expelled and the early readmission criteria, if any, established by the Board or Superintendent, as applicable.

#### V. Review of Student's Placement in Alternative Educational Opportunity and Individualized Learning Plan

- A. A review of the appropriateness of the placement must occur at least once per marking period.
- B. The placement review must include:
  - 1. Review of the ILP to (1) assess progress and make adjustments as necessary and (2) determine its alignment with the goals of the student's IEP, where applicable; and
  - 2. Consideration of opportunities for early readmission as set forth in the ILP, as established by the Board or Superintendent, as applicable.

#### VI. Transition Plan for Readmission

- A. Before a student is readmitted to the school or program from which the student was expelled, relevant staff should provide an opportunity to meet with the parents/guardians and student to discuss the student's readmission. As part of the readmission process and the student's ILP, the responsible administrator, or designee, should consider:
  - 1. Efforts to readmit the student at a semester starting point (at the high school level);

2. A plan to transfer the student’s credits and records back to the school or program from which the student was expelled:
  - a. The District will award an expelled high school student appropriate high school credit for work satisfactorily completed during the period the student participates in the alternative educational opportunity and will transfer relevant records back to the school or program from which the student was expelled;
  - b. The District will provide an expelled student transferring to a new school district a progress summary of all work completed during the course of the student’s expulsion, and will indicate the course credit earned by the student for that work.
3. The student’s need for academic and other supports upon returning to school; and
4. Efforts to connect the returning student with opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities.

B. In the event the responsible administrator, or designee, determines that a student’s alternative educational opportunity is no longer beneficial to the student, but it remains inappropriate to return the student to the school or program from which the student was expelled, a plan for a different alternative educational opportunity may be developed in accordance with the procedures outlines in these Administrative Regulations.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d

Federal law:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*, as amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-446.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).

Connecticut State Department of Education, *Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled* (January 3, 2018).

Approved: June 20, 2023  
Revised: February 18, 2025

(Sample Letter)  
NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776

(Date)

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED & U.S. MAIL**

*(Parent) (If the Student is aged 18 or older, this notice should be sent directly to the student, with copies to the parent(s)).*

*(Parent's/Student's Address)*

*(Non-custodial Parent, if applicable)*

*(Parent's Address)*

***Re: Expulsion Hearing Concerning Student Name; D.O.B.; State-Assigned Student Identifier (SASID)***

Dear *(Parent/Guardian)*:

In accordance with the *(name of district)* Board of Education Policy (*policy # & title*), I am writing to advise you that the *(name of district)* Board of Education (the "Board") will hold a formal hearing concerning your child, *(name of student)* to consider the recommendation of *(name of administrator)* that your child be expelled from school. *[In cases where the district uses an impartial hearing board, add the following: Please be advised that the Board has appointed Attorney [Name(s)], to serve as an impartial hearing board in this matter.]* This hearing is being held pursuant to Section 10-233d *[In cases where a preschool student is recommended for expulsion, add the following: and Section 10-233l]* and Sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and Section 4-181a of the Connecticut General Statutes and the *(name of district)* Board Policy (*policy # & title*), a copy of which is enclosed. The Board (*OR the impartial hearing board*) intends to conduct the hearing in executive session, due to the confidential nature of this hearing.

The hearing will address the allegations that your child (*for on or off-campus conduct*: violated Board Policy *cite Student Discipline Policy number and any other specific policy number* on *date* and seriously disrupted the educational process) (*and/or, for on-campus conduct*: endangered persons or property) by engaging in the following conduct:

*(The law governing these hearings requires a short, plain statement of the facts to be included within this notice letter, and should be inserted here.*

*Example: carrying a knife on the school bus on a specified date and brandishing it at other students on the bus).*

*(If the student has admitted to this conduct, note the admission here).*

The hearing has been scheduled for (*date, time, place [note: unless an emergency exists, this notice must be given to the student/parent/guardian at least five (5) business days before the hearing, not including the day of such hearing]*). (*If a manifestation determination must be held prior to the expulsion hearing, add the following language: Prior to the expulsion hearing, your child's [planning and placement (PPT) team OR Section 504 team] will determine if your child's conduct constitutes a manifestation of the child's disability. The expulsion hearing will be canceled if the [PPT OR Section 504 team] determines that the conduct was a manifestation of your child's disability; otherwise, the hearing will proceed as scheduled.*) You and your child are asked to attend this hearing. Your child has the right to be represented by an attorney or other advocate at your expense, has the right to cross-examine administration witnesses, and may present relevant evidence, both documentary and testimonial, concerning the allegations. The hearing will be the parties' sole opportunity to present such evidence. The Board (***OR the impartial hearing board***) may also question witnesses. An opportunity will also be given for the administration and your child or your child's representatives to present argument concerning the evidence presented at the hearing. If you need the services of a translator or an interpreter for this hearing, please let me know as soon as possible.

Unless the administration has determined that an emergency exists, you have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation. If you would like to request a postponement, please let me know as soon as possible.

The administration may recommend expulsion from school for up to one calendar year. The Board (***OR the impartial hearing board***) has discretion to adopt any period of expulsion up to one calendar year.

As mentioned above, your child has a right to be represented, at your own expense, by an attorney or other advocate at the expulsion hearing. Obtaining an attorney or other advocate is the responsibility of the family. Very low income families may be able to obtain free or reduced rate advice or legal representation through Statewide Legal Services, Inc. ("SLS"). To apply for such assistance, those families should contact SLS immediately at 1-800-453-3320.

In the event your child is expelled as a result of the scheduled hearing, and your child is under sixteen (16) years of age, the Board will offer your child an alternative educational opportunity during any period of exclusion from school as determined by the Administration in accordance with applicable law and Board policy. If your child is between sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) and has not been expelled before, the Board shall also offer to your child an alternative educational opportunity if your child wishes to continue their education. Please know however, that the Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student between sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years of age who have previously been expelled or to students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older.

If you have any questions, please call my office at (*number*).

Sincerely,

*(Name of Superintendent)*  
*(Name of District)* Public Schools

Cc: *(Name of District)*, Chairman, *(Name of District)* Board of Education  
*(Name of Special Education Director, where applicable)*  
*(Name of Responsible Administrator at school that student attends)*  
*(Name of Board of Education Attorney, where applicable)*  
*(Name of Administration's Attorney, where applicable)*

## SAMPLE AGREEMENT

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT, (Superintendent of Schools for New Milford Public Schools), NAME OF STUDENT and NAME(S) OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) (the parent(s)/guardian(s) of NAME OF STUDENT) agree as follows with respect to the Superintendent's request that NAME OF STUDENT be expelled from \_\_\_\_\_ School:

1. NAME OF STUDENT (D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_; SASID \_\_\_\_\_) is currently enrolled as a \_\_\_\_\_ grade student at \_\_\_\_\_ School.
2. NAME OF STUDENT admits having engaged in the following conduct (*insert a short, plain statement of the conduct*) on or about \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.
3. NAME OF STUDENT's conduct, as described above, violates \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education Policy \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Discipline) (*Cite other policies here as appropriate*), and is considered by the district administration to be seriously disruptive of the educational process. (*For conduct that occurs on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, you may alternatively or additionally state whether such conduct is considered to endanger persons or property*). (*If the student has admitted to this conduct, note the admission here*).
4. Students are notified of applicable Board policies regarding prohibited conduct by publication in the student handbook.
5. (*Optional Section for students with disabilities*): A manifestation determination was made on (*date*) concerning this conduct and it was determined that the conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability.
6. Students are notified of applicable Board policies regarding prohibited conduct by publication in the student handbook.
7. Subject to the approval of the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education (the "Board"), NAME OF STUDENT shall be expelled, effective \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ and continuing through \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, under the following conditions:
  - a) During the period of expulsion, the Board will provide NAME OF STUDENT with an alternative educational opportunity deemed appropriate by the Administration in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

**(Optional alternative language if the parties agree to an alternative educational opportunity other than that required by the state standards:**

**The NAME OF PARENT(S) and NAME OF STUDENT understand and acknowledge that, pursuant to Section 10-233d of the Connecticut General Statutes, NAME OF STUDENT is entitled to an alternative educational opportunity during the Expulsion Period which shall be (1) alternative education, as defined by Section 10-74j of the Connecticut General Statutes, with an individualized learning plan, if the Board provides such alternative education, or (2) in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 3 of public act 17-220 (a "Statutory Alternative Educational Opportunity"). The NAME OF PARENT(S) and NAME OF STUDENT hereby waive NAME OF STUDENT's right to a Statutory Alternative**

**Educational Opportunity and accordingly waive the application of the *Standards of Educational Opportunities for Students Who haveHave Been Expelled*, adopted by the Connecticut State Board of Education, and the Board's Administrative Regulations concerning the implementation of said standards. In lieu of a Statutory Alternative Educational Opportunity, the NAME OF PARENT(S) and NAME OF STUDENT agree that during the Expulsion Period, the Board will provide NAME OF STUDENT with an alternative educational opportunity as follows:**

*[Describe alternative educational opportunity agreed to by parties.]*

**If NAME OF STUDENT becomes ineligible to attend the \_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools pursuant to Board Policy and/or if the Parents withdraw NAME OF STUDENT from enrollment as a student at [name of school], the Board will have no obligation to provide NAME OF STUDENT with the alternative educational opportunity described herein.**

- b) During the period of expulsion, NAME OF STUDENT will not be permitted to be on school grounds or school transportation, and will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, except as authorized in writing in advance by the Superintendent of Schools.

(Optional Sections regarding early readmission):

- c) Prior to \_\_\_\_\_, the Superintendent will review NAME OF STUDENT's conduct, attendance and effort level in the alternative educational opportunity [list other conditions as applicable], for the purpose of determining, in the Superintendent's sole discretion, whether NAME OF STUDENT should be readmitted to school on or about \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) If the Superintendent determines that NAME OF STUDENT should be readmitted to school early in accordance with the preceding section, and if NAME OF STUDENT subsequently commits any offense that would warrant suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Board, the Superintendent may reinstate NAME OF STUDENT's expulsion for the remainder of the expulsion period, through (*date*), without the need for any further proceedings before the Board.

(Optional Section for expungement if the expulsion is the student's first expulsion):

- e) Prior to (*date*), the Superintendent will review NAME OF STUDENT's conduct, attendance and effort level since the expulsion, for the purpose of determining, in the Superintendent's sole discretion, whether the expulsion hearing record of NAME OF STUDENT should be expunged from NAME OF STUDENT's educational record as of (*date*).

*(Optional Section for Homeless Child or Youth)*

- f) The Board has developed the following plan of interventions and supports to mitigate the impact of homelessness on NAME OF STUDENT's behavior \_\_\_\_\_.
8. All parties to this Agreement request that this Agreement be presented to the Board for the Board's consideration, in lieu of the submission of any other evidence by the Superintendent and/or NAME

OF STUDENT or NAME OF STUDENT's parents, and they agree that this Agreement is sufficient for the Board to expel NAME OF STUDENT from school.

9. NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) understand and acknowledge that, pursuant to Section 10-233d of the Connecticut General Statutes and Board Policy, NAME OF STUDENT is entitled to an expulsion hearing before the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education to contest NAME OF STUDENT's proposed expulsion from the \_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools. NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) further understands and acknowledges that at such hearing NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) would have the right to call witnesses and to introduce documentary evidence, to cross examine witnesses called by the Administration, and to be represented by an attorney or other advocate at their own expense. Accordingly, NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) waive NAME OF STUDENT's right to an expulsion hearing pursuant to Section 10-233d of the Connecticut General Statutes.
10. The Superintendent, NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) understand that this Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board. In the event that the Board does not approve this Agreement, the Superintendent, NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) agree that the expulsion hearing concerning NAME OF STUDENT shall be rescheduled to a mutually agreeable date for the purposes of conducting an evidentiary hearing before the Board concerning the Superintendent's expulsion request. NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) agree that NAME OF STUDENT will remain out of school until the evidentiary hearing has been completed. NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) also agree that the Board's consideration of this proposed Agreement will not disqualify any member of the Board from serving as a Board member in the evidentiary hearing, and they hereby waive any right to make such a claim in any proceeding in any forum.
11. NAME OF STUDENT and NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) enter into this Agreement voluntarily and with a full understanding of the provisions of this Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT  
Superintendent of Schools

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF STUDENT  
Student

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN  
OF STUDENT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN  
OF STUDENT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: This is a sample Individualized Learning Plan drafted in accordance with the Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled, which was approved by the State Board of Education on January 3, 2018. The specific goals and benchmarks can be customized to meet the needs of individual students.**

**New Milford Public Schools  
Individualized Learning Plan**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gr.** \_\_\_\_\_

**School/Program Prior to Expulsion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SASID:** \_\_\_\_\_

Does the student have an Individualized Education Program?     Yes     No

Does the student have a Section 504 Plan?     Yes     No

**Records Reviewed with Relevant Information  
for the Provision of an Alternative Educational Opportunity**

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Success Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Report Cards and Current Grades
<input type="checkbox"/> Individualized Education Program (IEP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Records
<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary/Behavioral Records
<input type="checkbox"/> Section 504 Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individualized Health Care Plan/Emergency Care Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**ILP Developed Through Collaboration With (check all that apply):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> School Counselor: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

**Records Transferred**

Date of transfer of relevant student records from the student's school/program to provider of alternative educational opportunity: _____	Date of transfer of records from provider of alternative educational opportunity to the student's school/program: _____
--	---

**Records Distribution and Storage**

Copies of the Individualized Learning Plan will be distributed to the following locations and/or individuals and stored in accordance with the District's student records policy:

- Student's cumulative file
- The Student's receiving school or alternative educational placement
- Student's parent/guardian

*[Note: Districts should insert or delete locations where this record may be kept in accordance with their student records policies and practices]*

<b>Student's Classes Prior to Expulsion</b>	
Core Class	Placement/Progress in Class at Time of Expulsion <i>(e.g. current grade, current unit, etc.)</i>

*Note: If the student receives special education and related services, the alternative educational opportunity provider must also refer to the student's IEP.*

### NEEDS

Academic Needs
<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP <i>(if applicable)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Behavioral Needs
<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP <i>(if applicable)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

### GOALS

Academic Goals		
<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP <i>(if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory work completion	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory progress in coursework and toward meeting relevant academic standards
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

--

Benchmarks to Measure Progress Toward Academic Goals		
<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP ( <i>if applicable</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Passing grades on midterm progress reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Passing grades on report card
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Progress monitoring <i>mm/dd/yy</i> :		

Behavioral Goals		
<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP ( <i>if applicable</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory attendance	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory compliance with behavioral expectations and disciplinary policies
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Benchmarks to Measure Progress Toward Behavioral Goals		
<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP ( <i>if applicable</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Fewer than _____ teacher referrals to administration for disciplinary matters	<input type="checkbox"/> Fewer than _____ contacts to parents/guardians for disciplinary matters
<input type="checkbox"/> Attends alternative program _____% or more of scheduled days/sessions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Progress monitoring <i>mm/dd/yy</i> :		

## INTERVENTIONS

### Academic Interventions

<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP <i>(if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> See Section 504 Plan <i>(if applicable)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 1 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 2 _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 3 _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

### Behavioral Interventions

<input type="checkbox"/> See IEP <i>(if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> See Section 504 Plan <i>(if applicable)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 1 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 2 _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tier 3 _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

## Review and Communication of Progress to Parents/Guardians or Student

**Method of monitoring and review:** *(for most students, monitoring and reviewing progress will include monitoring the student's attendance, work completion, and progress toward meeting the relevant academic standards for particular coursework, and thus progressing toward graduation, if applicable)*

- Monitoring attendance
- Monitoring work completion
- Monitor progress toward meeting relevant academic standards
- Review and monitor progress in accordance with IEP and/or BIP (if applicable)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Timing for communication of progress to parents/guardians or student:** *(Progress must be communicated to the parent/guardian or student with the same frequency as similar progress for students in the regular school environment is reported and communicated to parents/guardians or students)*

- Each marking period
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Early Readmission

The expulsion decision contains the following early readmission criteria:

- The student may apply to the Board of Education for early readmission and such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education.
  - The student applied to the Board of Education for early readmission on \_\_\_\_\_ and the Board of Education granted the request and has conditioned such early readmission on the following criteria:
  - The student applied to the Board of Education for early readmission on \_\_\_\_\_ and early readmission was not granted.
- The student may apply to the Superintendent for early readmission and such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent.
  - The student applied to the Superintendent for early readmission on \_\_\_\_\_ and the Superintendent granted the request and has conditioned such early readmission on the following criteria:

- The student applied to the Superintendent for early readmission on \_\_\_\_\_ and early readmission was not granted.

