



**Home School Academy**

**Student-Family  
Handbook**

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## Welcome Message

The staff of Long Valley School (the Charter) extends you an enthusiastic welcome and thanks you for considering us to be your child's school!

The Charter's Personalized Learning Program allows students to work outside of the traditional classroom setting and affords many educational privileges and opportunities. The Charter is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and serves TK–12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our school is unique in that we *personalize* our students' educational choices and offer a variety of instructional options and classes that are tailored to each student's needs and interests.

Academic support and guidance are provided by credentialed teachers. Each student is given the opportunity to work closely with his/her assigned teacher to create individualized plans that promote academic success and a meaningful education; attendance at tutorials, instructional classes and weekly meetings are required. Approved educational materials are supplied by the school. High school students meet graduation requirements as well as complete preparation for college or vocational opportunities.

In order for students to be successful in independent study, it is necessary for parents/guardians to take an *active* role in the education process. We value our parents/guardians and will do whatever we can to work alongside you in your child's educational journey. We are here to help you!

This handbook is intended to introduce you to our school. Please read its contents carefully and keep in mind that the staff is available to answer any questions you may have about The Charter.

We look forward to working with you this school year and will do whatever we can to promote academic success and offer meaningful support to your family. We are here to serve you and assist you in your child's education!

Sherri Morgan  
Executive Director/ Superintendent

## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### School Office

Mr. Jerad Morgan, Site Administrator  
257 E. Sierra Street, Portola, CA 96122  
530-832-5507

### Charter Document

Charter schools are so named because their charter document defines student learning and governance. Familiarity with our Charter is encouraged; the charter document is located on the [www.longvalleycs.org](http://www.longvalleycs.org) website.

### Mission

Long Valley Charter School is an educational community, inspiring each child to achieve their highest potential, providing opportunities for self-discovery, and preparing students for the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

### Vision

Long Valley Charter School envisions every student becoming lifelong learners, pursuing meaningful work, and participating in civic activities.

### Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)

#### *1. Students are self-directed learners who*

- Assume responsibility for personal life-long learning; discovering, developing and pursuing individual interests.
- Organize and manage time and resources efficiently.

#### *2. Students demonstrate strong interpersonal skills through*

- Demonstrating respectful, effective and proficient communication skills.
- Working collaboratively with others, with an emphasis on problem solving.

#### *3. Students are academically proficient as reflected by*

- Demonstrating a progressive mastery of California State Standards leading to proficient or advanced scores on California standards assessments.
- Demonstrating higher order thinking skills including application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

#### *4. Students demonstrate technological competency by*

- Accessing, utilizing, synthesizing and evaluating digital information to support learning and to build skills for career and college.
- Creating multimedia products to present knowledge and understanding of content.

#### *5. Students are responsible citizens who*

- Demonstrate respect for cultural, ethnic, and economic diversity.
- Model good character traits.
- Strive to become self-sufficient, productive, and contributing members of society.

#### ***6. Students demonstrate a growth mindset by***

- Acknowledging and embracing imperfections.
- Demonstrating goal-driven practices for improvement.

### **Governance**

The Charter is operated by Long Valley Charter School, a California non-profit corporation; it is governed by a Board of Directors of five members, including representatives from each community served. The calendar for Board meetings is posted to the school's website and is usually scheduled the second Thursday of select months at 5:45 PM. Everyone is encouraged to attend meetings through teleconference connections.

Each resource center or site has a committee to address issues of local concern; the committee sets its own schedule and is comprised of parents/guardians, students, community members and school staff. Members from each committee are selected locally. Committees are also formed to provide oversight of federal funds and the Local Control and Accountability Plans.

Families are encouraged to participate in the governance of their school either as a Board of Directors member or through the local site committees.

### **Highlights of Our Program**

- Mastery-Based Learning
- Project-based Learning
- Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Established Charter program since 2000
- Credentialed Teachers
- Parent/Guardian Participation
- Educational Materials provided by the School
- Placement Testing & Continuous Assessment
- Lessons Personalized to Student Ability & Interests -Options to Accelerate Learning
- Lessons Paced to Individual Student's Ability
- One-On-One Guidance & Support /Tutoring
- Educational & Enrichment Classes
- Career Exploration
- Personalized Cap and Gown Senior Graduation Ceremony
- Earn Accredited High School Diploma
- Concurrent Enrollment in Community Colleges for Qualified Students

### **Program Information**

The Charter's Personalized Learning Program admission is open to any resident of Lassen County or the counties which are contiguous (Plumas, Sierra, Shasta and Modoc.) The charter school's purpose is to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to improve pupil learning; encourage the use

of different and innovative teaching methods; and provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system.

The Charter School consults with parents and teachers on a regular basis regarding the Charter School's education programs as required by the Charter Schools Act.

### **Standards**

The academic program for each student is based on the California State Standards for each subject. Standards determine the content and target skills for each grade level. The school has identified a focused set of standards called "Power Standards". Your child's teacher will provide a copy of these to you.

### **Mastery-based Learning**

Our school uses Mastery-based learning to best prepare students for their future. Students know what they need to learn (power standards) and know their current level of mastery (assessments shared with student and parent/guardian). Students are encouraged to participate with voice and choice in their work and how they will demonstrate mastery. These elements prepare students to be successful in their chosen fields of work and study.

State law requires students in Independent Study to be provided rigorous, grade level work; the school provides academic support to help students succeed.

### **Master Agreement**

The master agreement is filled out at the beginning of each year or at the time of enrollment. It defines the subjects, deadlines, and requirements that a student must meet during the school year. The student agrees to complete the courses and the parent/guardian and teacher(s) commit to providing the support the student needs. This form requires both parent/guardian & student signatures unless students are 18 years of age.

### **Teachers**

Every student is assigned to a certificated teacher who oversees and coordinates the student's academic program and progress. The assigned teacher monitors the instruction that the parent/guardian provides at home. As a team, the teacher, parent/guardian and student determine the materials, learning methods and pace to develop a program suited directly to the academic and emotional needs of the individual student.

### **Required Meetings**

Students are required to meet with their teachers a minimum of once every 20 school days. Enrollment in the Home School Academy requires adequate progress to be made. If meetings are missed or progress is not made regular independent study may be offered. Students who are performing below grade level will be required to utilize remedial programming.

***Unimmunized students are not allowed to participate in on campus/resource center classes and will be loaned a device and Internet access to access the classes remotely.***

### **Schoolwork Deadlines**

Assignments are determined during required meetings; they must then be completed by the next required meeting. Students who fail to complete assigned work or attend scheduled meetings or classes initiate the non-compliance process.



### **Educational/Enrichment Classes**

A variety of educational and enrichment classes are offered to students at various times throughout the school year. These classes provide an excellent opportunity for students to work cooperatively and gain knowledge through hands-on activities.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are offered to enrich the educational experience. Each resource center plans field trips based on community interest and availability. Since the opportunity for transportation is limited, most trips require parental involvement in driving and chaperoning.

The insurance company has requirements for parent drivers which include an annual driving record, proof of insurance with minimum limits, copy of a valid driver's license and an authorized driver application. Although these requests seem demanding for driving your own child or others, please know we are required to follow these rules.

### **Special Education/ 504 Plans**

Students with special needs are provided appropriate educational support and services. One on one and small group instruction is provided through the general education program and, as need is determined, through specialized instruction delivered by special education staff.

The process for new referrals for special services begins with a Student Study Team. Please discuss this process with your teacher.

### **Student Transcripts**

Student transcripts are maintained by the Charter's registrar. All high school course work, regardless of where earned, is recorded on the transcripts, Teachers can access an unofficial transcript at any time for students and their families, and for credit and course review and planning. A formal request to the registrar is necessary to generate official transcripts for college applications. Directions for the request are here:

<https://www.longvalleycs.org/Parents--Students/Forms-and-Documents/Transcripts-/index.html>

### **Evaluation of Student Progress**

Evaluation is an ongoing part of the education process. While traditional testing is viewed as the most common way to determine progress, there are several acceptable ways to monitor student achievement. They include:

- Completed assignments or projects
- Demonstration of skills
- Written tests and reports
- Oral or written presentations
- Standardized state tests
- Proficiency assessment results
- Daily engagement in learning
- Making progress toward successful completion of courses

The Charter strives to have a comprehensive evaluation of student progress that will include a combination of the above forms of evaluation. Parent/guardian and student input in this process is valued.

Students who utilize online curriculum are required to take unit tests, midterms and finals in-person.

### **Academic and/or Attendance Problems and Concerns**

To enjoy continuous enrollment in the Charter, a student must attend scheduled appointments/required tutorials and complete assignments with quality and in a timely manner. Attendance and academic progress is measured by work completion and quality. Clear consequences for non-compliance are outlined in the master agreement and includes a pupil-parent-educator conference and possible termination from our program.

If a student leaves the Charter due to academic or attendance problems, or by their own choice, the student may not return during the current school year.

### **Code of Conduct/ Behavioral Expectations**

Our schools have three behavioral expectations:

- **Be Responsible:** Students will be expected to respond appropriately to issues and problems that arise- not react to them! Students are expected to conduct themselves responsibly, and depend less on outside controls to manage their behavior.
- **Be Safe:** Abide by all laws, rules, procedures, and instructions.
- **Be Respectful:** Students will respect others through their actions, attitudes, and speech.

If a student does not follow this code of conduct the following is suggested: First Infraction

- Reteach behavior expectations
- Student will apologize and make

amends Subsequent Infractions

- Conference with parent
- Loss of privilege to attend workshop/class time: switch to meeting one-on-one with teacher
- Possible removal from program

The Charter is committed to personalized support of students when difficulties arise. The assigned teacher will work with the student or parent to clarify or reteach concepts, explain assignments and expectations, provide different or additional curriculum, or enroll the student in resource center classes/ tutoring. Assistance can sometimes be handled with a phone call or e-mail, other times an appointment to work together is necessary.

### **Telecommunication Behavioral Expectations**

- Stay engaged.
- Be on time! (Connect early if needed).
- Keep muted if you are not talking. Don't talk over others-raise your hand.
- Look at the camera and position it correctly. Pay attention to the lighting. Avoid back lighting
- Don't eat. (Sipping on a beverage is okay.)
- Cameras ON!. Appropriate times to turn off your camera include: if you need to save bandwidth, or if you need to step away for a moment; communicate with your teacher if you experience the need to turn off your camera through the chat feature.
- Follow school dress code.
- Limit distractions

### **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress in a manner that will not disrupt the learning environment. Students are to come to school clean and dressed modestly.

The following are considered **inappropriate** clothing:

- Any type of clothing or accessory:
  - displaying profane, obscene or suggestive language or pictures
  - advertising or promotion of alcoholic or tobacco products
  - gang or drug related messages.
- Any immodest clothing including but not limited to: tube tops, sheer shirts, backless, halter, low cut, or swimsuit tops. Midriffs may not show when arms are at their side. Shirts with large armholes (muscle shirts) and tank tops with less than 1-inch straps are not allowed.
- Undergarments may not show.
- Shorts and skirts must be no more than 4 inches above the knee or shorter than the end of the extended fingertips.
- Spandex shorts or pajamas.
- Pants that do not fit without sagging or falling off hips
- Clothing with holes or slashes more than 4" above the knee or above the end of the extended fingertips.
- Students may not wear hats or wear hoods pulled up
- Make-up, cosmetics, or jewelry must be appropriate to the age level of the student and shall not cause a distraction to the learning/teaching process.

Non-compliance with this dress code will result in the following:

- Student will be relocated out of the classroom area
- Call to the student's parent/guardian to either bring appropriate garments or arrange for the student to go home
- In the event the student's parent/guardian is unavailable to bring garments or confirm the return to home, the student will be loaned an oversized shirt to cover the inappropriate clothing
- Repeated violations of the dress code may result in student losing the privilege to participate in center activities

The dress code is also enforced for all school related field trips and outings.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

The Charter School community values intellectual property and academic honesty. Plagiarism and cheating are dishonest and also stunts the learning process for students. We strive to teach students the importance of ethical practices in the submission of all work and in taking assessments. The consequences for such infractions will be:

- Complete the assignment or assessment again under increased supervision
- A meeting with the parent/guardian, student, teacher and site administrator to assure no future incidents
- Further disciplinary action for repeat offenses as outlined in the school's charter

### **School Facility**

It is important that The Charter remain a safe and secure school facility. To help ensure that the facility remains secure and safe, the following procedures will apply:

- The school will follow COVID-19 related rules determined by the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education. The current safety plan is published on the school's website.
- Students will only be allowed inside the resource centers under staff supervision.
- Students who are not enrolled with the school may not enter the resource center except accompanied by a parent.
- For purposes of student safety, students should not remain outside the school for prolonged periods of time waiting for transportation or for other reasons.

- During school hours, the school phone will be available to students who need to contact parents for transportation.
- Cell phones must be silenced and put away while in the resource center unless its use as an instructional device is requested by the teacher.
- Cell phones and personal electronic devices are not permitted in testing sessions.
- Ear buds and headphones are not permitted during times of instruction or conversation.
- Respect of school property, furniture, and materials is mandatory.
- Public displays of affection are prohibited.

Any student who disregards these policies will be subject to being disenrolled from our program.

**Video Surveillance**

Students and families are hereby notified security video cameras are installed at each school. Cameras are located only in public areas and not used in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Specific uses of video are detailed in Board Policy 5014.

**Computers/ Chromebooks**

The use of technology as a tool for student learning and for staff data management has played an increasingly significant role at Long Valley Charter. The school has computers for student use, including access to the Internet. To ensure that the computers will be valuable learning tools, each student must follow these rules:

- Submit a completed computer /technology contract, signed by both the student and the parent/guardian.
- Use school computers for assigned academic purposes only.
- The school monitors the appropriate use of the computer
- Put away any materials used and clean up the work area before leaving.
- Log off the computer
- Keep the noise level down in order to avoid disturbing others in the building.
- No food or drink is allowed at the computer workstation.

Computers or Chromebooks are encouraged to be checked out for use during the school year. A loan agreement is required and parents/guardians are responsible for loss or willful damage. Devices will be returned at the end of the school year or upon withdrawal/disenrollment from the school.

**Graduation Requirements**

The Charter is a fully accredited high school program through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Course requirements vary according to a student’s goal for post high school pursuits. To receive a diploma or a certificate of completion, a student must successfully meet the following course/credit requirements:

<b>Graduation Requirements</b>						
Subject	College Prep Requirements		General Ed Requirements		School-to-Work	
	205 Credits		205 Credits		185 Credits	
	Required Courses	Units	Required Courses	Units	Required Courses	Units

English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	10 10 10 10	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	10 10 10 10	English 9 English 10 English 11 English (Other)	10 10 10 5
History/Social Science	World History US History Government Economics	10 10 5 5	World History US History Government Economics	10 10 5 5	World History US History Government Economics	10 10 5 5
Mathematics	Algebra I Algebra II Geometry (or 3 years of Integrated)	10 10 10	Total - (Must complete min Algebra I or Integrated I)	30	Total - (Must complete min Algebra I or Integrated I)	30
Science	Biology Physics Environmental (Lab required) (or 3 years of Int)	10 10 10	Life Science Physical Science Environmental (or 3 years of Integrated)	10 10 10	Life Science Physical Science Environmental (or 3 years of Integrated)	10 10 10
Physical Education	Physical Educ I Physical Educ II	10 10	Physical Educ I Physical Educ II	10 10	Physical Educ I Physical Educ II	10 10
Health/Safety (2.5 may be Driver's Education)	Total	5	Total	5	Total	5
Career Technical Educ	Total	20	Total	20	Completed Pathway	30
Foreign Language	Total	20	Total	10	Total	0
Visual and Performing Arts	Total	10				
Other/Electives	Total	0	Total	20	Total	5
Students in 9th - 11th grades are expected to complete 50-60 units per year. A minimum of 20 units must be enrolled in and passed during a student's final semester.						
College-bound students are advised to contact the colleges they are applying to in order to verify admission requirements prior to the end of their 11th grade year.						
Parental permission to engage in the School-to-Work Pathway is required. Due to the reduced credits for this pathway, students are advised that transferring to another school may result a credit deficiency.						