### **Review of Placement and ILP:**

A review of the appropriateness of the placement must occur at least once per marking period. Such review must include:

- Review of the ILP to (1) assess progress and make adjustments as necessary and (2) determine its alignment with the goals of the student's IEP, where applicable.
- Consideration of opportunities for early readmission as set forth in the ILP (see Early Readmission section)

### **Transition Plan for Readmission:**

The following has been considered and, where appropriate, addressed:

- Efforts to readmit the student at a semester starting point (at the high school level)
- A plan to transfer the student's credits and record back to the student's school/program
- The student's need for academic and other supports upon returning to school/program
- Efforts to connect the student with opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities

**Note: Technical edits were made to this policy to update the contact information for national and statewide community resources available to victims of child sexual abuse and sexual assault and their families. Also, references to the “Safe School Climate Specialist” were updated to reflect the revised statutory title, “School Climate Specialist.” There are no substantive changes to the policy.**

**Series 5000  
Students**

**5146**

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT RESPONSE POLICY AND REPORTING PROCEDURE**

The New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) has adopted a uniform child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault response policy and reporting procedure in connection with the implementation of its sexual assault and abuse prevention and awareness program within the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”).

### **I. Procedures for Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault**

- A. Students, or any individuals, may make written or verbal reports of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault to any school employee. For purposes of this policy, a “child” shall be considered any student enrolled in the District, except for those enrolled only in an adult education program who are over the age of eighteen (18). The School Climate Specialist or designee for the school in which the student is enrolled shall be notified of the report and shall cause such reports to be reviewed and actions taken consistent with this policy.
- B. School employees who receive a report of child sexual assault and/or abuse and have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been sexually abused and/or assaulted shall report such suspicion to the appropriate authority in accordance with Board Policy 4118.25/4218.25, pertaining to **REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN OR REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.**

### **II. Procedures for Review of Reports of Child Sexual Abuse and/or Assault**

- A. The School Climate Specialist or designee for the school in which the student is enrolled shall be responsible for reviewing any reports of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault. In the event that the suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault has not yet been reported to the appropriate authority in accordance with Board Policy 4118.25/4218.25, pertaining to **REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN BY ANYONE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES,** the School Climate Specialist or designee shall promptly cause such a report to be made.

- B. If/when such report alleges that a school employee, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat § 53a-65, is the perpetrator of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, the School Climate Specialist or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent of Schools or designee, who shall immediately notify the child's parent or guardian that a report has been made to the appropriate authorities in accordance with Board Policy 4118.25/4218.25, pertaining to **REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN OR REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**. The notification requirement shall not apply if a parent or guardian is the individual suspected of perpetrating the child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault. If either a Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) investigation or a police investigation is pending pertaining to the report of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, the School Climate Specialist or designee shall obtain the permission of DCF and/or the police department conducting the investigation prior to informing the parents/guardians of the report.
- C. The School Climate Specialist or designee shall offer to meet with the student and the parents or guardians of the student about whom a report of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault has been made, in order to discuss the District’s support procedures, including but not limited to: 1) actions that child victims of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault and their families may take to obtain assistance, 2) intervention and counseling options for child victims of sexual abuse and/or assault, and 3) access to educational resources to enable child victims of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault to succeed in school.
- D. In the event that the report of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault alleges that another student enrolled in the District is the perpetrator of the sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, the School Climate Specialist or designee shall also take appropriate action to investigate or cause such a report to be investigated, and appropriate remedial actions taken, in accordance with Board Policy 4118.25/4218.25, pertaining to **REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN OR REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**, Board Policy 5131.91, pertaining to **Bullying Prevention and Intervention**, and Board Policy 5145.7, **Title IX/Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**. In the event either a DCF investigation or a police investigation is pending pertaining to the report of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, the School Climate Specialist shall coordinate investigatory activities with DCF and/or the police in order to minimize the number of interviews of any child or student victim of sexual assault and share information with other persons authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect, as appropriate and permitted by law.
- E. The School Climate Specialist or designee shall develop a student support plan for anyone who has been a victim of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault. The report of suspected sexual abuse and/or assault need not be verified prior to the implementation of a support plan. The elements of the

support plan shall be determined in the discretion of the School Climate Specialist or designee, and shall be designed to support the student victim's ability to access the school environment.

### **III. Support Strategies**

- A. Child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault can take many forms and can vary dramatically in the nature of the offense and the impact the behavior may have on the victim and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault.
- B. The following sets forth possible interventions and supports which may be utilized to support individual student victims of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault:
  - 1. Referral to a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or mental health service.
  - 2. Encouragement of the student victim to seek help when feeling overwhelmed or anxious in the school environment.
  - 3. Facilitated peer support groups.
  - 4. Designation of a specific adult in the school setting for the student victim to seek out for assistance.
  - 5. Periodic follow-up by the School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX Coordinator with the victim of sexual abuse and/or assault.
- C. The following sets forth possible interventions and supports that may be utilized systemically as prevention and intervention strategies pertaining to child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault:
  - 1. School rules prohibiting sexual abuse and sexual assault and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts.
  - 2. School-wide training related to prevention and identification of, and response to, child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault.
  - 3. Age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention that will include information pertaining to, and support for, disclosures of sexual abuse and sexual assault, including but not limited to:
    - (a) the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and sexual assault, boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and

contact, and the ways offenders groom or desensitize victims; and

- (b) strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame and mobilize bystanders.
- 4. Promotion of parent involvement in child sexual abuse and sexual assault prevention and awareness through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual interventions.
- 5. Respectful and supportive responses to disclosures of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault by students.
- 6. Use of peers to help ameliorate the plight of victims and include them in group activities.
- 7. Continuing awareness and involvement on the part of students, school employees and parents with regard to prevention and intervention strategies.

#### **IV. School Climate Specialists**

The School Climate Specialists for the District are:

**Gwen Gallagher, Principal**  
Northville Elementary School  
22 Hipp Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-355-3713  
e-mail: [gallagherg@newmilfordps.org](mailto:gallagherg@newmilfordps.org)

**Catherine Calabrese, Principal**  
Hill and Plain Elementary School  
60 Old Town Park Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-5430  
e-mail: [calabresec@newmilfordps.org](mailto:calabresec@newmilfordps.org)

**Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal**  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School  
25 Sunny Valley Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-210-4020  
e-mail: [chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org](mailto:chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org)

**Linda Scoralick, Principal**  
Schaghticoke Middle School  
23 Hipp Road

New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-2204  
e-mail: [scoralickl@newmilfordps.org](mailto:scoralickl@newmilfordps.org)

**Kevin Best, Assistant Principal**  
New Milford High School  
388 Danbury Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-350-6647, Ext. 1168  
e-mail: [bestk@newmilfordps.org](mailto:bestk@newmilfordps.org)

## V. Community Resources

The Board recognizes that prevention of child sexual abuse and sexual assault requires a community approach. Supports for victims and families will include both school and community sources. The national, state and local resources below may be accessed by families at any time, without the need to involve school personnel.

### A. National Resources:

#### National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Resource Center

<http://www.missingkids.com/Publications>

333 John Carlyle Street, Suite #125, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-5950

24-hour call center: 1-800-843-5678

- The online resource center contains publications on child safety and abuse prevention, child sexual exploitation, and missing children.

#### National Children's Advocacy Center

[www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)

210 Pratt Ave., Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Telephone: (256) 533-5437

#### National Child Traumatic Stress Network

[www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org)

National Center for Child Traumatic Stress — Duke University

1121 West Chapel Hill Street Suite 201

Durham, NC 27701

Telephone: (919) 682-1552

- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers general information on childhood trauma, including information on child sexual abuse.

#### National Sexual Violence Resource Center

<https://www.nsvrc.org/find-help> 2101 N. Front Street

Governor's Plaza North, Building #2

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Toll Free Telephone: 877-739-3895

- The resource center includes multilingual access:  
<https://www.nsvrc.org/publications/nsvrc-publications/statements/centrality-multilingual-access-sexual-violence-prevention-and-intervention>.

Darkness to Light

<http://www.d2l.org>

3022 S Morgans Point Road #118

Mt Pleasant, SC 29466

National Helpline: (866) 656-HOPE

Administrative Office: (843) 965-5444

- Darkness to Light is a grassroots national non-profit organization to educate adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

B. Statewide Resources:

Department of Children and Families

<http://www.ct.gov/dcf/site/default.asp>

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

*Child Abuse and Neglect Careline: 1-800-842-2288*

Telephone, Central Office: (860) 550-6300

- DCF is the Connecticut agency responsible for protecting children who are abused or neglected.
- FAQs About Reporting Suspected Abuse and Neglect are available at:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/1-dcf/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect>

The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

<http://EndSexualViolenceCT.org/>

96 Pitkin Street

East Hartford, CT 06108

24-hour toll-free hotline: 1-888-999-5545 English/1-888-568-8332 Español

Telephone: (860) 282-9881

- The alliance is a statewide coalition of community-based sexual assault crisis service programs working to end sexual violence through victim assistance, public policy advocacy, and prevention education training. Each member center provides free and confidential 24/7 hotline services in English and Spanish, individual crisis counseling, support groups, accompaniment and support in hospitals, police stations, and courts, referral information, and other services to anyone in need.
- *To find a Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence member program please visit:*  
<https://endsexualviolencect.org/member-centers/>

Connecticut Children's Alliance

[www.ctchildrensalliance.org](http://www.ctchildrensalliance.org)

75 Charter Oak Ave Suite 1-309

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Phone: (860) 610-6041

- CCA is a statewide coalition of Child Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams.

Connecticut Network of Care

<http://connecticut.networkofcare.org>

- Connecticut Network of Care is an online information portal listing programs and support groups for sexual assault and abuse in Connecticut.

C. Local Resources:

The Center for Empowerment & Education (formerly the Women's Center of Danbury)

<http://thecenterct.org>

2 West Street

Danbury, CT 06810

e-mail: [thecenter@thecenter.org](mailto:thecenter@thecenter.org)

- The center provides prevention, crisis intervention, and support services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, and other major life transitions.

**Legal References:**

Conn. Gen. Stat § 17a-101b Report by mandated reporter. Notification of law enforcement agency when allegation of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse. Notification of person in charge of institution, facility or school when staff member suspected of abuse or neglect.

Conn. Gen. Stat § 17a-101q State-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program.

Approved: June 20, 2023

Revised: August 6, 2025

*(contact information only)*

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Milford, Connecticut

**Note: Passed during the 2025 legislative session, Public Act 25-139 adds sexual assault victim and human trafficking victim as protected classes under Connecticut’s non-discrimination laws. This policy has been revised to reflect these additions. S & G also updated the location and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, as the Boston office has closed. In addition, the appeal timeline for complaints involving the Superintendent or a member of the Board has been aligned with the timeline applicable to other respondents. Finally, we have made technical revisions throughout.**

**Series 1000  
Community/Board Operation**

**1105**

**POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS  
REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION (COMMUNITY)**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, alienage, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”) is prohibited in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”), whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law. The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics, school-sponsored activities, as well as the District website. When the Board has created a limited public forum, the Board shall provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other groups as required by law.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board further prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual’s association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment, and is therefore prohibited by this policy.

### ***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

### ***Definitions:***

The following definitions apply for purposes of this policy:

A. Discrimination: Discrimination in violation of this policy occurs when an individual is denied participation in, or the benefits of, a program or activity of the Board because of such individual's actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class.

B. Harassment: Harassment is a form of Protected Class discrimination that is prohibited by law and by this policy. Harassment constitutes unlawful discrimination when it creates a hostile environment, which occurs when the harassment is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by the District.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to a hostile environment:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; or
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment that is prohibited by law and Board policy. For more information regarding harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or gender identity or expression, contact the District's Title IX Coordinator at:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**

New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)

C. Gender identity or expression: Gender identity or expression refers to a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

D. Sexual orientation: Sexual orientation refers to a person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally or sexually attracted, inclusive of any identity that a person (i) may have previously expressed, or (ii) is perceived by another person to hold.

E. Veteran: A veteran is any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. "Qualifying condition" means (i) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (ii) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (iii) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c), (d).

F. Race: The term race is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

G. Domestic violence: Domestic violence means (1) a continuous threat of present physical pain or physical injury against a family or household member, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-38a; (2) stalking, including but not limited to, stalking as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-181d, of such family or household member; (3) a pattern of threatening, including but not limited to, a pattern of threatening as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-62, of such family or household member or a third party that intimidates such family or household member; or (4) coercive control of such family or household member, which is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person's free will and personal liberty. "Coercive control" includes, but is not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following: (a) isolating the family or household member from friends, relatives or other sources of support; (b) depriving the family or household member of basic necessities; (c) controlling, regulating or

monitoring the family or household member's movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources or access to services; (d) compelling the family or household member by force, threat or intimidation, including, but not limited to, threats based on actual or suspected immigration status, to (i) engage in conduct from which such family or household member has a right to abstain, or (ii) abstain from conduct that such family or household member has a right to pursue; (e) committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the family or household member; or (f) forced sex acts, or threats of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, threatened acts of sexual conduct, threats based on a person's sexuality or threats to release sexual images.

***Alleged Discrimination/Harassment of Students or Employees:***

Complaints of alleged discrimination and/or harassment of students and/or employees will be investigated in accordance with the non-discrimination policies applicable to students and/or personnel respectively. Complaints pertaining to specific forms of discrimination and/or harassment, such as sexual harassment or disability-based harassment, have specific policies and procedures applicable to these forms of harassment and will be investigated in accordance with the specific procedures for such issues. If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment of an employee or of a student based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Complaints involving allegations of discrimination or harassment of an employee or of a student based on disability will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

***Alleged Discrimination/Harassment of Community Members on the Basis of Sex:***

In the event the District receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a community member (e.g., an individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities who is not a student or an employee) on the basis of sex, the complaint shall be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, who shall take steps designed to ensure that applicable state and federal law are followed.

***Alleged Discrimination/Harassment of Community Members on the Basis of Disability:***

In the event the District receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a community member (e.g., an individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities who is not a student or an employee) based on disability, the complaint shall be referred to the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator, who shall take steps designed to ensure that applicable state and federal law are followed.

***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will

investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Any individual who believes a community member has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of this policy should report such concern in writing to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent, in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Community, which accompany this policy, and are available online at [New Milford Board of Education Policies](#) or upon request from the main office of any District school.

***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

In addition to reporting to District officials in accordance with this policy, individuals also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education ("OCR"):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1475  
(202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (employees only):

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
475 Government Center  
Boston, MA 02203  
(800-669-4000)

***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member (e.g., other individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;  
OR
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations based on religion; OR

3. who would like a copy of the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment:

may contact any District administrator or the following District official:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member (e.g., other individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex may contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member (e.g., other individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability, may contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

#### Legal References:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.  
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.  
Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7905  
Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.  
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794  
Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, “Gender Identity or Expression”  
defined  
Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51, Definitions  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights  
Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act, Connecticut General Statutes  
§ 46a-60  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81c, Sexual orientation discrimination:  
Employment  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-1, Family relations matters and  
domestic violence defined  
Public Act No. 25-139, “An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and  
Sexual Assault Victims”

Approved: December 19, 2023  
Revised:

NEWMILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION  
COMPLAINTS (COMMUNITY MEMBERS)**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, alienage, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”) is prohibited in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”), whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law. When the Board has created a limited public forum, the Board shall provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other groups as required by law.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board further prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

The District will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of Protected Class harassment or discrimination. Any such reprisals or retaliation will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, and other corrective actions as appropriate.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual’s association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment.

***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to a hostile environment:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; or
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

***Alleged Discrimination/Harassment of Students or Employees:***

Complaints of alleged discrimination and/or harassment of students and/or personnel will be investigated in accordance with the non-discrimination policies applicable to students and/or personnel respectively. Complaints pertaining to specific forms of discrimination and/or harassment, such as sexual harassment or disability-based harassment, have specific policies and procedures applicable to these forms of harassment and will be investigated in accordance with the specific procedures for such issues. If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment of a student or an employee based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Complaints involving allegations of discrimination or harassment of an employee or of a student based on disability will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

***Alleged Discrimination/Harassment of Community Members on the Basis of Sex:***

In the event the District receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a community member (e.g. an individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities who is not a student or an employee) on the basis of sex, the complaint shall be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, who shall take steps designed to ensure that applicable state and federal law are followed.

***Alleged Discrimination/Harassment of Community Members on the Basis of Disability:***

In the event the District receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a community member (e.g., an individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities who is not a student or an employee) based on disability, the

complaint shall be referred to the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator, who shall take steps designed to ensure that applicable state and federal law are followed.

***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

Any individual who believes that they, or another individual, has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of Board policy should report such concern in writing to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent, in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in these Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Community.

***Complaint Procedure:***

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The District will investigate such complaints promptly and equitably, and will take corrective action when allegations are verified.

As soon as an individual feels that they, or another individual, has been subjected to Protected Class discrimination or harassment, the individual should make a written complaint to the Superintendent or designee.

The individual who is alleged have experienced Protected Class discrimination/harassment (the "complainant") and any individual accused of Protected Class discrimination/harassment (the "respondent") (if applicable) will be provided a copy of the Board's policy and regulation and made aware of the individual's rights under this policy and regulation. In the event reported conduct allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate an investigation in compliance with the applicable policies, laws and regulations.

The complaint should state the:

- A. Name of the complainant,
- B. Date of the complaint,
- C. Date(s) of the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- D. Name(s) of the alleged harasser(s) or discriminator(s),
- E. Location where such alleged harassment/discrimination occurred,
- F. Names of any witness(es) to the alleged harassment/discrimination,

- G. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment/discrimination; and
- H. Proposed remedy.

Any individual who makes an oral complaint of discrimination or harassment of a community member (e.g., an individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities who is not a student or an employee) will be provided a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If an individual is unable to make a written complaint, the employee receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing, assist the individual with completing the written complaint form, or request the assistance of a District administrator to do so.

All complaints received by employees are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a community member (e.g., an individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities who is not a student or an employee) under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent shall promptly investigate the complaint, or designate a District administrator or other trained individual to do so. During the course of the investigation, the investigator shall interview or consult with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the reporter (if different from the complainant), the respondent and any witnesses to the conduct. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and/or other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible, as determined by the investigator.

Upon receipt of a written complaint of discrimination or harassment of a community member, the investigator should:

1. Offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) within ten (10) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) to discuss the nature of the complaint, discuss the availability of interim measures, identify individuals the complainant or respondent believes has relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant or respondent may have;
2. Provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board's non-discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
3. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting

interviews with the parties to the complaint and any relevant witnesses or other individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;

4. Review any records, notes, statements, or other documents relevant to the complaint;
5. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;
6. Complete a final investigation report that includes: (i) a findings of fact based on the evidence gathered; (ii) for each allegation, the conclusion(s) and reasoning(s) as to whether the discrimination or harassment occurred; and (iii) for any individual(s) found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment, a broad statement of consequences imposed (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) (e.g., "Consequences were imposed.").
7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant and respondent (if any) (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within thirty (30) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The complainant and respondent (if any) shall be notified of any extension of the investigation timeline. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will take steps designed to remedy the discrimination or harassment, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law;
8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of employees and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent (if any) will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary;
9. Whenever allegations are verified, ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken (including, but not limited to, disciplinary action) aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination or harassment. Corrective action should include steps designed to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;
10. After receiving the written notice of the outcome, parties shall have ten (10) school days to submit a formal written statement of appeal, if they so choose, to the Superintendent challenging the outcome of the investigation and explaining the basis for appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decisionmaker(s) for the appeal, who may be the Superintendent or designee. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the non-appealing party. The non-appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the

appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the investigation. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal shall review the evidence and the information presented by the parties and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator(s) and the parties, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling the written outcome. Generally, a party's disagreement with the outcome of the investigation, alone, will not be basis for further action. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue written notice of the outcome of the appeal to the parties within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties.

***Complaint Procedure for Superintendent/Board Member Complaints:***

Any District administrator or Board member who receives a complaint of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of a community member by a Board Member and/or the Superintendent shall forward the complaint promptly to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent. Complaints pertaining to the Superintendent or Board of Education members will be forwarded to the Chair of the Board of Education. Complaints pertaining to the Board Chair will be forwarded to the Board Vice Chair. In all cases, the individual receiving the complaint shall take appropriate steps to cause the matter to be investigated in a manner consistent with the procedures described above.

If a complainant or a respondent is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of an investigation in which the Superintendent or a member of the Board is the respondent, within ten (10) school days of receiving the findings such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Board Chair (or, if initially presented by the Board Chair, the Board Vice Chair), who will take appropriate steps to cause the matter to be reviewed in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation. Such steps may include retention of an investigator different from the investigator who investigated the complaint.

***Remedial Action:***

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of a community member, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;

- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- C. In the case of respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
- E. Supports for the complainant; and
- F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

***Staff Development:***

The District will periodically provide staff development for District administrators and periodically distribute the Board’s Non-Discrimination policies and the implementing administrative regulations to staff, students and parents in an effort to maintain an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

In addition to reporting to District officials in accordance with this policy, individuals also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
 Washington, DC 20202-1475  
 (202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office  
 John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
 475 Government Center  
 Boston, MA 02203  
 (800-669-4000)

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member (e.g., other individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;  
OR
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations based on religion; OR
3. who would like a copy of the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment:

may contact any building administrator or the following District official:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member (e.g., other individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex may contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member (e.g., other individual affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, and/or who may wish to request or discuss accommodations for a disability, may contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**

**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Regulation approved: December 19, 2023  
Regulation revised:

**DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM**

**(For complaints based on race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking)**

Name of the reporter \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of reporter to the District \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of complainant/victim to the District \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the alleged discriminator(s) or harasser(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged discrimination/harassment occurred \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination or harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed remedy: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Passed during the 2025 legislative session, Public Act 25-139 adds sexual assault victim and human trafficking victim as protected classes under Connecticut’s non-discrimination laws. This policy has been revised to reflect these additions. Also, the location and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights has been updated, as the Boston office has closed. In addition, the appeal timeline for complaints involving the Superintendent or a member of the Board has been aligned with the timeline applicable to other respondents.**

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**4111.1  
4211.1**

**POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS  
REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION (PERSONNEL)**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

The New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) will not make employment decisions (including decisions related to hiring, assignment, compensation, promotion, demotion, disciplinary action and termination) on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, gender identity or expression, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”), except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of an individual’s actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class, whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, is prohibited in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”). The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Erased Criminal History Prohibited:***

The Board will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment solely on the basis of the individual’s erased criminal history record information, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-80a.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

### ***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual's association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment and is therefore prohibited by this policy.

### ***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

### ***Definitions:***

The following definitions apply for purposes of this policy:

#### **A. Discrimination**

It is illegal for employers to treat employees differently in relation to hiring, discharging, compensating, or providing the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment because of such employee's actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class.

#### **B. Harassment**

Harassment is a form of Protected Class discrimination that is prohibited by law and by this policy. Harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on an employee's actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class. Harassment constitutes unlawful discrimination when 1) enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or 2) the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to an intimidating, hostile, or abusive environment, and are therefore prohibited by this policy:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; or
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment that is prohibited by law and Board policy. For more information regarding harassment based on sex, contact the District's Title IX Coordinator at:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

C. Genetic information

The information about genes, gene products, or inherited characteristics that may derive from an individual or a family member. "Genetic information" may also include an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

D. Veteran

A veteran is any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. "Qualifying condition" means (i) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (ii) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (iii) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c),(d).

E. Gender identity or expression

Gender identity or expression refers to a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

#### F. Sexual orientation

Sexual orientation refers to a person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally or sexually attracted, inclusive of any identity that a person (i) may have previously expressed, or (ii) is perceived by another person to hold.

#### G. Race

The term race is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. "Protective hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

#### H. Domestic violence

The term domestic violence means (1) a continuous threat of present physical pain or physical injury against a family or household member, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-38a; (2) stalking, including but not limited to, stalking as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-181d, of such family or household member; (3) a pattern of threatening, including but not limited to, a pattern of threatening as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-62, of such family or household member or a third party that intimidates such family or household member; or (4) coercive control of such family or household member, which is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person's free will and personal liberty. "Coercive control" includes, but is not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following: (a) isolating the family or household member from friends, relatives or other sources of support; (b) depriving the family or household member of basic necessities; (c) controlling, regulating or monitoring the family or household member's movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources or access to services; (d) compelling the family or household member by force, threat or intimidation, including, but not limited to, threats based on actual or suspected immigration status, to (i) engage in conduct from which such family or household member has a right to abstain, or (ii) abstain from conduct that such family or household member has a right to pursue; (e) committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the family or household member; or (f) forced sex acts, or threats of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, threatened acts of sexual conduct, threats based on a person's sexuality or threats to release sexual images.

#### ***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Any employee who believes they or another employee has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of this policy should report such concern in writing to Holly Hollander, Assistant

Superintendent, in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Personnel, which accompany this policy and are available online at [New Milford Board of Education Policies](#) or upon request from the main office of any District school.

Employees are encouraged to report incidents of alleged Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation immediately.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on disability, such complaints will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

In the event conduct reported as Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate any investigation in compliance with the applicable policies.

***Mandatory Staff Reporting for Student Incidents:***

Board employees are required to report incidents of alleged student-to-student and employee-to-student discrimination, harassment or retaliation that may be based on a Protected Class when Board employees witness such incidents or when Board employees receive reports or information about such incidents, whether such incidents are verbal or physical or amount to discrimination, harassment or retaliation in other forms. **Reports should be made to any District administrator or to:**

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

***Remedial Action:***

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational

- interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
  - C. In the case of respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
  - D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
  - E. Supports for the complainant; and
  - F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

In addition to reporting to the Board, any employee also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1475  
(202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
475 Government Center  
Boston, MA 02203  
(800-669-4000)

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any employee who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations based on religion; OR
3. would like a copy the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment

should contact the following District official:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any employee who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex applicable to employees should contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any employee who:

1. has specific questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability applicable to employees; OR
2. wishes to request an accommodation on the basis of disability

should contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

**Legal References:**

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.  
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.  
Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794  
Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008,  
Pub.L.110-233, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ff; 29 CFR 1635.1 et seq.  
Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, “Gender Identity or Expression”  
defined  
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-153, Discrimination on the basis of sex,  
gender or expression or marital status prohibited  
Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103  
Connecticut General Statutes § 31-51i  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51, Definitions  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights  
Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act, Connecticut General Statutes  
§ 46a-60  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-80a  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-81c, Sexual orientation discrimination:  
Employment  
Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-1, Family relations matters and  
domestic violence defined  
  
Public Act No. 25-139, “An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and  
Sexual Assault Victims”

Approved: December 19, 2023  
Revised:

NEWMILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**4111.1 R  
4211.1 R**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION  
COMPLAINTS (PERSONNEL)**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

The New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) will not make employment decisions (including decisions related to hiring, assignment, compensation, promotion, demotion, disciplinary action and termination) on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, gender identity or expression, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”), except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of an individual’s actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class, whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, is prohibited in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”). Students, Board employees, Board members and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Erased Criminal History Prohibited:***

The Board will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment solely on the basis of the individual’s erased criminal history record information, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-80a.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

The District will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of Protected Class discrimination or harassment. Any such reprisals or retaliation may result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, and other corrective actions as appropriate.

### ***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual's association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment.

### ***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to a hostile environment, and are therefore prohibited:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; OR
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

### ***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

Employees are encouraged to report incidents of alleged Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation immediately.

Any employee who believes they or another employee has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of Board policy should report such concern in writing to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent, in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in these Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Personnel.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on disability, such complaints will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

In the event conduct reported as Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate any investigation in compliance with the applicable policies.

***Mandatory Staff Reporting for Student Incidents:***

Board employees are required to report incidents of alleged student-to-student and employee-to-student discrimination, harassment or retaliation that may be based on a Protected Class when Board employees witness such incidents or when Board employees receive reports or information about such incidents, whether such incidents are verbal or physical or amount to discrimination, harassment or retaliation in other forms. **Reports should be made to any District administrator or to:**

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

***Complaint Procedure:***

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The District will investigate such complaints promptly and equitably, and will take corrective action when allegations are verified.

As soon as an individual feels that they, or another employee, has been subjected to Protected Class discrimination or harassment, the individual should make a written complaint to the Superintendent or designee.

The individual who is alleged to have experienced Protected Class discrimination/harassment (the “complainant”) and any individual accused of Protected Class discrimination/harassment (the “respondent”) (if applicable) will be provided a copy of the Board’s policy and regulation and made aware of the individual’s rights under this policy and regulation. In the event the Superintendent or designee receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on sex, the Superintendent or designee shall follow the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In the event the Superintendent or designee receives a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment based on disability, the Superintendent or designee shall follow the procedures set forth the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

The complaint should state the:

- A. Name of the complainant,
- B. Date of the complaint,
- C. Date(s) of the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- D. Name(s) of the alleged harasser(s) or discriminator(s),
- E. Location where such alleged harassment/discrimination occurred,
- F. Names of any witness(es) to the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- G. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment/discrimination; and
- H. Proposed remedy.

Any individual who makes an oral complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment of an employee will be provided a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If an individual is unable to make a written complaint, the employee receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing, assist the individual with completing the written complaint form or request that a District administrator assist the individual.

All complaints received by employees are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of an employee under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent shall promptly investigate the complaint, or designate a District administrator or other trained individual to do so.

During the course of the investigation, the investigator shall interview or consult with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the complainant, the reporter (if different from the complainant), the respondent, and any witnesses to the conduct. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and/or other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible, to the extent consistent with due process, as determined by the investigator.

Upon receipt of a written complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment of an employee, the investigator should:

1. Offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) within ten (10) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the

- complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) to discuss the nature of the complaint, discuss the availability of interim measures, identify individuals the complainant or respondent believes has relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant or respondent may have;
2. Provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board's non-discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
  3. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with the parties to the complaint and any relevant witnesses or other individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
  4. Review any records, notes, statements, or other documents relevant to the complaint;
  5. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;
  6. Complete a final investigation report that includes: (i) a findings of fact based on the evidence gathered; (ii) for each allegation, the conclusion(s) and reasoning(s) as to whether the discrimination or harassment occurred; and (iii) for any individual(s) found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment, a broad statement of consequences imposed (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) (e.g., "Consequences were imposed.").
  7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant and respondent (if any) (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within thirty (30) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The complainant and respondent (if any) shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will take steps designed to remedy the discrimination or harassment, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law;
  8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of employees and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent (if any) will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary;
  9. Whenever allegations are verified, ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken (including, but not limited to, disciplinary action) aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination or harassment. Corrective action should include steps designed to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;

10. After receiving the written notice of the outcome, parties shall have ten (10) school days to submit a formal written statement of appeal, if they so choose, to the Superintendent challenging the outcome of the investigation and explaining the basis for appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decisionmaker(s) for the appeal, who may be the Superintendent or designee. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the non-appealing party. The non-appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the investigation. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal shall review the evidence and the information presented by the parties and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator(s) and the parties, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling the written outcome. Generally, a party's disagreement with the outcome of the investigation, alone, will not be basis for further action. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue written notice of the outcome of the appeal to the parties within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties.