The Charter assists college bound students in planning high school courses that will meet the requirements of the school or types of schools the students would like to attend after high school. Our career/college counselor and teachers are prepared, as an on-going process, to help students explore educational options within the charter's course offerings as well as local community college classes, online courses and special, applicable learning opportunities.

The Charter assists general education students in planning high school courses that will help students meet their vocational, military, or other post high school goals. The Charter works with students through career exploration to discover desirable options. The Charter responds to the needs and goals of the students by providing an ever-increasing number of career technical education pathways and courses.

### Graduation/ Promotion Ceremonies

Promotion ceremonies acknowledging the transition from elementary to high school is at the discretion of the local resource center.

Much effort is put into making graduation personalized and meaningful for each graduate and the class as a whole. Students and their families are encouraged to help plan the graduation ceremony. Seniors are given the opportunity to speak or to express their individualized talent at the graduation ceremony. Each ceremony highlights the individual graduates’ academic and personal accomplishments and goals.

**Volunteers & Visitors**

Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend all appointments between their child and their child’s teacher. During classes and workshops, the school has policy #5007 that provides guidelines for volunteers and visitors for the safety of all students. Requirements include scheduling visits, fingerprinting/background checks and tuberculosis certification in certain circumstances. Details of this policy are available at the school office or on the school’s website.

**Dispute Resolution**

The Charter encourages parent/guardian participation in decision making and seeks constructive comments to help improve the school’s educational program. The Board has adopted Policy 7010 for dispute resolution which is available on the [www.longvalleycs.org](http://www.longvalleycs.org) website; a summary of the policy follows.

Complaints about School Personnel	Complaints about Instructional Program/School Processes
<p>Steps to follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notify the person the complaint concerns to seek resolution.</li> <li>2. If unresolved, contact Site Administrator in writing.</li> <li>3. If still unresolved, the complaint may be referred to the Executive Director</li> <li>4. Review by the Board may be requested</li> </ol>	<p>Submit a written complaint to the Executive Director. (The board policy includes a form that may be utilized for this purpose.)</p>

**Things to Keep in Mind**

- Use the school website to check for updates or to find other important school information. Our school website is [www.longvalleycs.org](http://www.longvalleycs.org)
- Communication makes all the difference. Contact your assigned teacher whenever you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.
- The Charter utilizes Parent Square for much of its communication. The program will distribute notifications by text, email and voice mail. Please be sure to subscribe and consider downloading the app.
- The Charter welcomes family involvement – ask about these opportunities.
- While the Charter maintains rigorous academic standards, students considering returning to other public or private high schools should check with the receiving school to verify their policies regarding acceptance of transfer credits.
- Students desiring to join a branch of the military should confirm with the military and special requirements the particular branch might have regarding required courses, required assessments, charter schools, and required seat time. The charter will work with the recruitment officer and the student to provide the necessary course of study wherever possible.
- All board adopted policies, agendas, minutes and schedules are available on the school web site, [www.longvalleycs.org](http://www.longvalleycs.org).

## APPENDIX A: 2023-24 PARENT/GUARDIAN ANNUAL NOTICES

Dear Parent/Guardian:

State and Federal law requires charter schools to provide annual notice to parents/guardians of certain rights and responsibilities. Long Valley Charter School is the non-profit corporation that operates both Long Valley School and Thompson Peak Charter School (“Charter School” or “Charter”). Parents/Guardians are required to acknowledge receipt of this annual notice by signing the handbook receipt, of which this document is Appendix B. If you have any questions, please contact our main office at 530-827-2395.

### CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND EVALUATION

#### Availability of Prospectus

A prospectus of the Charter School’s curriculum, including titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course offered, is compiled each year and is available to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for review upon request at the Charter School’s office at the following locations:

Long Valley School: 436-965 Susan Drive, Doyle, CA 96109 257 E. Sierra Street, Portola, CA 96122	Thompson Peak Charter 995 Paiute Lane, Susanville, CA 96130
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Please note that, pursuant to law, the Charter School may charge for the prospectus in an amount not to exceed the cost of duplication.

#### State Testing

The Charter School shall annually administer required state testing to the applicable grades (e.g., the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent’s or guardian’s written request to Charter School officials to excuse their child from any or all parts of the state assessments shall be granted. Upon request, parent(s) or guardian(s) have a right to information on the level of achievement of their student on every State academic assessment administered to the student.

#### Cal Grant Program Notice

The Charter School is required by state law to submit the Grade Point Average (“GPA”) of all high school seniors by Oct. 1 of each year, unless the student is over age 18 or parent/guardian for those under 18 opt-out. Students currently in eleventh (11th) grade will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant, unless the Student (or parent/guardian if the Student is under 18) has opted out by or before February 1.

#### California Healthy Kids Survey

The Charter School will administer the California Healthy Kids Survey (“CHKS”) to students in select grades. Elementary school parents or guardians provide written permission for student participation; middle and high school parents or guardians are given the option to decline their child’s participation. The CHKS is an anonymous, confidential survey of school climate and safety, student wellness, and youth resiliency that enables the Charter School to collect and analyze data regarding local youth health risks and behaviors, school connectedness, school climate, protective factors, and school violence. Permission slips will be distributed prior to administering the survey.

#### English Learners

The Charter School is committed to the success of its English Learners and support will be offered both within academic classes and in supplemental settings for students who need additional support for English language learning. The Charter School will meet all applicable legal requirements for English Learners as they pertain to annual notification to parents/guardians, student identification, placement, program options, English Learners and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. The Charter School will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding English Learners and the rights of students and parents/guardians.

#### Human Trafficking Prevention

California has the highest number of incidents of human trafficking in the U.S., and all students may be vulnerable. Charter School believes it is a priority to inform our students about (1) the prevalence, nature of and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance, and (2) how social media and mobile device applications are used for human trafficking.

In accordance with the California Healthy Youth Act, Charter School will provide age-appropriate instruction on the prevention of human trafficking, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment for grades 5, 7, 9, and 11. You have the right to excuse your child from all or part of instruction on prevention of human trafficking. An opt-out form will be provided prior to instruction or you may request the form from the school office. Your consent for this instruction is NOT required. If we do not receive a written request to excuse your child, your child will be included in the instruction.

Information and materials for parents/guardians about the curriculum and resources on prevention of human trafficking and abuse, including sexual abuse, assault, and harassment are available on Charter School’s website for your review.

#### Physical Fitness Test (“PFT”)

Annually students in grades 5, 7, and 9 are administered the California Physical Fitness Test. Students who are physically unable to take the entire test are to be given as much of the test as their condition will permit.

## Sexual Health Education

The Charter School offers comprehensive sexual health education to its students in grades 7-12. A parent or guardian of a student has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. The Charter School does not require active parental or guardian consent ("opt-in") for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. Parents and guardians may:

- Inspect written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.
- Excuse their child from participation comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education in writing to the Charter School.
- Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by Charter School personnel or outside consultants. When the Charter School chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, be informed of:
  - The date of the instruction
  - The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker
- Request a copy of Education Codes 51930 through 51939.

Anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure student's health behaviors and risks (including tests, questionnaires, and surveys containing age-appropriate questions about the student's attitudes concerning or practices relating to sex) may be administered to 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. A parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. Parents or guardians shall be notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey if they wish, notified of their right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey, and informed that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to the Charter School.

A Student may not attend any class in comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education, or participate in any anonymous, voluntary, and confidential test, questionnaire, or survey on student health behaviors and risks, if the Charter School has received a written request from the student's parent or guardian excusing the student from participation. An alternative educational activity shall be made available to students whose parents or guardians have requested that they not receive the instruction or participate in the test, questionnaire, or survey.

## Information Regarding Financial Aid

The Charter School shall ensure that each of its students receives information on how to properly complete and submit the 1) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or 2) the California Dream Act Application as appropriate, at least once before the student enters 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Charter School will provide a paper copy of the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application upon request.

- The FAFSA form and information regarding the FAFSA are available at:
  - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- The California Dream Act Application and information regarding the California Dream Act is available at:
  - <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/resources-california-dream-act-application>

## Teacher Qualification Information

As the Charter School receives Title I federal funds through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA"), as reauthorized and amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"), all parents/guardians of students attending the Charter School may request information regarding the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals, including at a minimum:

1. Whether the student's teacher:
  - a. Has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - b. Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - c. Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Upon request, the Charter School will provide the information to the parents/guardians in a timely manner. Parents/guardians may contact the Executive Director/Superintendent at (530) 827-2395 to obtain this information.

## STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

### Concussion/Head Injuries

A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. Because the Charter School has elected to offer an athletic program, we must immediately remove from a school-sponsored athletic activity for the remainder of the day an athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during that activity. The athlete may not return to that activity until the athlete is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a licensed health care provider. If the licensed health care provider determines the athlete has a concussion or head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than 7 days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet must be



signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete’s parent or guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. This requirement does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course.

### Diabetes

The Charter School will provide an information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes to the parent or guardian of incoming 7th grade students, pursuant to Education Code Section 49452.7. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

1. A description of type 2 diabetes.
2. A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes.
3. A recommendation that students displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes should be screened for type 2 diabetes.
4. A description of treatments and prevention of methods of type 2 diabetes.
5. A description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available.

A copy of the information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes is available at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp>. Please contact the office if you need a copy of this information sheet or if you have any questions about this information sheet.

Beginning 1/1/2023, the Charter School will provide an information sheet regarding type 1 diabetes to the parent or guardian of a student when the student is first enrolled in elementary school, pursuant to Education Code Section 49452.6. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

1. A description of type 1 diabetes.
2. A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 1 diabetes.
3. A recommendation that parents or guardians of students displaying warning signs associated with type 1 diabetes should immediately consult with the student’s primary care provider to determine if immediate screening for type 1 diabetes is appropriate.
4. A description of the screening process for type 1 diabetes and the implications of test results.
5. A recommendation that, following a type 1 diagnosis, parents or guardians should consult with the pupil’s primary care provider to develop an appropriate treatment plan, which may include consultation with and examination by a specialty care provider, including, but not limited to, a properly qualified endocrinologist.

A copy of the information sheet regarding type 1 diabetes is available at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type1diabetes.asp>. Please contact the office if you need a copy of this information sheet or if you have any questions about this information sheet.

### Immunizations

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations, children must provide proof of having received required immunizations (shots) before they can attend school unless they meet the requirements for an exemption. Immunization records are required for all incoming students. Verification of immunizations will be completed with written medical records from the child’s doctor or immunization clinic. To ensure a safe learning environment for all students, the Charter School follows and abides by the health standards set forth by the state of California. The immunization status of all students will be reviewed periodically. Those students who are not in compliance with the State requirements must be excluded from attendance until the requirements are met. Students who have been exposed to a communicable disease for which they have not been immunized may be excluded from school at the discretion of the Charter School.

These required immunizations include:

Child’s Grade	List of shots required to attend school
<b>TK/K-12 Admission</b>	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP) - Five (5) doses Polio - Four (4) doses Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) - Two (2) doses Hepatitis B (Hep B) - Three (3) doses Varicella (chickenpox) – Two (2) doses <i>NOTE: Four doses of DTaP are allowed if one was given on or after the fourth birthday. Three doses of DTaP meet the requirement if at least one dose of Tdap, DTaP, or DTP vaccine was given on or after the seventh birthday (also meets the 7th-12th grade Tdap requirement.) One or two doses of Td vaccine given on or after the seventh birthday count towards the requirement for DTaP. Three doses of Polio are allowed if one was given on or after fourth birthday. MMR doses must be given on or after first birthday. Two doses of measles, two doses of mumps, and one dose of rubella vaccine meet the requirement, separately or combined. Combination vaccines (e.g., MMRV) meet the requirements for individual component vaccines.</i>
<b>Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Tetanus, reduced Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis (Tdap) - One (1) dose Varicella (chickenpox) - Two (2) doses <i>NOTE: In order to begin 7th grade, students who had a valid personal belief exemption on file with a public or private elementary or secondary school in California before January 1, 2016 must meet the requirements listed for grades K-12 as well as requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade advancement (i.e., polio, MMR, varicella and primary series for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis). At least one dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after the 7th birthday.</i>

Students enrolled in an independent study program without classroom-based instruction may be exempted from vaccination requirements. The school is still required to maintain records of immunization. Unimmunized students may not participate in on-campus/resource center classes.

### Opioid Information Sheet

The Charter School annually provides each athlete with an Opioid Factsheet for Patients published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The athlete and, if the athlete is 17 years of age or younger, the athlete’s parent or guardian shall sign a document acknowledging receipt of the Opioid Factsheet for Patients and return that document to the Charter School before the athlete initiates practice or competition. The fact sheet is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/AHA-Patient-Opioid-Factsheet-a.pdf>

## Mental Health Services

The Charter School recognizes that when unidentified and unaddressed, mental health challenges can lead to poor academic performance, increased likelihood of suspension and expulsion, chronic absenteeism, student attrition, homelessness, incarceration, and/or violence. Access to mental health services at the Charter School and in our community is not only critical to improving the physical and emotional safety of students, but it also helps address barriers to learning and provides support so that all students can learn problem-solving skills and achieve in school and, ultimately, in life. The following resources available to your child:

### Available on Campus:

- School-based counseling services – you or your child is encouraged to directly contact the Principal or Site Administrator to initiate counseling opportunities. The Charter School contracts with mental health professionals to provide individual sessions, group or parent or guardian consultations whenever a student is having a difficult time due to academic stress, transition to changes in their environment, or social concerns, including isolation. Counseling services, whether provided by our Charter School or by an outside provider listed in this letter, are voluntary.
- Special education services – if you believe your child may have a disability, you are encouraged to directly contact the Principal or Site Administrator to request an evaluation. You may also contact Whitney Mauck, Special Programs Administrator at 530-827-2395.
- Prescription medication while on campus – if your child requires prescription medication during school hours and you would like assistance from School staff in providing this medication to your child, please contact the Principal or Site Administrator to request a meeting. You may also contact Whitney Mauck, Special Programs Administrator at 530-827-2395

### Available in the Community:

- Plumas County Behavioral Health 270 County Hospital Rd, Quincy, CA 95971, 530-283-7050
- Lassen County Behavioral Health, 555 Hospital lane, Susanville, CA 96130, 530-251-8108, 24-hour crisis line: 888-530-8688

### Available Nationally:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline - This organization provides confidential support for adults and youth in distress, including prevention and crisis resources. Available 24 hours at 1-800-273-8255.
- The Trevor Project - This organization provides suicide prevention and crisis intervention for LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13 and 24. Available at 1-866-488-7386 or visit <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>.
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America – This organization is a community- based mentorship program. Community-specific program information can be found online at <https://www.bbbs.org> or by calling (813) 720-8778**

## Oral Health Assessment

Students enrolled in kindergarten in a public school or while enrolled in first grade if the pupil was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school are required to have an oral health assessment completed by a dental professional. Please contact the office if you have questions about this requirement.

## Pesticide Notification

The Charter School shall annually notify parents/guardians of pesticides expected to be applied during the year. We expect to use the following pesticides in your school this year:

Name of Pesticide	Active Ingredients
“ORTHO” Home Defense	Bifenthrin, Zeta-Cypermethrin
MaxAttrax Ant Bait	Indoxacarb
TERRO outdoor Liquid Ant Bait Stakes	Sodium Borate

You can find more information regarding these pesticides at the Dept. of Pesticide Regulation’s website [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov). You may view a copy of the Charter School’s integrated pest management plan on the website [www.longvalleycs.org](http://www.longvalleycs.org). Parents/guardians may request prior notification of pesticide applications at the school site. Notifications will be made through Parent Square at least 72 hours prior to application. A request for notification is available at our offices or on our website. Note self-contained bait stations are exempt from notification, posting, and reporting requirements. Questions regarding the integrated pest management plan can be directed to the Principal, Site Administrator or Jerad Morgan at 530-832-5507.

## Physical Examinations and Right to Refuse

All pupils must complete a health screening examination on or before the 90th day after the pupil’s entrance into first grade or such pupils must have obtained a waiver pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 124040 and 124085. This examination can be obtained from your family physician or possibly through the services provided by your County Health Department. Information and forms are distributed to pupils enrolled in kindergarten. If your child’s medical status changes, please provide the teacher with a physician’s written verification of the medical issue, especially if it impacts in any way your child’s ability to perform schoolwork.

A parent/guardian having control or charge of any child enrolled in the Charter School may file annually with the Principal or Site Administrator a written and signed statement stating that the parent/guardian will not consent to a physical examination of the child. Thereupon the child shall be exempt from any physical examination, but whenever there is a good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the child shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until the Charter School authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

## **Pregnant and Parenting Students**

The Charter School recognizes that pregnant and parenting pupils are entitled to accommodations that provide them with the opportunity to succeed academically while protecting their health and the health of their children. A pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to eight (8) weeks of parental leave, or more if deemed medically necessary by the pupil's physician, which the pupil may take before the birth of the pupil's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the pupil who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting pupil to care for and bond with the infant. The Charter School will ensure that absences from the pupil's regular school program are excused until the pupil is able to return to the regular school program.

Upon return to school after taking parental leave, a pregnant or parenting pupil will be able to make up work missed during their leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and reenrollment in courses. Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting pupil may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in the Charter School if it is necessary in order for the pupil to be able to complete any graduation requirements, unless the Charter School determines that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pregnant or parenting pupils may be filed under the Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") of the Charter School. The complaint may be filed in writing with the compliance officer:

Sherri Morgan, Executive Director/ Superintendent PO Box 7, Doyle, CA 96109

(530) 827-2395

A copy of the UCP is available upon request at the school office. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the complaint procedures, please contact the Executive Director/Superintendent.

## **School Bus and Passenger Safety**

All students who are transported in a school bus or school student activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the school office.

## **School Safety Plan**

The Charter School has established a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. The Plan is available upon request at the school office.

## **Use of Security Cameras on Campus**

The Long Valley Charter School is committed to the safety and security of its students, staff, parents/guardians, and visitors. To help ensure and enhance the safety of the LVCS community and foster a secure learning and teaching environment, Charter School utilizes camera surveillance equipment for security.

Security cameras will only be utilized in public areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Such public areas may include school buses, building entrances, front offices, lobbies and main entries, hallways, gymnasiums, cafeterias, parking lots, and supply rooms. Charter School security cameras will not be installed in restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, private offices (unless consent by the office owner is provided), nurse's office, classrooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

There will be no monitoring of live recordings, except in cases of reasonable suspicion of an emergency or safety concern. Reasonable suspicion means a sufficient probability or articulable facts that there is an emergency or safety concern. A review of recordings will only occur when a suspected incident is committed inside or outside the Charter School buildings (e.g., vandalism, graffiti, fighting, etc.). Such a review will be completed by authorized personnel who are expressly designated by the Principal or Site Administrator.

Any video recordings captured by Charter School's security cameras are the sole property of Charter School. Release of such recordings will be made only as permissible, pursuant to applicable laws, and with the permission of the Principal, Site Administrator, or a designee. All video recordings are stored in secure, password protected servers to avoid tampering with footage and to ensure confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Recordings will be saved for no less than thirty (30) days.

Signage will be posted at school buildings to alert students, staff, parents/guardians, and visitors regarding the use of security cameras. Students, parents/guardians, and staff will receive this Notice at the beginning of the school year regarding the use of security cameras.

## **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Automated External Defibrillators**

The Charter School is invested in the health of its athletes, especially their heart health. Sudden cardiac arrest ("SCA") is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. Those wishing to participate in athletics at Charter School, must review the information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest via the link below and attached to this handbook: <https://www.cdc.gov/dhbsp/docs/cardiac-arrest-infographic.pdf>

## **Dangers of Synthetic Drugs**

The illicit use and abuse of synthetic drugs represents an emerging and ongoing public health threat in California. The fentanyl crisis specifically, has impacted communities across the state, leading to a sharp increase in fentanyl poisonings and deaths in recent years.

This notice aims to address the crisis with a preventative approach ensuring students and families are educated on the deadly consequences of recreational drug use.

A synthetic drug is a drug with properties and effects similar to a known hallucinogen or narcotic but having a slightly altered chemical structure, especially such a drug created in order to evade existing restrictions against illegal substances.

Synthetic drugs include but are not limited to synthetic cannabinoids ("synthetic marijuana," "Spice," "K2"), methamphetamines, bath salts, and fentanyl.

The California Department of Public Health ("CDPH"), has expounded on the extreme danger of drugs laced with fentanyl. Illicit fentanyl can be added to other drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, and more addictive. Illicit fentanyl has been found in many drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine,

counterfeit pills, and cocaine. Fentanyl mixed with any drug increases the likelihood of a fatal overdose. Furthermore, it is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl without additional testing, because fentanyl cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted when used as a lacing agent. Additional information regarding fentanyl from the CDPH's Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch [can be found here](#).

## Safe Storage of Firearms

The purpose of this notice is to inform and to remind parents and legal guardians of all students at the Charter School of their responsibilities for keeping firearms out of the hands of children as required by California law. There have been many news reports of children bringing firearms to school. In many instances, the child obtained the firearm(s) from his or her home. **These incidents can be easily prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner, including keeping them locked up when not in use and storing them separately from ammunition.**

To help everyone understand their legal responsibilities, this notice spells out California law regarding the storage of firearms. Please take some time to review this notice and evaluate your own personal practices to assure that you and your family are in compliance with California law:

- With very limited exceptions, California makes a person criminally liable for keeping any firearm, loaded or unloaded, within any premises that are under their custody and control where that person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby (1) causes death or injury to the child or any other person; (2) carries the firearm off the premises or to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, or to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance; or (3) unlawfully brandishes the firearm to others.
  - The criminal penalty may be significantly greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm.
- With very limited exceptions, California also makes it a crime for a person to negligently store or leave any firearm, loaded or unloaded, on their premises in a location where the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to it without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child, even where a minor **never** actually accesses the firearm.
- In addition to potential fines and terms of imprisonment, as of January 1, 2020, a gun owner found criminally liable under these California laws faces prohibitions from possessing, controlling, owning, receiving, or purchasing a firearm for 10 years.
- Finally, a parent or guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or ward.

The county or city may have additional restrictions regarding the safe storage of firearms. Thank you for helping to keep our children and schools safe. Remember that the easiest and safest way to comply with the law is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable.

## Campus Search and Seizure

The Charter School recognizes and has determined that the occurrence of incidents which may include the possession of firearms, weapons, alcohol, controlled substances, or other items of contraband prohibited by law or Charter School rules and regulations, jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of students and Charter School employees.

The California Constitution requires that all students and staff of public schools have the inalienable right to attend campuses which are safe, secure, and peaceful. As such, Charter School has adopted a Policy outlining the reasonable search of students and their property, student use areas, and/or student lockers and the seizure of illegal, unsafe, unauthorized or contraband items and materials through a search based upon reasonable suspicion.

A student's personal cell phone, smartphone, or other personal electronic device shall not be searched by school officials without a warrant, the student's consent, or a legitimate emergency, unless the device is lost or abandoned. An emergency is any situation involving danger of death or serious physical injury to any person, that requires access to the information located or reasonably believed to be located on the electronic device. If the Charter School has a good faith belief that the device is lost, stolen, or abandoned, the Charter School may only access electronic device information in order to attempt to identify, verify, or contact the owner of the device.

The Charter School is not prohibited from seizing/confiscating a student's personal electronic device, without searching its contents, if the student's use or possession of the private electronic device is in violation of Charter School rules or regulations.

## STUDENT & FAMILY RIGHTS AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

### Involuntary Removal Process

No student shall be involuntarily removed by the Charter School for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the action ("Involuntary Removal Notice"). The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder. The Involuntary Removal Notice shall include the charges against the student and an explanation of the student's basic rights including the right to request a hearing before the effective date of the action. The hearing shall be consistent with the Charter School's expulsion procedures. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed

until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to the Charter School's suspension and expulsion policy.

Upon parent/guardian request for a hearing, the Charter School will provide notice of hearing consistent with its expulsion hearing process, through which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate. The notice of hearing shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder and shall include a copy of the Charter School's expulsion hearing process.