***Complaint Procedure for Superintendent/Board Members Complaints:***

Any District administrator or Board member who receives a complaint of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of any employee by a Board Member or by the Superintendent shall forward the complaint promptly to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent. Complaints pertaining to the Superintendent or Board of Education members will be forwarded to the Chair of the Board of Education. Complaints pertaining to the Board Chair will be forwarded to the Board Vice Chair. In all cases, the individual receiving the complaint shall take appropriate steps to cause the matter to be investigated in a manner consistent with the procedures described above.

If a complainant or a respondent is not satisfied with the findings and conclusions of an investigation in which the Superintendent or a member of the Board is the respondent, within ten (10) school days of receiving the findings such party may present the complaint and written outcome to the Board Chair (or, if initially presented by the Board Chair, the Board Vice Chair), who will take appropriate steps to cause the matter to be reviewed in a manner consistent with the Board's non-discrimination policy and regulation. Such steps may include retention of an investigator different from the investigator who investigated the complaint.

***Remedial Action:***

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of an employee, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- C. In the case of respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
- E. Supports for the complainant; and
- F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

***Staff Development:***

The District will periodically provide staff development for District administrators and periodically distribute the Board's Non-Discrimination policies and the implementing administrative regulations to staff and students in an effort to maintain an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

In addition to reporting to the Board, any employee also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education ("OCR"):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1475  
(202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Boston Area Office  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
475 Government Center  
Boston, MA 02203  
(800-669-4000)

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any employee who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations based on religion; OR
3. would like a copy the Board's complaint procedures or complaint forms related to claims of discrimination or harassment

should contact the following District official:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any employee who has questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex applicable to employees should contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any employee who:

1. has specific questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability applicable to employees; OR
2. wishes to request an accommodation on the basis of disability

should contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Regulation approved: December 19, 2023

Regulation revised:

**DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM**  
**(For complaints based on race, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, genetic information, veteran status, or status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking)**

Name of the reporter \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Reporter's relationship complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the alleged discriminator(s) or harasser(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged discrimination/harassment occurred \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination or harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed remedy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note: On January 9, 2025, a federal district court in Kentucky ruled that the 2024 Title IX Regulations, which had taken effect on August 1, 2024, “are invalid and must be set aside.” On January 31, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights confirmed that, effective immediately, it would enforce the 2020 Title IX Regulations. Accordingly, boards of education should discontinue use of policies and regulations that follow the 2024 Title IX Regulations and resume using those that were in place under the 2020 Title IX Regulations. S & G has revised the model policy that complies with 2020 Title IX regulations to: (1) update the location of and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Office where individuals may file complaints, given that the Boston office has been closed; (2) add reference to potential use of a third-party contractor to conduct investigations (please note that the regulations already reference the possible use of a third-party contractor to serve as a decision-maker); (3) remove the definition of “fondling” within the definition of “sexual assault” and replace it with “criminal sexual contact” and update the definition of “rape” pursuant to changes to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (“NIBRS”) manual; and (4) clarify certain distinctions between federal law and Connecticut law.**

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**4118.113  
4218.113**

**POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS  
REGARDING PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION  
AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE (PERSONNEL)**

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) for the Public New Milford Public Schools (the “District”) that any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited in the Board’s education programs and activities, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. It is the policy of the Board to maintain a working environment free from harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex and free from discrimination based on sex.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that it operates and the Board is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations (“Title IX”), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”), and Connecticut law not to discriminate in such a manner. Students, Board employees and third parties are required to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all parties. Any employee or student who engages in conduct prohibited by this Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or expulsion, respectively. Third parties who engage in conduct prohibited by this Policy shall be subject to other sanctions, which may include exclusion from Board property and/or activities. Individuals who engage in acts of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may also be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

For conduct to violate Title IX, the conduct must have occurred in an education program or activity of the Board; the conduct must have occurred within the United States of America; and the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the Board. Conduct that does not meet these requirements still may constitute a violation of Title VII, Connecticut law, and/or another Board policy.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop Administrative Regulations implementing this Policy and in accordance with Title IX, Title VII, and Connecticut law (the “Administrative Regulations”).

**Sex discrimination** occurs when an employer refuses to hire, disciplines or discharges any individual, or otherwise discriminates against an individual with respect to the individual’s compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the individual’s sex. Sex discrimination also occurs when a person, because of the person’s sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

**Sexual harassment under Title IX** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (*i.e., quid pro quo*);
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Board’s education programs or activities; or
- (3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

**Sexual harassment under Title VII and Connecticut law** means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment;
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Under Connecticut law, discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex includes discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

### Reporting Sex Discrimination or Sexual Harassment

It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to report such claims. Employees are encouraged to report complaints of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment promptly in accordance with the appropriate process set forth in the Administrative Regulations. The Board directs its employees to respond to such complaints in a prompt and equitable manner.

Violations of this Policy by employees will not be permitted and may result in discipline up to and including discharge from employment. Individuals who engage in acts of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may also be subject to civil and criminal penalties. Retaliation against any employee for complaining about sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited under this Policy and illegal under state and federal law.

Any Board employee with notice of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment allegations shall immediately report such information to the building principal and/or the Title IX Coordinator, or if the employee does not work in a school building, to the Title IX Coordinator.

The District administration (the “Administration”) shall provide training to Title IX Coordinator(s), investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process (as set forth in the Administrative Regulations), which training shall include, but need not be limited to, the definition of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, the scope of the Board’s education program and activity, how to conduct an investigation and implement the grievance process, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. The Administration shall make the training materials used to provide these trainings publicly available on the Board’s website. The Administration shall also periodically provide training to all Board employees on the topic of sex discrimination and sexual harassment under Title IX, Title VII, and Connecticut law, which shall include but not be limited to when reports of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment must be made. The Administration shall distribute this Policy and the Administrative Regulations to employees, union representatives, students, parents and legal guardians and make the Policy and the Administrative Regulations available on the Board’s website to promote an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

The Board’s Title IX Coordinator is

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to any Board employee or directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, of the following points of contact:

Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
Northville Elementary School  
22 Hipp Road New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-355-3713  
e-mail: [gallagherg@newmilfordps.org](mailto:gallagherg@newmilfordps.org)

Cathy Calabrese, Principal  
Hill and Plain Elementary School 6  
0 Old Town Park Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-5430  
e-mail: [calabresec@newmilfordps.org](mailto:calabresec@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School  
25 Sunny Valley Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-210-4020  
e-mail: [chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org](mailto:chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Powers, Assistant Principal  
Schaghticoke Middle School  
23 Hipp Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-2204  
e-mail: [powersj@newmilfordps.org](mailto:powersj@newmilfordps.org)

Keith Lipinsky, Athletic Director  
New Milford High School  
388 Danbury Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-350-6647, ext. 1411  
e-mail: [lipinskyk@newmilfordps.org](mailto:lipinskyk@newmilfordps.org)

Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)

**Any Board employee in receipt of allegations of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or in receipt of a formal complaint, shall immediately forward such information to the Title IX Coordinator. Board employees may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination under Title IX to the U.S. Department of Education: Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1475 (Telephone (202) 453-6020).**

Employees may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (Telephone: 860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number: 1-800-477-5737).

Legal References:

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policy Guidance on Current Issues of Sexual Harassment (N-915.050), March 19, 1990.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 34 CFR § 106, et seq.

Meritor Savings Bank, FSB v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-54 - Commission powers Connecticut

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-60 - Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-81c - Sexual orientation discrimination:  
Employment

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-153 - Discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression or marital status prohibited

Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 46a-54-200 through § 46a-54-207

Approved: August 20, 2024  
Revised:

NEWMILFORDPUBLICSCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING  
THE PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT (PERSONNEL)**

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) for the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”) that any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited in the Board’s education programs and activities, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. Students, District employees and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of students, District employees, and third parties. It is the policy of the Board to maintain a working environment free from harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex and free from discrimination based on sex. Verbal or physical conduct by a supervisor or co-worker relating to an employee's sex that has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance, or adversely affecting the employee's employment opportunities is prohibited.

Any employee or student who engages in conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any third party who engages in conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) shall be subject to remedial measures, which may include exclusion from school property.

**Sex discrimination** occurs when a person, because of the person’s sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

**Sexual harassment under Title IX** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (i.e., *quid pro quo*);
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District’s education programs or activities; or
- (3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30). These definitions can be found in Appendix A of these Administrative Regulations.

**Sexual harassment under Title VII and Connecticut law** means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Under Connecticut law, discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex includes discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following are other examples of conduct prohibited by the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel):

1. Unwelcome sexual advances from a co-worker or supervisor, such as unwanted hugs, touches, or kisses;
2. Unwelcome attention of a sexual nature, such as degrading, suggestive or lewd remarks or noises;
3. Dirty jokes, derogatory or pornographic posters, cartoons or drawings;
4. The threat or suggestion that continued employment advancement, assignment or earnings depend on whether or not the employee will submit to or tolerate harassment;
5. Circulating, showing, or exchanging emails, text messages, digital images or websites of a sexual nature;
6. Using computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to engage in any conduct prohibited by the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel).

### **NOTICE OF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

The District's Title IX Coordinator is

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to any District employee or directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, of the following points of contact:

Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
Northville Elementary School  
22 Hipp Road New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-355-3713  
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Cathy Calabrese, Principal  
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Any District employee in receipt of allegations of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or in receipt of a formal complaint, shall immediately forward such information to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator manages the District's compliance with Title IX, Title VII and Connecticut law with respect to sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination and is an available resource to anyone seeking information or wishing to file a formal complaint of same. When a student, District employee, or other participant in the District's programs and activities feels that such person has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of sex in any District program or activity, including without limitation being subjected to sexual harassment, such person may contact the Title IX Coordinator or utilize the Title IX, Title VII and Connecticut law grievance systems set forth herein to bring concerns forward for the purpose of obtaining a prompt and equitable resolution.

## **EXPLANATION OF COMPLAINT PROCESS AND PROCEDURE**

The federal regulations implementing Title IX require the adoption and publication of two separate grievance systems: a grievance process for complaints of sex discrimination involving

allegations of sexual harassment under Title IX and grievance procedures for complaints of sex discrimination that are not sexual harassment. Accordingly, the Administration will process any complaints of sex discrimination involving allegations of sexual harassment under Title IX, as defined above, pursuant to the **grievance process** set forth in Section I of these regulations. The Administration will process any complaints of sex discrimination (including allegations of sexual harassment under Title VII and/or Connecticut law only) pursuant to the **grievance procedures** set forth in Section II of these regulations.

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of these Administrative Regulations, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising from these Administrative Regulations.

The obligation to comply with Title IX is not obviated or alleviated by the FERPA.

## **SECTION I. GRIEVANCE PROCESS FOR COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX**

### **A. Definitions**

- **Bias** occurs when it is proven that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) demonstrate actual bias, rather than the appearance of bias. Actual bias includes, but is not limited to, demonstrated personal animus against the respondent or the complainant and/or prejudgment of the facts at issue in the investigation.
- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- A **conflict of interest** occurs when it is proven that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) have personal, financial and/or familial interests that affected the outcome of the investigation.
- **Consent** means an active, clear and voluntary agreement by a person to engage in sexual activity with another person (also referred to hereafter as “affirmative consent”).

For the purposes of an investigation conducted pursuant to these Administrative Regulations, the following principles shall be applied in determining whether consent for sexual activity was given and/or sustained:

- A. Affirmative consent is the standard used in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was given by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity.
- B. Affirmative consent may be revoked at any time during the sexual activity by any person engaged in the sexual activity.
- C. It is the responsibility of each person engaging in sexual activity to ensure that the person has the affirmative consent of all persons engaged in the sexual activity to

engage in the sexual activity and that the affirmative consent is sustained throughout the sexual activity.

D. It shall not be a valid excuse to an alleged lack of affirmative consent that the respondent to the alleged violation believed that the complainant consented to the sexual activity:

- (i) because the respondent was intoxicated or reckless or failed to take reasonable steps to ascertain whether the complainant affirmatively consented, or
- (ii) if the respondent knew or should have known that the complainant was unable to consent because such individual was unconscious, asleep, unable to communicate due to a mental or physical condition, unable to consent due to the age of the individual or the age difference between the individual and the respondent, or incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.

E. The existence of a past or current dating or sexual relationship between the complainant and the respondent, in and of itself, shall not be determinative of a finding of consent.

- For purposes of investigations and complaints of sexual harassment, **education program or activity** includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.
- **Employee** means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of the individual's duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the Board.
- **Formal complaint** means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment (as defined under Title IX) against a respondent and requesting that the Administration investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. A "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been alleged to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **School days** means the days that school is in session as designated on the calendar posted on the Board's website. In its discretion, and when equitably applied and with proper notice to the parties, the District may consider business days during the summer recess as "school days" if such designation facilitates the prompt resolution of the grievance process.
- **Supportive measures** means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the

complainant or the respondent, before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, increased security and monitoring, and other similar measures.

## B. Reporting Sexual Harassment

1. It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sexual harassment to report such claims. Any person may report sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. If the District receives notice of sexual harassment or alleged sexual harassment against a person in the District's education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, whether or not the complainant files a formal complaint, and will consider the complainant's wishes with respect to such measures. If the complainant has yet to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will explain to the complainant the process for doing so.
2. The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably. A respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process if a formal complaint is filed. Nothing in these Administrative Regulations shall preclude the District from placing an employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process. Further, nothing in these Administrative Regulations shall limit or preclude the District from removing a respondent from the District's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the District undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. If a respondent is removed on an emergency basis, the District shall provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

## C. Formal Complaint and Grievance Process

1. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activity. A formal complaint may be signed by the Title IX Coordinator. If the formal complaint being filed is against the Title IX Coordinator, the formal complaint should be filed with the Superintendent. If the formal complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the formal complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will then retain an independent investigator to investigate the matter.
2. The District may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or

more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. If possible, formal complaints should be filed within ten (10) school days of the alleged occurrence in order to facilitate the prompt and equitable resolution of such claims. The District will attempt to complete the formal grievance process within ninety (90) school days of receiving a formal complaint. This timeframe may be temporarily delayed or extended in accordance with Subsection G of this Section.

3. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, if the Title IX Coordinator has not already discussed the availability of supportive measures with the complainant, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of such measures and consider the complainant's wishes with respect to them. The Title IX Coordinator or designee may also contact the respondent, separately from the complainant, to discuss the availability of supportive measures for the respondent. The District will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide such supportive measures.
4. Within ten (10) school days of receiving a formal complaint, the District will provide the known parties with written notice of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment under Title IX and a copy of this grievance process. The written notice must also include the following:
  - i. The identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known;
  - ii. The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment as defined above;
  - iii. The date and the location of the alleged incident, if known;
  - iv. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
  - v. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
  - vi. A statement of any provision in the District's policies that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the written notice, the District must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

5. The parties may have an advisor of their choice accompany them during any grievance proceeding at which the party's attendance is required. The District may, in its discretion, establish certain restrictions regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings. If any such restrictions are established, they will be applied equally to all parties.
6. The Title IX Coordinator will, as applicable, promptly commence an investigation of the formal complaint, designate a school administrator or third-party contractor to promptly investigate the formal complaint, or dismiss the formal complaint in accordance with

Subsection F of this Section. The standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not). The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the District and not on the parties.

7. The parties will be given an equal opportunity to discuss the allegations under investigation with the investigator(s) and are permitted to gather and present relevant evidence. This opportunity includes presenting witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The District will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected (including a witness) written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings (if applicable), investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
8. Both parties will be given an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the District will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have ten (10) school days to submit a written response, which the investigator(s) will consider prior to completion of the investigative report, as described in Paragraph 9 of this Subsection.
9. The investigator(s) will create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence. The investigator(s) will send the investigative report, in an electronic format or hard copy, to each party and to each party's advisor for their review and written response at least ten (10) school days prior to the time a determination regarding responsibility is made.
10. The Superintendent will appoint a decision-maker(s), who shall be a District employee or third-party contractor and who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s). If the formal complaint filed is against the Superintendent, the Board Chair shall appoint the decision-maker, who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s). The investigator(s) and the decision-maker(s) shall not discuss the investigation's facts and/or determination while the formal complaint is pending. The decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) will explain to the party proposing the questions any decisions to exclude a question as not relevant.