If the parent/guardian is nonresponsive to the Involuntary Removal Notice, the Student will be disenrolled as of the effective date set forth in the Involuntary Removal Notice. If parent/guardian requests a hearing and does not attend on the date scheduled for the hearing the Student will be disenrolled effective the date of the hearing.

If as a result of the hearing the student is disenrolled, notice will be sent to the student's last known district of residence within thirty (30) days.

A hearing decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent the Charter School from making a similar recommendation in the future should student truancy continue or re-occur.

## Lost or Damaged School Property

If a student willfully damages Charter School's property or the personal property of a Charter School employee, or fails to return a textbook, library book, computer/tablet or other Charter School property that has been loaned to the student, the student's parents/guardians are liable for all damages caused by the student's misconduct not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), adjusted annually for inflation. After notifying the student's parent or guardian in writing of the student's alleged misconduct and affording the student due process, Charter School may withhold the student's grades, transcripts, and diploma until the damages have been paid. If the student and the student's parent/guardian are unable to pay for the damages or to return the property, Charter School will provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the student's grades and diploma will be released.

## Family Engagement and Parent Involvement

The Charter School encourages all families to participate and get engaged and involved in the education of their child/children. The Charter School aims to provide all students in our school significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps while abiding by guidelines within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA"). The Charter School staff recognizes a partnership with families is essential to meet this goal. Our Title I Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy 6016 and Parent/Guardian Involvement and Family Educational Rights Policy 6002 leverages and promotes active involvement of all families as partners with schools to ensure student success. For a copy of the policies, please see the following links or request a copy from the school office:

<http://www.longvalleycs.org/documents/Policies%202017/6002%20Family%20Educational%20Rights%206-28-07.pdf>

<https://www.longvalleycs.org/documents/6016%20Title%20I%202012-13-18.pdf>

## Universal School Meals

### 1. **Universal Meals Program (classroom based)**

Pursuant to California law, commencing with the 2022-23 school year, the Charter School shall provide two (2) nutritionally adequate meals to each student who requests a meal without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal, with a maximum of one (1) free meal per meal service (breakfast and lunch) each school day. This shall apply to all pupils in kindergarten through grade twelve (12).

### 2. **Universal Meals Program (Non-classroom based)**

The Charter School shall provide two (2) nutritionally adequate meals to each student who requests a meal without consideration of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal on each school day on which the student is present for educational activities at a school site, resource center, meeting space or other satellite facility operated by the Charter School. Breakfast and lunch are offered at scheduled times only; the schedule is available by contacting the school's office. Meals must be consumed at the site. This shall apply to all pupils in kindergarten through grade twelve (12).

Applications for school meals are provided and can also be obtained on the Charter School website and in the main office. Completed application forms can be returned to the main office. The Charter School also maintains a School Wellness Policy pursuant to state and federal requirements. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the school office and on the school's website.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

The Charter School does not discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, immigration status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes in the California Penal Code.

The Charter School adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEA").

The Charter School is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex); Titles IV, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, or national origin); The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; The Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the IDEIA; and Section 504 and Title II of the ADA (mental or physical disability). Charter School also prohibits sexual harassment, including cyber sexual bullying, and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, religious affiliation, creed, color, immigration status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. Charter School does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including discrimination, intimidation, or bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which Charter School does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender. Charter School will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. Inquiries, complaints, or grievances regarding harassment as described in this section, above, should be directed to the Charter School Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") Compliance Officer:

Sherri Morgan, Executive Director/ Superintendent PO Box 7, Doyle, CA 96109 (530) 827-2395

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in the Charter School's programs or activities. The Charter School prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates or refuses to participate in a complaint investigation.

The Charter School does not discourage students from enrolling or seeking to enroll in the Charter School for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance, disability, neglect or delinquency, English proficiency, for being homeless or a foster/mobile youth, economic disadvantage, nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The Charter School shall not encourage a student currently attending Charter School to disenroll or transfer to another school based on any of the aforementioned reasons except in cases of expulsion and suspension or involuntary removal in accordance with the Charter School's charter and relevant policies.

The Charter School does not request nor require student records prior to a student's enrollment.

The Charter School shall provide a copy of the California Department of Education Complaint Notice and Form to any parent, guardian, or student over the age of 18 at the following times: (1) when a parent, guardian, or student over of the age of 18 inquires about enrollment; (2) before conducting an enrollment lottery; and (3) before disenrollment of a student.

## **Uniform Complaint Procedure**

The Charter School has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The Charter School shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure ("UCP") adopted by our Governing Board for the following types of complaints:

1. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaints against any protected group, including actual or perceived discrimination, on the basis of the actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, immigration status/citizenship, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, nationality, national origin, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any charter school program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance.
2. Violations of state or federal law and regulations governing the following programs including but not limited to:
  - Accommodations for Pregnant, Parenting, or Lactating Students
  - Adult Education Programs
  - Career Technical and Technical Education and Training Programs
  - Child Nutrition Programs
  - Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs
  - Every Student Succeeds Act
  - Foster and Homeless Youth Services
  - Local Control Funding Formula/Local Control and Accountability Plan
  - Migrant Child Education Programs
  - Regional Occupational Centers and Programs
  - School Safety Plans
  - Special Education Programs
  - State Preschool Programs

3. Noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees. A pupil enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity. A pupil fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - A fee charged to a pupil as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory or is for credit.
  - A security deposit, or other payment, that a pupil is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
  - A purchase that a pupil is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.
  - A pupil fee complaint shall not be filed later than one (1) year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees are filed with the School Executive Director/Superintendent of the Charter School. A complaint regarding pupil fees may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to pupil fees.

Complaints other than complaints relating to pupil fees must be filed in writing with the following compliance officer:

Sherri Morgan, Executive Director/ Superintendent

PO Box 7, Doyle, CA 96109 (530) 827-2395 [smorgan@longvalleycs.org](mailto:smorgan@longvalleycs.org)

4. Complaints alleging noncompliance with the requirements governing the Local Control Funding Formula ("LCFF") or Local Control and Accountability Plans ("LCAP") under Education Code sections 47606.5 and 47607.3, as applicable. If the Charter School adopts a School Plan for Student Achievement ("SPSA") in addition to its LCAP, complaints of noncompliance with the requirements of the SPSA under Education Code sections 64000, 64001, 65000, and 65001 shall also fall under the UCP.

Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding child nutrition programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 49490-49590 are governed by Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") sections 210.19(a)(4), 215.1(a), 220.13(c), 225.11(b), 226.6(n), and 250.15(d) and Title 5, California Code of Regulations ("C.C.R.") sections 15580 - 15584.

Complaints alleging noncompliance regarding special education programs established pursuant to Education Code sections 56000-56865 and 59000-59300 are governed by the procedures set forth in 5 C.C.R. sections 3200-3205 and 34 C.F.R. sections 300.151-300.153.

Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed within six (6) months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurred or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, unless the time for filing is extended by the School Director or designee in writing.

Complaints will be investigated and a written Decision or report will be sent to the complainant within sixty (60) days from the receipt of the complaint. This sixty (60) day time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant. The compliance officer responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with California regulations and in accordance with the Charter School's procedures.

The complainant has a right to appeal the Charter School's Decision to the California Department of Education ("CDE") by filing a written appeal within fifteen (15) days of receiving the final written Decision. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with the School, a copy of the Decision, and the complainant must specify the basis for the appeal of the Decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied.

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the Charter School's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying complaints arising under state law, however, a complainant must wait until sixty (60) days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the Charter School has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of his/her right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR § 4622.

A copy of the UCP policy and complaint procedures shall be available free of charge in the School Office or School website. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the complaint procedures, please contact the Executive Director/Superintendent.

## **Educational Records, including Challenges and Directory Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") affords parents/guardians and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 5 business days after the day the Charter School receives a request for access. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the School Director or designee a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect.

The Charter School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents/guardians or eligible students who wish to ask the Charter School to amend a record should write the School Director or designee, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the Charter School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the Charter School will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. If the Charter School decides to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the School Director must order the correction or the removal and destruction of the information and inform the parent/guardian or eligible student of the amendment in writing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the Charter School discloses personally identifiable information ("PII") from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to Charter School officials with legitimate educational interests. A Charter School official is a person employed by the Charter School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the Charter School board. A Charter School official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the Charter School who performs an institutional service of function for which the Charter School would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent/guardian or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent/guardian, student, or other volunteer assisting another Charter School official in performing their tasks. A Charter School official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

Upon request, the Charter School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled, if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Note that Charter School will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Charter School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office-U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

5. The right to request that the Charter School not release student names, addresses and telephone listings to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental or guardian consent.

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from student's education records, without consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to Charter School officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent/guardian or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the Charter School to record the disclosure. Parents/guardians and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A Charter School may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents/guardians or the eligible student to the following parties:

1. To other Charter School officials who have legitimate educational interests as defined by 34 C.F.R. Part 99.
2. Other schools to which a student seeks or intends to enroll so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. When a student transfers schools, the Charter School will mail the original or a copy of a student's cumulative file to the receiving district or private school within ten (10) school days following the date the request is received from the public school or private school where the pupil intends to enroll. Charter School will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the request for records at their last known address, unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent/guardian or eligible student. Additionally, Charter School will give the parent/guardian or eligible student, upon request, a copy of the record that was disclosed and give the parent/guardian or eligible student, upon request, an opportunity for hearing pursuant to Section (IV)(3) above.
3. Certain government officials listed in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1) in order to carry out lawful functions.
4. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4)).
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for the Charter School in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(F).



6. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7)).
7. To parents/guardians of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8)).
8. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9)). Subject to the exceptions found in 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(9)(i), reasonable effort must be made to notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent/guardian or eligible student may seek a protective order.
9. To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36.(§99.31(a)(10)).
10. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.
11. A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former student, a short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student, and a caregiver (regardless of whether the caregiver has been appointed as the pupil's educational rights holder) who has direct responsibility for the care of the student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or nonrelated extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline, and online communication on platforms established by Charter School for student and parents/guardians, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by Charter School.
12. A victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by Charter School with respect to that alleged crime or offense. Charter School discloses the final results of the disciplinary proceeding regardless of whether Charter School concluded a violation was committed.

"Directory Information" is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Charter School may disclose the personally identifiable information that it has designated as directory information without a parent's or guardian's prior written consent. The Charter School has designated the following information as directory information:

Student's name	Parent's/guardian's address
Student's address	Telephone listing
Student's electronic mail address	Parent's/guardian's electronic mail address
Photograph	Date and place of birth
Dates of attendance	Grade level
Participation in officially recognized activities and sports	Weight and height of members of athletic teams
Degrees, honors, and awards received	The most recent educational agency or institution attended

Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's social security number, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

If you do not want the Charter School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Charter School in writing at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment. Please notify the Executive Director/Superintendent at: [smorgan@longvalleycs.org](mailto:smorgan@longvalleycs.org) PO Box 7, Doyle, CA 96122, 530-827-2395. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office.

#### **Use of Student Information Learned from Social Media**

The Charter School complies with all federal, state, and local guidelines regarding the gathering and/or maintenance of information about any enrolled student obtained from social media in the student's educational record. The Charter School gathers student information from social media. Such information shall be maintained in the Charter School's records with regard to the student and shall be destroyed within one (1) year after a student turns 18 years of age or within one (1) year after the student is no longer enrolled in the Charter School, whichever occurs first. A non-minor student or a student's parent or guardian may access the student's records for examination of the information, request the removal of information or corrections made to information gathered or maintained by the Charter School by contacting the Executive Director.

## **SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

### **Education of Foster Children and Mobile Youth**

The Charter School has adopted a policy governing the education of foster youth, consistent with state and federal law.

**Definitions:** For the purposes of this annual notice the terms are defined as follows:

- "Foster youth" means any of the following:
  1. A child who has been removed from their home pursuant to Section 309 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
  2. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code ("WIC") section 300 or 602 (whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home by juvenile court).
  3. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant WIC section 602, has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court, and is in foster care.
  4. A nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as described in WIC section 450, who satisfies all of the following criteria:
    - a. The nonminor has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by the juvenile court.

- b. The nonminor is in foster care under the placement and care responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.
- c. The nonminor is participating in a transitional independent living case plan.
5. A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court.<sup>1</sup>
6. A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in WIC section 11400.
- 7.

\*"Former juvenile court school student" means a student who, upon completion of the student's second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to the Charter School, excluding a school district operated by the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, from a juvenile court school.

\*"Child of a military family" refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.

"Currently Migratory Child" refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to the Charter School from another Local Educational Agency ("LEA"), either within California or from another state, so that the child or a member of the child's immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child's eligibility for migrant education services. This includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.

\*"Student participating in a newcomer program" means a student who is participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant students that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency.

Within this notice, foster youth, former juvenile court school students, a child of a military family, a currently migratory child, and a student participating in the newcomer program will be collectively referred to as "Foster and Mobile Youth." Within this notice, a parent, guardian, or other person holding the educational rights for a Foster and Mobile Youth will be referred to as a "parent/guardian."

**Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison:** The Executive Director or designee designates the following staff person as the Liaison for Foster and Mobile Youth: Whitney Zubillaga, Special Programs Administrator PO Box 7, Doyle, CA 9610 530-827-2395 [wzubillaga@longvalleycs.org](mailto:wzubillaga@longvalleycs.org)

The Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison's responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Ensuring and facilitating the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children.
2. Assisting foster children when transferring from one school to another school in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records and grades.

**School Stability:** The Charter School will work with foster youth and their parent/guardian to ensure that each pupil is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils, including, but not necessarily limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a foster youth's education and placement will be based on the best interest of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Foster youth, currently migratory children and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is in their best interest. The Charter School will immediately enroll a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking reenrollment in the Charter School as the student's school of origin (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy). If a dispute arises regarding a foster youth's request to remain in the Charter School as the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in the Charter School pending the resolution of the dispute. The Charter School will also immediately enroll any foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking to transfer to the Charter School (subject to the Charter School's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy) regardless of the student's ability to meet normal enrollment documentation or uniform requirements (e.g., producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

Foster youth, currently migratory children, and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin following the termination of the child's status as a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family, as follows:

1. For students in Kindergarten through eighth grade, inclusive, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through the duration of the academic year in which the student's status changed.
2. For students enrolled in high school, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through graduation.

**Graduation Requirements:** Foster and Mobile Youth who transfer to the Charter School any time after the completion of their second year of high school, and pupils participating in a newcomer program who are in their third or fourth year of high school, shall be exempt from any of the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless the Charter School makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

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<sup>1</sup> The Charter School shall not require an Indian tribe or tribal court representative to certify that any student is a dependent of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.

To determine whether a Foster and Mobile Youth is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the student's school enrollment may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption. In the case of a pupil participating in a newcomer program, enrollment in grade 11 or 12 based on the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school may be used to determine whether the student is in their third or fourth year of high school.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a student who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into the Charter School, the Charter School shall notify the student, the parent/guardian, and where applicable, the student's social worker or probation officer, of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for an exemption.

The Charter School shall notify and consult with students who are exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements and the student's parent/guardian/educational rights holder. The consultation shall include all of the following:

1. Discussion regarding how any of the requirements that are waived may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
3. Consideration of the pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption.

The Charter School shall not require any student who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School to accept the exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements or deny the student enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible. The Charter School shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible student's request for the exemption at any time if the student qualifies, regardless of whether the student previously declined the exemption.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth who was eligible for an exemption and 1) was not properly notified of the availability of the exemption, or 2) previously declined the exemption pursuant to this Policy, the Charter School shall exempt the student within thirty (30) days of the exemption request, if an exemption is requested by the youth and the youth at one time qualified for the exemption, even if the pupil is no longer a Foster and Mobile Youth or the court's jurisdiction of the pupil has terminated.

An eligible student's exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the student is enrolled in the Charter School or if the student transfers to another school even after the court's jurisdiction terminates or the student no longer meets the definition of a child of a military family, a currently migratory child or a pupil participating in a newcomer program.

The Charter School shall not require or request that a student transfer schools in order to qualify the student for the exemption. Nor shall a student, a student's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a student's social worker or probation officer request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

If a student who is exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements completes the California minimum coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the student's fourth year of high school and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School, the Charter School shall not require or request that the student graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If the Charter School determines the student is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements by the end of the student's fifth year of high school, the Charter School shall do the following:

1. Consult with the student of the student's option to remain at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements.
2. Consult with the student, and the educational rights holder for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
3. Consult with and provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. Permit the student to stay at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the educational rights holder for the student.