11. The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker must apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include: (1) identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment; (2) a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held; (3) findings of fact supporting the determination; (4) conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts; (5) a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District will impose on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant; and (6) the District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal. If the respondent is found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel), the written determination shall indicate whether the respondent engaged in sexual harassment as defined by the Board's Policy and these Administrative Regulations. The written determination will be provided to both parties simultaneously.
12. Student respondents found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Employee respondents found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) may be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. Other respondents may be subject to exclusion from the District's programs, activities and/or property. In appropriate circumstances, the District may make a criminal referral. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education programs or activities.
13. After receiving notification of the decision-maker(s)' decision, or after receiving notification that the District dismissed a formal complaint or any allegation therein, both complainant and respondent may avail themselves of the appeal process set forth in Section E of this Section.

#### D. Informal Resolution

At any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, but only after the filing of a formal complaint, the District may suggest to the parties the possibility of facilitating an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to resolve the formal complaint without the need for a full investigation and adjudication. If it is determined that an informal resolution may be appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will consult with the parties.

Prior to facilitating an informal resolution to a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide the parties with written notice disclosing the sexual harassment allegations, the requirements of an informal resolution process, and any consequences from participating in the informal resolution process. Upon receipt of this document, complainants and respondents have five (5) school days to determine whether they consent to participation in the informal resolution. The District must obtain voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process from both parties.

Prior to agreeing to any resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint. If a satisfactory resolution is reached through this informal process, the matter will be considered resolved. If these efforts are unsuccessful, the formal grievance process will continue.

Nothing in this section precludes an employee from filing a complaint of retaliation for matters related to an informal resolution, nor does it preclude either party from filing complaints based on conduct that is alleged to occur following the District's facilitation of the informal resolution.

An informal resolution is not permitted to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

#### E. Appeal Process

After receiving notification of the decision-maker(s)' decision, or after receiving notification that the District dismissed a formal complaint or any allegation therein, both complainant and respondent have five (5) school days to submit a formal letter of appeal to the Title IX Coordinator specifying the grounds upon which the appeal is based. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decision-maker(s) for the appeal, who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s) or initial decision-maker(s).

Appeals will be appropriate only in the following circumstances:

- new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter;
- procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter. A conflict of interest or bias does not exist solely because the Title IX Coordinator, investigators(s), and/or decision-maker(s) previously worked with or disciplined the complainant or respondent.

The District will provide the other party with written notice of such appeal. The appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the grievance process. The decision-maker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the other party. The other party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the grievance process. The decision-maker(s) for the appeal, in their discretion, will determine any additional necessary and appropriate procedures for the appeal.

After considering the parties' written statements, the decision-maker(s) for the appeal will provide a written decision. The decision-maker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue the written decision within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties. If it is found that one of the bases for appeal exists, the decision-maker(s) for the appeal will issue an appropriate remedy.

Supportive measures for either or both parties may be continued throughout the appeal process.

#### F. Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss any formal complaint that, under Title IX, 1) would not constitute sexual harassment as defined under Title IX even if proved, 2) did not occur in the District's education program or activity, or 3) did not occur against a person in the United States. Such dismissal does not preclude action under another Board policy.

The District may dismiss a formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing: 1) a complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; 2) the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed in the District; or 3) specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal, the District will promptly and simultaneously send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor to each party. Either party can appeal from the District's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein using the appeals procedure.

In the event a formal complaint is dismissed prior to the issuance of a decision under Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator shall determine if the allegations of sexual harassment shall proceed through the grievance procedures identified in Section II of these Administrative Regulations for claims of sex discrimination for consideration as to whether the allegations constitute sexual harassment under Title VII or Connecticut law.

A dismissal pursuant to this section does not preclude action by the District under the Student Discipline policy, Code of Conduct for students/or and employees, or any other applicable rule, policy, and/or collective bargaining agreement.

#### G. Miscellaneous

1. Any timeframe set forth in these Administrative Regulations may be temporarily delayed or extended for good cause. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, considerations such as the absence or illness of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; concurrent activity by the Department of Children and Families; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. If any timeframe is altered on a showing of good cause, written notice will be provided to each party with the reasons for the action.
2. If a sexual harassment complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of any other legally protected classification, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall make a referral to other appropriate personnel within the District so as to ensure that any such investigation complies with the requirements of policies regarding nondiscrimination.
3. If the sexual harassment complaint results in reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or that a student has been sexually assaulted by a school employee, then, the person to whom the complaint is given or who receives such information shall report

such matters in accordance with the Board's policy on the Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect of Children.

4. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) and these Administrative Regulations is strictly prohibited. Neither the District nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by applicable law or these Administrative Regulations, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under these Administrative Regulations. The District will take actions designed to prevent retaliation. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination described herein.
5. The District will maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of:
  - i. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Board's education program or activity;
  - ii. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
  - iii. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
  - iv. All material used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The Board will make these training materials publicly available on its website.

If the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment under Title IX in an education program or activity of the Board, and for any report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, the District will create and maintain for a period of seven (7) years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. The District will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Board's education program or activity. If the District does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

## **SECTION II. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMS OF SEX DISCRIMINATION (OTHER THAN SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX)**

### **A. Definitions**

- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination.

### **B. Reporting Sex Discrimination Other than Sexual Harassment under Title IX**

It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sex discrimination to report such claims. Any person may report sex discrimination or sexual harassment under Title VII or Connecticut law (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of such conduct), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. If the District receives notice of sex discrimination or alleged sex discrimination against a person in the District's education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will promptly notify the complainant of the grievance process. The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably during the grievance process. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, and any incident of sexual harassment under Title IX, as defined above, shall be handled pursuant to Section I of these Administrative Regulations. Any allegations of sexual harassment under Title VII or Connecticut law, as defined above, shall be handled pursuant to this Section II of these Administrative Regulations.

### C. Grievance Procedures

1. As soon as an employee feels that the employee has been subjected to sex discrimination other than sexual harassment as defined under Title IX (including, without limitation, sexual harassment under Title VII or Connecticut law), the employee should make a written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator or to the building principal, or designee. The employee will be provided a copy of the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations and made aware of the employee's rights under this Policy and Administrative Regulations. Preferably, complaints should be filed within ten (10) school days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints.
2. The complaint should state the:
  - i. Name of the complainant;
  - ii. Date of the complaint;
  - iii. Date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
  - iv. Name(s) of the alleged discriminator(s);
  - v. Location where such alleged discrimination occurred;
  - vi. Names of any witness(es) to the alleged discrimination;
  - vii. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination; and
  - viii. Remedy requested.
3. Any employee who makes an oral complaint of alleged sex discrimination to any of the above-mentioned personnel will be provided a copy of these Administrative Regulations and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure.
4. All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the building principal or designee unless that individual is the subject of the complaint, in which case the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. In addition, a copy of any complaint filed under this Policy shall be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. If the complaint being filed is against the Title IX Coordinator, the complaint should be filed with the Superintendent. If the complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will then retain a third-party contractor to investigate the matter.

5. The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall investigate all complaints of sex discrimination against an employee, regardless of whether the conduct occurred on or off-school grounds. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information, and other extenuating circumstances. The investigation shall be conducted discreetly, maintaining confidentiality insofar as possible while still conducting an effective and thorough investigation.
6. Any employee who makes a complaint shall be notified of the District's intent to investigate the complaint. In the event the employee requests confidentiality or that an investigation not be conducted, the District will take reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint to the extent possible, given the request for confidentiality or that the District not investigate the complaint. If the employee insists that this information not be shared with the alleged discriminator(s), the employee will be informed that the District's ability to investigate and/or take corrective action may be limited.
7. Upon receipt of a sex discrimination complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall either promptly commence an investigation of the complaint, or shall designate a school administrator or third-party contractor to promptly investigate the complaint. The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall:
  - i. offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) separately within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant and respondent (if applicable) believe have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant and respondent may have;
  - ii. provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board's sex discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
  - iii. consider whether any interim measures may be appropriate to protect the complainant or respondent (if applicable), pending the outcome of the investigation;
  - iv. conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
  - v. consider whether alleged sex discrimination has created a hostile work environment, including consideration of the effects of off-campus conduct on the school;
  - vi. communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, to the respondent, and to any individual properly identified as a party to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within ninety (90) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant and respondent (if applicable) shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding

whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will remedy the discrimination, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law; and

- vii. when sex discrimination has been found, take steps that are reasonably calculated to end the discrimination, take corrective and/or disciplinary action aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination, as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee, and take steps designed to remedy the effects of the sex discrimination.
8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary.
9. If the complainant or respondent (if applicable) is dissatisfied with the findings of the investigation, the complainant or respondent may file a written appeal within five (5) school days to the Title IX Coordinator, or, if the Title IX Coordinator conducted the investigation, to the Superintendent of Schools. The Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent shall review the Title IX Coordinator or designee's written report, the information collected by the Title IX Coordinator or designee together with the recommended disposition of the complaint to determine whether the alleged conduct constitutes sex discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent of Schools may determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. After completing this review, the Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent of Schools shall respond to the complainant and respondent (if applicable), in writing, within fifteen (15) school days following the receipt of the written request for review.

#### D. Miscellaneous

1. If a sex discrimination complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of any other legally protected classification, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall make a referral to other appropriate personnel within the District so as to ensure that any such investigation complies with the requirements of policies regarding nondiscrimination.
2. If the sex discrimination complaint results in reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or that a student has been sexually assaulted by a school employee, then, the person to whom the complaint is given or who receives such information shall report such matters in accordance with the Board's policy on the Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect of Children.
3. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's Policy regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) and these Administrative Regulations is strictly prohibited. Neither the District nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the

purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by applicable law or these Administrative Regulations, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under these Administrative Regulations. The District will take actions designed to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination described herein.

### **Section III. Further Reporting**

At any time, a complainant alleging sex discrimination or sexual harassment under Title IX may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1475 (Telephone (202) 453-6020).

Employees may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (Telephone: 860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number: 1-800-477-5737).

Regulation approved:

## Appendix A

**Sexual Assault:** An offense classified as forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rape (Except Statutory Rape)—Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, or by a sex-related object. This definition also includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol) or because of age. Physical resistance is not required on the part of the victim to demonstrate lack of consent.

Sodomy—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sexual Assault With An Object—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Criminal Sexual Contact—The intentional touching of the clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim, for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. The forced touching by the victim of the actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim, for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. This offense includes instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or incapacity due to temporary or permanent mental or physical impairment or intoxication for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation.

Incest—Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

**Dating Violence:** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Domestic Violence:** Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

**Stalking:** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**COMPLAINT FORM REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX  
(PERSONNEL)**

*This complaint form should be used for complaints of sexual harassment under Title IX as defined on page 1 of the Board's Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel)*

Name of the complainant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged sexual harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the respondent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged sexual harassment occurred \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged sexual harassment  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged sexual harassment  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Remedy requested \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Complainant or Title IX Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

**Series 4000  
Personnel**

**COMPLAINT FORM REGARDING SEX DISCRIMINATION (OTHER THAN SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX) (PERSONNEL)**

*This complaint form should be used for complaints of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment under Title VII/Connecticut law, as defined on page 1 of the Board's Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel)*

Name of the complainant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged sex discrimination \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the respondent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged sex discrimination occurred \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged sex discrimination \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged sex discrimination

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remedy requested \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE WRITTEN NOTICE FOR FORMAL COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
UNDER TITLE IX

[LETTERHEAD]

NOTICE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS UNDER TITLE IX

[DATE]

In accordance with the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel), a formal complaint of sexual harassment has been filed with the Title IX Coordinator.

Identities of the parties involved, if known:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Complainant(s))  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Respondent(s))

The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The date and the location of the alleged incident, if known: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will contact the parties regarding the next step in the grievance process. Questions can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct. A determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

All parties involved may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but it not required to be, an attorney. This advisor may inspect and review evidence as permitted by the Board's Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel).

Any employee who knowingly makes false statements or knowingly submits false information during this grievance process is subject to discipline, up to and including termination. Additionally, it is a violation of the Board's Student Discipline Policy to lie to school officials or otherwise engage in dishonest behavior, which includes knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process. Any student who knowingly makes false statements or knowingly submits false information during this grievance process will be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Board's Student Discipline Policy.

**A copy of the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel) is included with this notice.**

SAMPLE WRITTEN NOTICE FOR THE INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS

[LETTERHEAD]

NOTICE OF INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
COMPLAINTS UNDER TITLE IX

In accordance with the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations regarding the Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Personnel), a formal complaint of sexual harassment has been filed with the Title IX Coordinator. The Board has an informal resolution process to promptly and equitably resolve such complaints using mediation *[alternatively, could be restorative justice]*. This informal resolution process will only be utilized if both the Complainant and Respondent agree to do so.

The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If both parties agree to the informal resolution process, it shall preclude the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising out of the same allegations. However, either party may withdraw from the informal resolution process at any time before agreeing to a resolution and resume the grievance process for formal complaints of sexual harassment.

If both parties agree to a resolution, that resolution is binding upon both parties and cannot be changed or appealed.

The District will maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of the informal resolution process and results therefrom.

\_\_\_\_\_

I voluntarily consent to the informal resolution process:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Respondent  
10/21/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***[Note: Although we have included this sample notice in our model policy documents for the convenience of our Board of Education clients, the notice does not need to be approved as a Board policy.]***

**[To be posted in a conspicuous place readily available  
for viewing by employees and emailed to employees within three months of hire with the  
subject line “Sexual Harassment Policy” or words of similar import]**

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS ILLEGAL  
AND IS PROHIBITED  
BY  
THE CONNECTICUT DISCRIMINATION EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT  
(Section 46a-60(a)(8) of the Connecticut General Statutes)  
AND  
TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964  
(42 United States Code Section 2000e et seq.)**

SEXUAL HARASSMENT MEANS ANY UNWELCOME SEXUAL ADVANCES OR REQUESTS FOR SEXUAL FAVORS OR ANY CONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE WHEN:

1. SUBMISSION TO SUCH CONDUCT IS MADE EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY A TERM OR CONDITION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S EMPLOYMENT;
2. SUBMISSION TO OR REJECTION OF SUCH CONDUCT BY AN INDIVIDUAL IS USED AS THE BASIS FOR EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS AFFECTING SUCH INDIVIDUAL; OR
3. SUCH CONDUCT HAS THE PURPOSE OR EFFECT OF SUBSTANTIALLY INTERFERING WITH AN INDIVIDUAL'S WORK PERFORMANCE OR CREATING AN INTIMIDATING, HOSTILE, OR OFFENSIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

**EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT INCLUDE:**

UNWELCOME SEXUAL ADVANCES  
SUGGESTIVE OR LEWD REMARKS  
UNWANTED HUGS, TOUCHES, KISSES  
REQUESTS FOR SEXUAL FAVORS  
RETALIATION FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
DEROGATORY OR PORNOGRAPHIC POSTERS, CARTOONS, OR DRAWINGS.

**REMEDIES FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT MAY INCLUDE:**

CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS  
BACK PAY  
COMPENSATORY DAMAGES  
PUNITIVE DAMAGES  
HIRING, PROMOTION, OR REINSTATEMENT

RETALIATION AGAINST ANY EMPLOYEE FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS PROHIBITED UNDER THIS POLICY AND ILLEGAL.

VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY IS GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE, INCLUDING DISCHARGE.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ENGAGE IN ACTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

AN INFRACTION OF THIS POLICY BY SUPERVISORS OR CO-WORKERS SHOULD BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO HOLLY HOLLANDER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, **TITLE IX COORDINATOR, OR SUPERINTENDENT IF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR IS THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT**]. CONFIDENTIALITY WILL BE MAINTAINED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

ANY EMPLOYEE WHO BELIEVES THAT HE OR SHE HAS BEEN HARASSED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THE WORKPLACE IN VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY MAY ALSO CONTACT:

THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
WEST CENTRAL REGION OFFICE  
55 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 210  
WATERBURY, CT 06702-2004  
TELEPHONE 1 (203) 805-6530

AND/ OR:

THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION  
BOSTON AREA OFFICE  
JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING  
475 GOVERNMENT CENTER  
BOSTON, MA 02203  
PHONE (800) 669-4000

CONNECTICUT LAW REQUIRES THAT A FORMAL WRITTEN COMPLAINT BE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THREE HUNDRED (300) DAYS OF THE DATE WHEN THE ALLEGED HARASSMENT/ DISCRIMINATION OCCURRED.

**Note: Passed during the 2025 legislative session, Public Act 25-139 adds sexual assault victim and human trafficking victim as protected classes under Connecticut’s non-discrimination laws. This policy has been revised to reflect these additions. S & G also updated the location and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, as the Boston office has closed.**

**Series 5000  
Students**

**5000**

**POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS  
REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION (STUDENTS)**

***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

The New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) complies with all laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or the denial to any person of the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities, including all academic, extra-curricular, and school-sponsored activities, on the basis of any protected characteristic (or protected class) including race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”), subject to the conditions and limitations established by law. When the Board has created a limited public forum, the Board shall provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other groups as required by law.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of an individual’s actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class, whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, is prohibited in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”). The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics.

***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual’s association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment and is therefore prohibited by this policy.

### ***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities) are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

### ***Definitions:***

The following definitions apply for purposes of this policy:

#### **A. Discrimination:**

With respect to students, unlawful discrimination occurs when a student is denied participation in, or the benefits of, a program or activity of the Board because of such student's actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class.

#### **B. Harassment:**

Harassment is a form of Protected Class discrimination that is prohibited by law and by this policy. Harassment constitutes unlawful discrimination when it creates a hostile environment, which occurs when the harassment is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by the District.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the types of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to a hostile environment, and are therefore prohibited by this policy:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful, or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; or
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment that is prohibited by law and Board policy. For more information regarding harassment based on sex, contact the District's Title IX Coordinator at:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

C. Veteran:

A veteran is any person honorably discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard. “Qualifying condition” means (i) a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, (ii) an experience of military sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or (iii) a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for an other than honorable discharge, as determined in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 27-103(c), (d).

D. Gender identity or expression:

Gender identity or expression refers to a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

E. Sexual orientation:

Sexual orientation refers to a person’s identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally or sexually attracted, inclusive of any identity that a person (i) may have previously expressed, or (ii) is perceived by another person to hold.

F. Race:

The term race is inclusive of ethnic traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles. “Protective hairstyles” includes, but is not limited to, wigs, headwraps and hairstyles such as individual braids, cornrows, locs, twists, Bantu knots, afros and afro puffs.

G. Domestic violence:

The term domestic violence means (1) a continuous threat of present physical pain or physical injury against a family or household member, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §

46b-38a; (2) stalking, including but not limited to, stalking as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-181d, of such family or household member; (3) a pattern of threatening, including but not limited to, a pattern of threatening as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-62, of such family or household member or a third party that intimidates such family or household member; or (4) coercive control of such family or household member, which is a pattern of behavior that in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person's free will and personal liberty. "Coercive control" includes, but is not limited to, unreasonably engaging in any of the following: (a) isolating the family or household member from friends, relatives or other sources of support; (b) depriving the family or household member of basic necessities; (c) controlling, regulating or monitoring the family or household member's movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources or access to services; (d) compelling the family or household member by force, threat or intimidation, including, but not limited to, threats based on actual or suspected immigration status, to (i) engage in conduct from which such family or household member has a right to abstain, or (ii) abstain from conduct that such family or household member has a right to pursue; (e) committing or threatening to commit cruelty to animals that intimidates the family or household member; or (f) forced sex acts, or threats of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, threatened acts of sexual conduct, threats based on a person's sexuality or threats to release sexual images.

***Biased Conduct:***

The Board recognizes that certain student conduct or communications may be considered indicative of bias towards individuals who are members of a Protected Class, even when such conduct or communications do not rise to the level of discrimination and/or harassment. The Board directs the District administration to address any such biased conduct or communications in a manner consistent with the Board's legal obligations under state and federal law and Board policy, including free speech considerations, in order to promote a school environment that is welcoming and safe for all individuals.

***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

Any student, staff member and/or parent/guardian who believes a student has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of this policy should report such concern in writing to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Students, which accompany this policy and are available online at [New Milford Board of Education Policies](#) or upon request from the main office of any District school. Students are encouraged to immediately report concerns about Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

**Students may make verbal or written reports about Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to any Board employee.**

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment of a student based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Complaints involving allegations of discrimination or harassment of a student based on disability will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA. In the event reported conduct allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate any investigation in compliance with the applicable policies.

***Mandatory Staff Reporting for Student Incidents:***

Board employees are required to report incidents of alleged student-to-student and employee-to-student discrimination, harassment or retaliation that may be based on a Protected Class when Board employees witness such incidents or when Board employees receive reports or information about such incidents, whether such incidents are verbal or physical or amount to discrimination, harassment or retaliation in other forms. **Reports should be made to any District administrator or to:**

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

***Remedial Action:***

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of a student, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- C. In the case of respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;

- D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
- E. Supports for the complainant; and
- F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

District staff members and administrators will work with students and parents/guardians to take steps designed to prevent acts of discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

In addition to reporting to the Board, any student and/or parent/guardian also may file a complaint with the following agencies:

Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):

Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1475  
(202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member who:

- 1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;
  - 2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations for a student based on religion;
- may contact:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member who has questions or concerns about the Board’s policies regarding discrimination or harassment of students on the basis of sex may contact the District’s Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member who:

1. has specific questions or concerns about the Board’s policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability applicable to students; OR
2. wishes to request an accommodation for a student on the basis of disability

may contact the District’s Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Legal References:

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, et seq.
- Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7905
- Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, et seq.
- Connecticut General Statutes § 1-1n, “Gender Identity or Expression” defined
- Connecticut General Statutes § 10-15c
- Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103
- Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-51, Definitions
- Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-58, Deprivation of rights
- Connecticut General Statutes § 46b-1, Family relations matters and domestic violence defined
- Public Act No. 25-139, “An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims”

Approved: February 18, 2025  
Revised:

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

## ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS (STUDENTS)

### ***Protected Class Discrimination Prohibited:***

The New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) complies with all laws prohibiting the exclusion of any person from any of its educational programs or activities, or the denial to any person of the benefits of any of its educational programs or activities, on the basis of any protected characteristic (or protected class) including race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal law (“Protected Class”), subject to the conditions and limitations established by law. When the Board has created a limited public forum, the Board shall provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other groups as required by law.

It is the policy of the Board that any form of discrimination or harassment on the basis of an individual’s actual or perceived membership in a Protected Class, whether by students, Board employees, Board members or third parties subject to the control of the Board, is prohibited in the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”). The Board’s prohibition of discrimination or harassment in its educational programs or activities expressly extends to academic, nonacademic and extracurricular activities, including athletics.

### ***Retaliation Prohibited:***

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports incidents in good faith that may be a violation of this policy, or who participates in the investigation of such reports.

The District will not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of Protected Class discrimination or harassment. Any such reprisals or retaliation may result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, and other corrective actions as appropriate.

### ***Discrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Association Prohibited:***

Discrimination and/or harassment against any individual on the basis of that individual’s association with someone in a Protected Class may also be considered a form of Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment.

### ***Scope and Applicability:***

Students, Board employees, Board members and community members (e.g., other individuals affiliated with the District, accessing or seeking access to District facilities)

are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of all members of the school community.

The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of the type of prohibited conduct that may be considered Protected Class harassment that can lead to a hostile environment, and are therefore prohibited:

- objectively offensive racial, ethnic, or religious epithets (or epithets commonly associated with any Protected Class membership, including but not limited to epithets relating to sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression);
- other words or phrases commonly considered demeaning or degrading on the basis of Protected Class membership;
- display of images or symbols commonly associated with discrimination against individuals on the basis of their membership in a Protected Class;
- graphic, written or electronic communications that are harmful, or humiliating based on Protected Class membership;
- bigoted conduct or communications; or
- physical, written, electronic or verbal threats based on Protected Class membership.

Harassment does not have to involve intent to harm, be directed toward a specific person, or involve repeated incidents.

***Reporting to District Officials:***

It is the policy of the Board to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging Protected Class discrimination or harassment. The District will investigate both formal and informal complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

Any student, staff member and/or parent/guardian who believes a student has experienced Protected Class discrimination or harassment or an act of retaliation or reprisal in violation of Board policy should report such concern in writing to

Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
Northville Elementary School  
22 Hipp Road New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-355-3713  
e-mail: [gallagherg@newmilfordps.org](mailto:gallagherg@newmilfordps.org)

Cathy Calabrese, Principal  
Hill and Plain Elementary School 6  
0 Old Town Park Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-5430  
e-mail: [calabresec@newmilfordps.org](mailto:calabresec@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School  
25 Sunny Valley Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-210-4020  
e-mail: [chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org](mailto:chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Powers, Assistant Principal  
Schaghticoke Middle School  
23 Hipp Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-2204  
e-mail: [powersj@newmilfordps.org](mailto:powersj@newmilfordps.org)

Keith Lipinsky, Athletic Director  
New Milford High School  
388 Danbury Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-350-6647, ext. 1411  
e-mail: [lipinskyk@newmilfordps.org](mailto:lipinskyk@newmilfordps.org)

Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)

in accordance with the Board's complaint procedures included in these Administrative Regulations Regarding Non-Discrimination/Students.

If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment of a student based on sex, such complaints will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Complaints involving allegations of discrimination or harassment of student based on disability will be addressed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA. In the event reported conducted allegedly violates more than one policy, the Board will coordinate any investigation in compliance with the applicable policies.

Students are encouraged to immediately report any concerns about Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

***Mandatory Staff Reporting for Student Incidents:***

Board employees are required to report incidents of alleged student-to-student and employee-to-student discrimination, harassment or retaliation that may be based on a Protected Class when Board employees witness such incidents or when Board employees receive reports or information about such incidents, whether such incidents are verbal or

physical or amount to discrimination, harassment or retaliation in other forms. **Reports should be made to any District administrator or to:**

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

### ***Complaint Procedure***

Preferably, complaints should be filed within thirty (30) days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The District will investigate such complaints promptly and equitably, and will take corrective action when allegations are verified.

As soon as a student feels that they, or another student has been subjected to Protected Class discrimination, harassment or retaliation, the individual should make a written complaint to Principal Gallagher, Northville Elementary School, or Cathy Calabrese, Principal, Hill and Plain School, or Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School or Jennifer Powers, Assistant Principal, Schaghticoke Middle School, or Keith Lipinsky, Athletic Director, New Milford High School, or Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent, Central Office. These individuals are referenced below as “above named individuals.”

**Students may make verbal or written reports about Protected Class discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to any Board employee. Board employees receiving such reports shall promptly forward them to any District administrator or to Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent.**

The student and/or parent/guardian or other individual will be provided a copy of the Board’s policy and regulation and made aware of the student’s rights under this policy and regulation. In the event the **above named individuals** receive a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a student based on sex, the **above named individuals** shall follow the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In the event the **above named individuals** receive a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a student based on disability, the **above named individuals** shall follow the procedures set forth in the applicable Board policy regarding Section 504/ADA.

The complaint should state the:

- A. Name of the complainant/victim,
- B. Date of the complaint,
- C. Date(s) of the alleged harassment/discrimination,

- D. Name(s) of the alleged harasser(s) or discriminator(s),
- E. Location where such alleged harassment/discrimination occurred,
- F. Names of any witness(es) to the alleged harassment/discrimination,
- G. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged harassment/discrimination; and
- H. Proposed remedy.

Any student and/or parent/guardian or other individual who makes an oral complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment of a student to any of the above-mentioned personnel will be provided a copy of this regulation and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. If a student (or individual acting on behalf of the student) is unable to make a written complaint, the Board employee receiving the oral complaint will either reduce the complaint to writing or assist the student (individual acting on behalf of the student) in completing the written complaint form or ask a District administrator for assistance in doing so.

All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of a complaint alleging discrimination or harassment of a student under this complaint procedure, the Superintendent shall designate a District administrator (or other trained individual) to promptly investigate the complaint. During the course of the investigation, the investigator shall interview or consult with all individuals reasonably believed to have relevant information, including the individual alleged to have experienced Protected Class discrimination and/or harassment (the “complainant”), the reporter (if different from the complainant) the alleged discriminator/harasser (“respondent”) and any witnesses to the conduct. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information and/or other extenuating circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained by all persons involved in the investigation to the extent possible to the extent consistent with principles of due process, as determined by the investigator.

Upon receipt of a written complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment of a student, the investigator should:

1. Offer to meet with the complainant (and respondent, if applicable) within ten (10) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) to discuss the nature of the complaint, discuss the availability of interim measures, identify individuals the complainant or respondent believes has relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant or respondent may have;

2. Provide the complainant (and respondent, if applicable) with a copy of the Board's non-discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
3. Conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with the parties to the complaint and any relevant witnesses or other individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
4. Review any records, notes, statements, or other documents relevant to the complaint;
5. Maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable throughout the investigative process, in accordance with state and federal law;
6. Complete a final investigation report that includes: (i) a findings of fact based on the evidence gathered; (ii) for each allegation, the conclusion(s) and reasoning(s) as to whether the discrimination or harassment occurred; and (iii) for any individual(s) found to have engaged in discrimination or harassment, a broad statement of consequences imposed (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements) (e.g., "Consequences were imposed.").
7. Communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant (and respondent, if applicable) (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within thirty (30) business days (provided that such timeframe may be reasonably extended based on the availability of necessary witnesses and/or participants, the complexity of the investigation, and/or other extenuating circumstances) from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The complainant (and respondent, if applicable) shall be notified of any extension of the investigation timeline. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will take steps designed to remedy the discrimination or harassment, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law;
8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of employees and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant (and respondent, if applicable) will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary;
9. Whenever allegations are verified, ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken (including, but not limited to, disciplinary action) aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination or harassment. Corrective action should include steps designed to avoid continuing discrimination or harassment;
10. After receiving the written notice of the outcome, parties shall have ten (10) school days to submit a formal written statement of appeal, if they so choose, to the Superintendent challenging the outcome of the investigation and explaining the basis for appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall

appoint a decisionmaker(s) for the appeal, who may be the Superintendent or designee. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the non-appealing party. The non-appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the investigation. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal shall review the evidence and the information presented by the parties and determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. Such action may include consultation with the investigator(s) and the parties, a meeting with appropriate individuals to attempt to resolve the complaint, or a decision affirming or overruling the written outcome. Generally, a party's disagreement with the outcome of the investigation, alone, will not be basis for further action. The decisionmaker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue written notice of the outcome of the appeal to the parties within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties.

***Remedial Action:***

If the District makes a finding of discrimination, harassment or retaliation of a student, the District will take remedial action designed to:

- A. eliminate the discriminatory/harassing/retaliatory conduct,
- B. prevent its recurrence, and
- C. address its effects on the complainant and any other affected individuals.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- A. In the case of a student respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, discipline (including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion), educational interventions, exclusion from extra-curricular activities and/or sports programs, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- B. In the case of an employee respondent, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, supervisor notification, discipline (including possible termination of employment), training, and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- C. In the case of respondent who is otherwise associated with the school community, interventions for the individual who engaged in the discrimination/harassment may include, but are not limited to, exclusion from school property and/or activities and/or referral to appropriate state or local agencies;
- D. Follow-up inquiries with the complainant and witnesses to ensure that the discriminatory/harassing conduct has stopped and that they have not experienced any retaliation;
- E. Supports for the complainant; and
- F. Training or other interventions for the larger school community designed to ensure that students, staff, parents, Board members and other individuals within the school community understand the types of behavior that constitute discrimination/harassment, that the District does not tolerate it, and how to report it.

District staff members and administrators will work with students and parents/guardians to take steps designed to prevent acts of discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

***Staff Development:***

The District will periodically provide staff development for District administrators and periodically distribute the Board’s Non-Discrimination policies and the implementing administrative regulations to staff, students and parents in an effort to maintain an environment free of discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

***Reporting to State and Federal Agencies:***

Any student and/or parent/guardian also may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (“OCR”):  
Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1475  
(202 453-6020)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html>

Any student and/or parent/guardian may also file a complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities  
450 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103-1835  
(860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number 1-800-477-5737)

***Questions/Requests for Accommodation:***

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member who:

1. has questions or concerns about this policy or its accompanying regulations;
2. wishes to request or discuss accommodations for a student based on religion;

may contact:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member who has questions or concerns about the Board’s policies regarding discrimination or

harassment of students on the basis of sex may contact the District's Title IX Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any parent, student, staff member, Board member or community member who:

1. has specific questions or concerns about the Board's policies regarding discrimination on the basis of disability applicable to students; OR
2. wishes to request an accommodation for a student on the basis of disability

may contact the District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Regulation approved: December 19, 2023  
Regulation revised: February 18, 2025

**DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM**  
**(For complaints based on race, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, alienage, ancestry, veteran status, or status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking)**

Name of the reporter \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

School/program and grade of the complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Reporter's relationship to the complainant/victim \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the alleged discriminator(s) or harasser(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged discrimination/harassment occurred \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged discrimination/harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination or harassment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed remedy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note: On January 9, 2025, a federal district court in Kentucky ruled that the 2024 Title IX Regulations, which had taken effect on August 1, 2024, “are invalid and must be set aside.” On January 31, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights confirmed that, effective immediately, it would enforce the 2020 Title IX Regulations. Accordingly, boards of education should discontinue use of policies and regulations that follow the 2024 Title IX Regulations and resume using those that were in place under the 2020 Title IX Regulations. S & G has revised the model policy that complies with 2020 Title IX regulations to: (1) remove reference to Title IX from the titles of the policies and regulations, given that these policies and regulations cover Connecticut law as well as Title IX; (2) update the location of and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Office where individuals may file complaints, given that the Boston office has been closed; (3) add reference to potential use of a third-party contractor to conduct investigations (please note that the regulations already reference the possible use of a third-party contractor to serve as a decision-maker); (4) remove the definition of “fondling” within the definition of “sexual assault” and replace it with “criminal sexual contact” and update the definition of “rape” pursuant to changes to the NIBRS manual; and (5) clarify certain distinctions between federal law and Connecticut law.**

**Series 5000  
Students**

**5145.7**

### **POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT (STUDENTS)**

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) for the New Milford Public Schools (the “District”) that any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited in the Board’s education programs and activities, whether by students, Board employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. The Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that it operates and the Board is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations (“Title IX”) and Connecticut law not to discriminate in such a manner. Students, Board employees and third parties are required to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of students, employees and third parties. Any student or employee who engages in conduct prohibited by this Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or termination, respectively.

For conduct to violate Title IX, the conduct must have occurred in an education program or activity of the Board; the conduct must have occurred within the United States of America; and the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the Board. Conduct that does not meet these requirements still may constitute a violation of Connecticut law or another Board policy.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop Administrative Regulations implementing this Policy and in accordance with Title IX and Connecticut law (the “Administrative Regulations”).

**Sex discrimination** occurs when a person, because of the person's sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

**Sexual harassment under Title IX** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (*i.e.*, *quid pro quo*);
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the Board's education programs or activities; or
- (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

**Sexual harassment under Connecticut law** means conduct in a school setting that 1) is sexual in nature; 2) is unwelcome; and 3) denies or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from a school's educational program. Sexual harassment can be verbal, nonverbal or physical. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment. Under Connecticut law, discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex includes discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

#### Reporting Sex Discrimination or Sexual Harassment

It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to report such claims. Students are encouraged to report complaints of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment promptly in accordance with the appropriate process set forth in the Administrative Regulations. The Board directs its employees to respond to such complaints in a prompt and equitable manner. The Board further directs its employees to maintain confidentiality to the extent appropriate and not tolerate any reprisals or retaliation that occur as a result of the good faith reporting of charges of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment. Any such reprisals or retaliation will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator, up to and including expulsion or termination as appropriate.

Any Board employee with notice of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment allegations shall immediately report such information to the building principal and/or the Title IX Coordinator, or if the employee does not work in a school building, to the Title IX Coordinator.

The District administration (the "Administration") shall provide training to Title IX Coordinator(s), investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process (as set forth in the Administrative Regulations), which training shall include but need not be limited to, the definitions of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, the scope of the Board's education program and activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. The Administration shall make the training materials used to provide these trainings publicly available on the Board's website. The Administration shall also

periodically provide training to all Board employees on the topic of sex discrimination and sexual harassment under Title IX and Connecticut law, which shall include but not be limited to when reports of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment must be made. The Administration shall distribute this Policy and the Administrative Regulations to staff, students and parents and legal guardians and make the Policy and the Administrative Regulations available on the Board's website to promote an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

The Board's Title IX Coordinator is

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment of any Board employee or directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, of the following points of contact:

Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
Northville Elementary School  
22 Hipp Road New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-355-3713  
e-mail: [gallagherg@newmilfordps.org](mailto:gallagherg@newmilfordps.org)

Cathy Calabrese, Principal  
Hill and Plain Elementary School 6  
0 Old Town Park Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-5430  
e-mail: [calabresec@newmilfordps.org](mailto:calabresec@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School  
25 Sunny Valley Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-210-4020  
e-mail: [chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org](mailto:chmielewskij@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Powers, Assistant Principal  
Schaghticoke Middle School  
23 Hipp Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-2204  
e-mail: [powersj@newmilfordps.org](mailto:powersj@newmilfordps.org)

Keith Lipinsky, Athletic Director

New Milford High School  
388 Danbury Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-350-6647, ext. 1411  
e-mail: [lipinskyk@newmilfordps.org](mailto:lipinskyk@newmilfordps.org)

Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools  
25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-3235  
e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)

Any Board employee in receipt of allegations of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or in receipt of a formal complaint, shall immediately forward such information to the Title IX Coordinator. Students may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination under Title IX to the U.S. Department of Education: Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1475 (Telephone (202) 453-6020).

Students may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (Telephone: 860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number: 1-800-477-5737).

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq.  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 34 C.F.R § 106.1, et seq.  
Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, 524 U.S. 274 (1998)  
Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 526 U.S. 629 (1999)  
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-15c - Discrimination in public schools prohibited.

Approved: August 20, 2024  
Revised: October 16, 2023  
June 20, 2023

NEWMILFORDPUBLICSCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING  
PROHIBITION OF SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
(STUDENTS)**

It is the policy of the New Milford Board of Education (the “Board”) for the New Milford Public Schools (“the District”) that any form of sex discrimination or sexual harassment is prohibited, whether by students, District employees or third parties subject to substantial control by the Board. Students, District employees and third parties are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful of the rights of students, District employees, and third parties. Any student or employee who engages in conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any third party who engages in conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) shall be subject to remedial measures, which may include exclusion from school property.

**Sex discrimination** occurs when a person, because of the person’s sex, is denied participation in or the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

**Sexual harassment under Title IX** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- (1) An employee of the Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the Board on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (i.e., *quid pro quo*);
- (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District’s education programs or activities; or
- (3) “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), “domestic violence” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or “stalking” as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30). These definitions can be found in Appendix A of these Administrative Regulations.

**Sexual harassment under Connecticut law** means conduct in a school setting that 1) is sexual in nature; 2) is unwelcome; and 3) denies or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from a school’s educational program. Sexual harassment can be verbal, nonverbal or physical. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment. Under Connecticut law, discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex includes discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following are other examples of conduct prohibited by the Board’s Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students):

1. Statements or other conduct indicating that a student's submission to, or rejection of, sexual overtures or advances will affect the student's grades and/or other academic progress.
2. Unwelcome attention and/or advances of a sexual nature, including verbal comments, sexual invitations, leering and physical touching.
3. Display of sexually suggestive objects, or use of sexually suggestive or obscene remarks, invitations, letters, emails, text messages, notes, slurs, jokes, pictures, cartoons, epithets or gestures.
4. Touching of a sexual nature or telling sexual or dirty jokes.
5. Transmitting or displaying emails or websites of a sexual nature.
6. Using computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to engage in any conduct prohibited by the Board's Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students).

### **NOTICE OF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

The District's Title IX Coordinator is

**Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent**  
**New Milford Public Schools**  
**25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A**  
**New Milford, CT 06776**  
**Telephone: 860-354-3235**  
**e-mail: [hollanderh@newmilfordps.org](mailto:hollanderh@newmilfordps.org)**

Any individual may make a report of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment to any District employee or directly to the Title IX Coordinator using any one, or multiple, of the following points of contact:

Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
Northville Elementary School  
22 Hipp Road New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-355-3713  
e-mail: [gallagherg@newmilfordps.org](mailto:gallagherg@newmilfordps.org)

Cathy Calabrese, Principal  
Hill and Plain Elementary School 6  
0 Old Town Park Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Telephone: 860-354-5430  
e-mail: [calabresec@newmilfordps.org](mailto:calabresec@newmilfordps.org)

Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School  
25 Sunny Valley Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
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Any District employee in receipt of allegations of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or in receipt of a formal complaint, shall immediately forward such information to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator manages the District's compliance with Title IX and Connecticut law regarding sexual harassment and sex discrimination and is an available resource to anyone seeking information or wishing to file a formal complaint of same. When a student, District employee, or other participant in the District's programs and activities feels that such person has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of sex in any District program or activity, including without limitation being subjected to sexual harassment, such person may contact the Title IX Coordinator or utilize the Title IX grievance systems set forth herein to bring concerns forward for the purpose of obtaining a prompt and equitable resolution.

## **EXPLANATION OF COMPLAINT PROCESS AND PROCEDURE**

The federal regulations implementing Title IX require the adoption and publication of two separate grievance systems: a grievance process for complaints of sex discrimination involving allegations of sexual harassment under Title IX and grievance procedures for complaints of sex discrimination that are not sexual harassment under Title IX. Accordingly, the Administration will process any complaints of sex discrimination involving allegations of sexual harassment

under Title IX, as defined above, pursuant to the **grievance process** set forth in Section I of these regulations. The Administration will process any complaints of sex discrimination (including allegations of sexual harassment under Connecticut law only) pursuant to the **grievance procedures** set forth in Section II of these regulations.

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of these Administrative Regulations, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising from these Administrative Regulations.

The obligation to comply with Title IX is not obviated or alleviated by the FERPA.

## **SECTION I. GRIEVANCE PROCESS FOR COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX**

### **A. Definitions**

- **Bias** occurs when it is proven that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) demonstrate actual bias, rather than the appearance of bias. Actual bias includes, but is not limited to, demonstrated personal animus against the respondent or the complainant and/or prejudgment of the facts at issue in the investigation.
- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- A **conflict of interest** occurs when it is proven that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) have personal, financial and/or familial interests that affected the outcome of the investigation.
- **Consent** means an active, clear and voluntary agreement by a person to engage in sexual activity with another person (also referred to hereafter as “affirmative consent”).

For the purposes of an investigation conducted pursuant to these Administrative Regulations, the following principles shall be applied in determining whether consent for sexual activity was given and/or sustained:

- A. Affirmative consent is the standard used in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was given by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity.
- B. Affirmative consent may be revoked at any time during the sexual activity by any person engaged in the sexual activity.
- C. It is the responsibility of each person engaging in a sexual activity to ensure that the person has the affirmative consent of all persons engaged in the sexual

activity to engage in the sexual activity and that the affirmative consent is sustained throughout the sexual activity.

D. It shall not be a valid excuse to an alleged lack of affirmative consent that the respondent to the alleged violation believed that the complainant consented to the sexual activity:

(i) because the respondent was intoxicated or reckless or failed to take reasonable steps to ascertain whether the complainant consented, or

(ii) if the respondent knew or should have known that the complainant was unable to consent because such individual was unconscious, asleep, unable to communicate due to a mental or physical condition, unable to consent due to the age of the individual or the age difference between the individual and the respondent, or incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.

E. The existence of a past or current dating or sexual relationship between the complainant and the respondent, in and of itself, shall not be determinative of a finding of consent.

- For purposes of investigations and complaints of sexual harassment, **education program or activity** includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.
- **Employee** means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of the individual's duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the Board.
- **Formal complaint** means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment (as defined under Title IX) against a respondent and requesting that the Administration investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. A "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been alleged to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **School days** means the days that school is in session as designated on the calendar posted on the Board's website. In its discretion, and when equitably applied and with proper notice to the parties, the District may consider business days during the summer recess as "school days" if such designation facilitates the prompt resolution of the grievance process.

- **Supportive measures** means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, increased security and monitoring, and other similar measures.

## B. Reporting Sexual Harassment

1. It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sexual harassment to report such claims. Any person may report sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. If the District receives notice of sexual harassment or alleged sexual harassment against a student in the District's education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, whether or not the complainant files a formal complaint, and will consider the complainant's wishes with respect to such measures. If the complainant has yet to file a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will explain to the complainant the process for doing so.
2. The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably. A respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process if a formal complaint is filed. Nothing in this Regulation shall limit or preclude the District from removing a respondent from the District's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the District undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. If a respondent is removed on an emergency basis, the District shall provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

## C. Formal Complaint and Grievance Process

1. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education programs or activity. A formal complaint may be signed by the Title IX Coordinator. If the formal complaint being filed is against the Title IX Coordinator, the formal complaint should be filed with the Superintendent. If the formal complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the formal complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will then retain a third-party contractor to investigate the matter.

2. The District may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. If possible, formal complaints should be filed within ten (10) school days of the alleged occurrence in order to facilitate the prompt and equitable resolution of such claims. The District will attempt to complete the formal grievance process within ninety (90) school days of receiving a formal complaint. This timeframe may be temporarily delayed or extended in accordance with Subsection G of this Section.
3. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, if the Title IX Coordinator has not already discussed the availability of supportive measures with the complainant, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of such measures and consider the complainant's wishes with respect to them. The Title IX Coordinator or designee may also contact the respondent, separately from the complainant, to discuss the availability of supportive measures for the respondent. The District will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide such supportive measures.
4. Within ten (10) school days of receiving a formal complaint, the District will provide the known parties with written notice of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment under Title IX and a copy of this grievance process. The written notice must also include the following:
  - i. The identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known;
  - ii. The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment as defined above;
  - iii. The date and the location of the alleged incident, if known;
  - iv. A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
  - v. A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
  - vi. A statement of any provision in the District's Student Discipline Policy or any other policy that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the written notice, the District must provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

5. The parties may have an advisor of their choice accompany them during any grievance proceeding at which the party's attendance is required. The District may, in its discretion, establish certain restrictions regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings. If any such restrictions are established, they will be applied equally to all parties.

6. The Title IX Coordinator will, as applicable, promptly commence an investigation of the formal complaint, designate a school administrator or third-party contractor to promptly investigate the formal complaint, or dismiss the formal complaint in accordance with Subsection F of this Section. The standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., more likely than not). The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the District and not on the parties.
7. The parties will be given an equal opportunity to discuss the allegations under investigation with the investigator(s) and are permitted to gather and present relevant evidence. This opportunity includes presenting witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. The District will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected (including a witness), written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings (if applicable), investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
8. Both parties will be given an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the District will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have ten (10) school days to submit a written response, which the investigator(s) will consider prior to completion of the investigative report, as described in Paragraph 9 of this Subsection.
9. The investigator(s) will create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence. The investigator(s) will send the investigative report, in an electronic format or hard copy, to each party and to each party's advisor for their review and written response at least ten (10) school days prior to the time a determination regarding responsibility is made.
10. The Superintendent will appoint a decision-maker(s), who shall be a District employee or third-party contractor and who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s). If the formal complaint filed is against the Superintendent, the Board Chair shall appoint the decision-maker, who shall be a District employee or third-party contractor and who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator or investigator(s). The investigator(s) and the decision-maker(s) shall not discuss the investigation's facts and/or determination while the formal complaint is pending. The decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are

not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) will explain to the party proposing the questions any decisions to exclude a question as not relevant.

11. The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker must apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include: (1) identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment; (2) a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held; (3) findings of fact supporting the determination; (4) conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts; (5) a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District will impose on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant; and (6) the District's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal. If the respondent is found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students), the written determination shall indicate whether the respondent engaged in sexual harassment as defined by the Board's Policy and these Administrative Regulations. The written determination will be provided to both parties simultaneously.
12. Student respondents found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Employee respondents found responsible for violating the Board's Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) may be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment. Other respondents may be subject to exclusion from the District's programs, activities and/or property. In appropriate circumstances, the District may make a criminal referral. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education programs or activities.
13. After receiving notification of the decision-maker's decision, or after receiving notification that the District dismissed a formal complaint or any allegation therein, both complainant and respondent may avail themselves of the appeal process set forth in Subsection E of this Section.

#### D. Informal Resolution

At any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, but only after the filing of a formal complaint, the District may suggest to the parties the possibility of facilitating an informal resolution process, such as mediation, to resolve the formal complaint without the need for a full investigation and adjudication. If it is determined that an informal resolution may be appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will consult with the parties.

Prior to facilitating an informal resolution to a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide the parties with written notice disclosing the sexual harassment allegations, the requirements of an informal resolution process, and any consequences from participating in the informal resolution process. Upon receipt of this document, complainants and respondents have five (5) school days to determine whether they consent to participation in the informal resolution. The District must obtain voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process from both parties.

Prior to agreeing to any resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint. If a satisfactory resolution is reached through this informal process, the matter will be considered resolved. If these efforts are unsuccessful, the formal grievance process will continue.

Nothing in this section precludes a student from filing a complaint of retaliation for matters related to an informal resolution, nor does it preclude either party from filing complaints based on conduct that is alleged to occur following the District's facilitation of the informal resolution.

An informal resolution is not permitted to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

#### E. Appeal Process

After receiving notification of the decision-maker's decision, or after receiving notification that the District dismissed a formal complaint or any allegation therein, both complainant and respondent have five (5) school days to submit a formal letter of appeal to the Title IX Coordinator specifying the grounds upon which the appeal is based. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Superintendent shall appoint a decision-maker(s) for the appeal, who shall be someone other than the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or initial decision-maker(s).

Appeals will be appropriate only in the following circumstances:

- new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter;
- procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter. A conflict of interest or bias does not exist solely because the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), and/or decision-maker(s) previously worked with or disciplined the complainant or respondent.

The District will provide the other party with written notice of such appeal. The appealing party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the grievance process. The decision-maker(s) for the appeal will provide the appealing party's written statement to the other party. The other party will then have ten (10) school days to submit to the decision-maker(s) for the appeal a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome of the grievance process.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal, in their discretion, will determine any additional necessary and appropriate procedures for the appeal.

After considering the parties' written statements, the decision-maker(s) for the appeal will provide a written decision. The decision-maker(s) for the appeal will attempt to issue the written decision within thirty (30) school days of receipt of all written statements from the parties. If it is found that one of the bases for appeal exists, the decision-maker(s) for the appeal will issue an appropriate remedy.

Supportive measures for either or both parties may be continued throughout the appeal process.

#### F. Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss any formal complaint that, under Title IX 1) would not constitute sexual harassment as defined under Title IX even if proved, 2) did not occur in the District's education program or activity, or 3) did not occur against a person in the United States. Such dismissal does not preclude action under another Board policy.

The District may dismiss a formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing: 1) a complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; 2) the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed in the District; or 3) specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal, the District will promptly and simultaneously send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) therefor to each party. Either party can appeal from the District's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein using the appeals procedure.

In the event a formal complaint is dismissed prior to the issuance of a decision under Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator shall determine if the allegations of sexual harassment shall proceed through the grievance procedures identified in Section II of these Administrative Regulations for claims of sex discrimination for consideration as to whether the allegations constitute sexual harassment under Connecticut law.

A dismissal pursuant to this section does not preclude action by the District under the Student Discipline policy, Code of Conduct for students/or and employees, or any other applicable rule, policy, and/or collective bargaining agreement.

#### G. Miscellaneous

1. Any timeframe set forth in these Administrative Regulations may be temporarily delayed or extended for good cause. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, considerations such as the absence or illness of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; concurrent activity by the Department of Children and Families; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. If any timeframe is altered on a showing of good cause, written notice will be provided to each party with the reasons for the action.

2. If a sexual harassment complaint raises a concern about challenging behavior (including bullying), the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the School Climate Specialist or designee who shall coordinate any challenging behavior assessment with the Title IX Coordinator to promote the alignment of any such challenging behavior assessment with the requirements of applicable Board policies and state law. Additionally, if a sexual harassment complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of any other legally protected classification, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall make a referral to other appropriate personnel within the District (e.g. Section 504 Coordinator), so as to ensure that any such investigation complies with the requirements of policies regarding nondiscrimination.
3. If the sexual harassment complaint results in reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or that a student has been sexually assaulted by a school employee, then, the person to whom the complaint is given or who receives such information shall report such matters in accordance with the Board's policy on the Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect of Children.
4. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) and these Administrative Regulations is strictly prohibited. Neither the District nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by applicable law or these Administrative Regulations, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under these Administrative Regulations. The District will take actions designed to prevent retaliation. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination described herein.
5. The District will maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of:
  - i. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Board's education program or activity;
  - ii. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
  - iii. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
  - iv. All material used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The Board will make these training materials publicly available on its website.

If the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an education program or activity of the Board, and for any report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, the District will create and maintain for a period of seven (7) years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. The District will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures

designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Board's education program or activity. If the District does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

## **SECTION II. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMS OF SEX DISCRIMINATION (OTHER THAN SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX)**

### A. Definitions

- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination.

### B. Reporting Sex Discrimination Other than Sexual Harassment under Title IX

It is the express policy of the Board to encourage victims of sex discrimination to report such claims. Any person may report sex discrimination (including sexual harassment as defined by Connecticut law) (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of the alleged conduct), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator. If the District receives notice of sex discrimination or alleged sex discrimination against a student in the District's education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will promptly notify the complainant of the grievance process. The District will treat complainants and respondents equitably during the grievance process. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, and any incident of sexual harassment under Title IX, as defined above, shall be handled pursuant to Section I of these Administrative Regulations. Any allegations of sexual harassment under Connecticut law, as defined above, shall be handled pursuant to this Section II of these Administrative Regulations.

### C. Grievance Procedures

1. As soon as a student feels that the student has been subjected to sex discrimination other than sexual harassment as defined under Title IX (including, without limitation, sexual harassment under Connecticut law), the student or the student's parent/legal guardian should make a written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator or to the building principal, or designee. The student and/or the student's parent/legal guardian will be provided a copy of the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations and made aware of the student's rights under this Policy and Administrative Regulations. Preferably, complaints should be filed within ten (10) school days of the alleged occurrence. Timely reporting of complaints facilitates the investigation and resolution of such complaints.
2. The complaint should state the:
  - i. Name of the complainant;
  - ii. Date of the complaint;

- iii. Date(s) of the alleged discrimination;
  - iv. Name(s) of the alleged discriminator(s);
  - v. Location where such alleged discrimination occurred;
  - vi. Names of any witness(es) to the alleged discrimination;
  - vii. Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged discrimination; and
  - viii. Remedy requested.
3. Any student who makes an oral complaint of alleged sex discrimination to any of the above-mentioned personnel will be provided a copy of these Administrative Regulations and will be requested to make a written complaint pursuant to the above procedure. In appropriate circumstances, such as due to the age or capacity of the student making the complaint, a parent or school administrator may be permitted to fill out the form on the student's behalf.
4. All complaints are to be forwarded immediately to the building principal or designee unless that individual is the subject of the complaint, in which case the complaint should be forwarded directly to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. In addition, a copy of any complaint filed under this Policy shall be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. If the complaint being filed is against the Title IX Coordinator, the complaint should be filed with the Superintendent. If the complaint being filed is against the Superintendent, the complaint should be filed with the Board Chair, who will then retain a third-party contractor to investigate the matter.
5. The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall investigate all complaints of sex discrimination against a student, regardless of whether the conduct occurred on or off-school grounds. Complaints will be investigated promptly within the timeframes identified below. Timeframes may be extended as needed given the complexity of the investigation, availability of individuals with relevant information, and other extenuating circumstances. The investigation shall be conducted discreetly, maintaining confidentiality insofar as possible while still conducting an effective and thorough investigation.
6. Any student who makes a complaint shall be notified of the District's intent to investigate the complaint. In the event the student or parent requests confidentiality or that an investigation not be conducted, the District will take reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint to the extent possible, given the request for confidentiality or that the District not investigate the complaint. If the student or parent insists that the student's personally identifiable information not be shared with the alleged discriminator(s), the student and parent will be informed that the District's ability to investigate and/or take corrective action may be limited.
7. Upon receipt of a sex discrimination complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall either promptly commence an investigation of the complaint, or shall designate a school administrator or third-party contractor to promptly investigate the complaint. The Title IX Coordinator or designee shall:
  - i. offer to meet with the complainant and respondent (if applicable) separately within ten (10) school days to discuss the nature of the complaint, identify individuals the complainant and respondent (if applicable) believe have relevant information, and obtain any relevant documents the complainant and respondent may have;

- ii. provide the complainant and respondent (if applicable) with a copy of the Board's sex discrimination policy and accompanying regulations;
  - iii. consider whether any interim measures may be appropriate to protect the complainant or respondent (if applicable), pending the outcome of the investigation;
  - iv. conduct an investigation that is adequate, reliable, and impartial. Investigate the factual basis of the complaint, including, as applicable, conducting interviews with individuals deemed relevant to the complaint;
  - v. consider whether alleged sex discrimination has created a hostile school environment, including consideration of the effects of off-campus conduct on the school;
  - vi. communicate the outcome of the investigation in writing to the complainant, to the respondent, and to any individual properly identified as a party to the complaint (to the extent permitted by state and federal confidentiality requirements), within ninety (90) school days from the date the complaint was received by the Superintendent's office. The investigator may extend this deadline for no more than fifteen (15) additional school days if needed to complete the investigation. The complainant and respondent (if applicable) shall be notified of such extension. The written notice shall include a finding whether the complaint was substantiated and if so, shall identify, to the extent possible, how the District will remedy the discrimination, adhering to the requirements of state and federal law; and
  - vii. when sex discrimination has been found, take steps that are reasonably calculated to end the discrimination, take corrective and/or disciplinary action aimed at preventing the recurrence of the discrimination, as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee, and take steps designed to remedy the effects of the sex discrimination.
8. If a complaint is made during summer recess, the complaint will be reviewed and addressed as quickly as possible given the availability of staff and/or other individuals who may have information relevant to the complaint. If fixed timeframes cannot be met, the complainant and respondent will receive notice and interim measures may be implemented as necessary.
9. If the complainant or respondent (if applicable) is dissatisfied with the findings of the investigation, the complainant or respondent may file a written appeal within five (5) school days to the Title IX Coordinator, or, if the Title IX Coordinator conducted the investigation, to the Superintendent of Schools. The Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent shall review the Title IX Coordinator or designee's written report, the information collected by the Title IX Coordinator or designee together with the recommended disposition of the complaint to determine whether the alleged conduct constitutes sex discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent of Schools may determine if further action and/or investigation is warranted. After completing this

review, the Title IX Coordinator or Superintendent of Schools shall respond to the complainant and respondent (if applicable), in writing, within fifteen (15) school days following the receipt of the written request for review.

#### D. Miscellaneous

1. If a sex discrimination complaint raises a concern about challenging behavior (including bullying), the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the School Climate Specialist or designee who shall coordinate any challenging behavior assessment with the Title IX Coordinator to promote the alignment of any such challenging behavior assessment with the requirements of applicable Board policies and state law. Additionally, if a sex discrimination complaint raises a concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of any other legally protected classification, the Title IX Coordinator or designee shall make a referral to other appropriate personnel within the District (e.g. Section 504 Coordinator), so as to ensure that any such investigation complies with the requirements of policies regarding nondiscrimination.
2. If the sex discrimination complaint results in reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected, has had a nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or that a student has been sexually assaulted by a school employee, then, the person to whom the complaint is given or who receives such information shall report such matters in accordance with the Board's policy on the Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect of Children.
3. Retaliation against any individual who complains pursuant to the Board's Policy regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) and these Administrative Regulations is strictly prohibited. Neither the District nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by applicable law or these Administrative Regulations, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under these Administrative Regulations. The District will take actions designed to prevent retaliation as a result of filing a complaint. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance procedures for sex discrimination described herein.

### **Section III. Further Reporting**

At any time, a complainant alleging sex discrimination or sexual harassment under Title IX may also file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1475 (Telephone (202) 453-6020).

Students may also make a report of sexual harassment and/or sex discrimination under state or federal law to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1835 (Telephone: 860-541-3400 or Connecticut Toll Free Number: 1-800-477-5737).

Regulation approved:

## Appendix A

**Sexual Assault:** An offense classified as forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rape (Except Statutory Rape)—Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, or by a sex-related object. This definition also includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol) or because of age. Physical resistance is not required on the part of the victim to demonstrate lack of consent.

Sodomy—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sexual Assault With An Object—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of the person's age or because of the person's temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Criminal Sexual Contact—The intentional touching of the clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim, for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. The forced touching by the victim of the actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim, for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation. This offense includes instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or incapacity due to temporary or permanent mental or physical impairment or intoxication for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation.

Incest—Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape—Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

**Dating Violence:** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Domestic Violence:** Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other

person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

**Stalking:** Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

**Series 5000  
Students**

**COMPLAINT FORM REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX  
(STUDENTS)**

*This complaint form should be used for complaints of sexual harassment under Title IX, as defined on page 1 of the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)*

Name of the complainant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged sexual harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the respondent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged sexual harassment occurred \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged sexual harassment

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged sexual harassment

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remedy requested \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Complainant or Title IX Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

**Series 5000  
Students**

**COMPLAINT FORM REGARDING SEX DISCRIMINATION (OTHER THAN SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT UNDER TITLE IX) (STUDENTS)**

*This complaint form should be used for complaints of sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment under Connecticut law, as defined on page 1 of the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)*

Name of the complainant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the complaint \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the alleged sex discrimination \_\_\_\_\_

Name or names of the respondent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where such alleged sex discrimination occurred \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of any witness(es) to the alleged sex discrimination

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed statement of the circumstances constituting the alleged sex discrimination

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remedy requested \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE WRITTEN NOTICE FOR FORMAL COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
UNDER TITLE IX

[LETTERHEAD]

NOTICE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS UNDER TITLE IX

[DATE]

In accordance with the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students), a formal complaint of sexual harassment has been filed with or signed by the Title IX Coordinator.

Identities of the parties involved, if known:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Complainant(s))  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Respondent(s))

The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment under Title IX:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The date and the location of the alleged incident, if known:

\_\_\_\_\_

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will contact the parties regarding the next step in the grievance process. Questions can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator: Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent.

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct. A determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

All parties involved may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but it not required to be, an attorney. This advisor may inspect and review evidence as permitted by the Board's Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students).

It is a violation of the Board's Student Discipline Policy to lie to school officials or otherwise engage in dishonest behavior, which includes knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process. Any student who knowingly makes false statements or knowingly submits false information during this grievance process will be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Board's Student Discipline Policy. Any employee who knowingly makes false statements or knowing submits false information during this grievance process is subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

**A copy of the Board's Policy and Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) is included with this notice.**