Through January 1, 2028, upon making a finding that a Foster and Mobile Youth **is not reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements but is reasonably able to complete state coursework requirements specified in Education Code Section 51225.3** within the student's fifth year of high school, the Executive Director or designee shall exempt the pupil from Charter School's graduation requirements and provide pupil the option of remaining in school for a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year to complete the statewide coursework requirements. Charter School shall consult with the Foster and Mobile Youth and the educational rights holder regarding all of the following:

1. The pupil's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.
2. How waiving the local educational requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a institution of higher education.
3. Whether any other options are available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. The pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth is not eligible for an exemption in the year in which the pupil transfers between schools, because Charter School makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, then Charter School shall do the following:

1. Within the first 30 calendar days of the **following** academic year, Charter School shall reevaluate eligibility;
2. Provide written notice to the pupil, the educational rights holder, and the pupil's social worker or probation officer, if applicable, whether the pupil qualifies for an exemption, based on the course completion status of the pupil at the time of reevaluation, to determine if the pupil continues to be reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.
3. If, given their course completion status at that time the reevaluation is conducted, the pupil is not reasonably able to complete Charter School additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, the Charter School shall:
  - a. provide the pupil with the option to receive an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board body of Charter School that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in Section 51225.3, or
  - b. to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

Charter School shall provide notification of the availability of these options. The pupil (if not a minor) or the educational rights holder shall have sole discretion whether to accept the exemption, based on the pupil's best educational interests.

**Acceptance of Course Work:** The Charter School will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a Foster and Mobile Youth.

The Charter School will provide Foster and Mobile Youth credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the student did not complete the entire course, the Charter School shall not require the student to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless the Charter School, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the Foster and Mobile Youth shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. These students shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

**Student Records:** When the Charter School receives a transfer request and/or student records request for the educational information and records of a foster youth from a new local educational agency ("LEA"), the Charter School shall provide these student records within two (2) business days. The Charter School shall compile the complete educational record of the student, including but not limited to a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the student's special education records including assessments, IEPs, and/or 504 plans. All requests for student records will be shared with the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison, who shall be aware of the specific educational record keeping needs of Foster and Mobile Youth.

The Charter School shall not lower a foster youth's grades as a result of the student's absence due to a verified court appearance, related court ordered activity, or a change the placement of the student made by a county or placing agency. If a foster youth is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of the student made by a county or placing agency, the grades and credits of the pupil will be calculated as of the date the student left the Charter School.

In accordance with the Charter School's Educational Records and Student Information Policy, under limited circumstances, the Charter School may disclose student records or personally identifiable information contained in those records to certain requesting parties including but not limited to a foster family agency and state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, without parent/guardian consent. Students who are 16 years of age or older or have finished 10th grade may access their own school records.

**Discipline Determinations:** If the Charter School intends to extend the suspension of any foster youth pending a recommendation for expulsion, the Charter School will invite the student's attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the meeting at which the extension of the suspension will be discussed.

If the Charter School intends to suspend for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or expel a student with a disability who is also a foster youth due to an act for which the recommendation for expulsion is discretionary, the Charter School will invite the student's attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the Manifestation Determination Review meeting.

**Complaints of Noncompliance:** A complaint of noncompliance with any of the requirements outlined above may be filed through the Charter School's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available on the Charter School's website.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Charter School shall report to the California Department of Education ("CDE") annually on the number of pupils who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements. This data shall be reported for pupils graduating in the fourth year and fifth year cohorts, and shall be disaggregated by cohort, pupil category, race, and disability status. The CDE shall make this data publicly available on an annual basis aligned with other reporting timelines for the California dashboard graduation data. For purposes of this subdivision, "pupil category" means the categories of pupils identified in the "Definitions" section of this Policy, above. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the school office or on our website.

### **Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who (42 USC 11434a):

1. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
3. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition of "homeless."

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent or guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the Charter School Liaison. Charter School Liaison: The Executive Director/Superintendent or designee designates the following staff person as the Charter School Liaison for homeless students ((42 USC 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii) & (e)(3)(C)(i)(IV).):

Whitney Zubillaga, Special Programs Administrator PO Box 7, Doyle, CA 9610 530-827-2395 wzubillaga@longvalleycs.org

The Charter School Liaison shall ensure that (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(6)):

1. Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
2. Homeless students enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at the Charter School.
3. Homeless students and families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by the Charter School, if any, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.
4. Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
5. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth.
6. Enrollment/admissions disputes are mediated in accordance with law, the school's charter document, and Board policy.
7. Parents/guardians and any unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable.
8. Charter School personnel providing services receive professional development and other support.
9. The Charter School Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.
10. Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school; have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from the School Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

The California Department of Education publishes a list of the contact information for the Homeless Education Liaisons in the state, which is available at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>

Housing Questionnaire: Charter School shall administer a housing questionnaire for purposes of identifying homeless children and youth. Charter School shall ensure that the housing questionnaire is based on the best practices developed by the CDE. Charter School shall annually provide the housing questionnaire to all parents/guardians of students and to all unaccompanied youths at Charter School. The housing questionnaire shall include an explanation of the rights and protections a student has as a homeless child or youth or as an unaccompanied youth. The housing questionnaire shall be available in paper form. The housing questionnaire shall be available in English, and if fifteen (15) percent or more of the students enrolled at Charter School speak a single primary language other than English, it shall also be written in the primary language. The questionnaire shall be translated into other languages upon request of a student's parent/guardian or an unaccompanied youth. Charter School shall collect the completed housing questionnaires and annually report to the CDE the number of homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths enrolled. (Education Code Section 48851.)

High School Graduation Requirements: Homeless students who transfer to the Charter School any time after the completion of their second year of high school shall be exempt from any of the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless the Charter School makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a homeless student is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the student's school enrollment may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a student who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into the Charter School, the Charter School shall notify the student, the student's educational rights holder, and the Charter School Liaison of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for an exemption.

The Charter School shall notify students who are exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements and the student's educational rights holder of how any of the requirements that are waived will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

The Charter School shall not require any student who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School to accept the exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements or deny the student enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible. The Charter School shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible student's request for the exemption at any time if the student qualifies, regardless of whether the student previously declined the exemption. An eligible student's exemption from the Charter School's additional

graduation requirements will continue to apply while the student is enrolled in the Charter School or if the student transfers to another school even after the student no longer meets the definition of a homeless child.

The Charter School shall not require or request that a student transfer schools in order to qualify the student for the exemption. Nor shall a student, a student's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a student's social worker or probation officer request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

If a student who is exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements completes the California minimum coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the student's fourth year of high school and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School, the Charter School shall not require or request that the student graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If the Charter School determines the student is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fifth year of high school, the Charter School shall do the following:

1. Inform the student of the student's option to remain at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements.
2. Inform the student, and the educational rights holder for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
3. Provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. Permit the student to stay at the Charter School for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the educational rights holder for the student.

Acceptance of Course Work: The Charter School will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a homeless student.

The Charter School will provide homeless students credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the student did not complete the entire course, the Charter School shall not require the student to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless the Charter School, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the homeless student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. These students shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

For any homeless student who enrolls at the Charter School, a copy of the Charter School's complete policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the school office or on the school's website at the link below.

<https://www.longvalleycs.org/documents/Policies%202017/6009%20McKinney%20Vento%20Homeless%20Youth%20Policy%209-10-13.pdf>

## English Learners

The Charter School is committed to the success of its English Learners and support will be offered both within academic classes and in supplemental settings for students who need additional support for English language learning. The Charter School will meet all applicable legal requirements for English Learners as they pertain to annual notification to parents, student identification, placement, program options, English Learners and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. The Charter School will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding English Learners and the rights of students and parents.

## Section 504

The Charter School recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that no qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the Charter School. Any student who has an objectively identified disability which substantially limits a major life activity, including, but not limited to learning, is eligible for accommodations by the Charter School. The parent/guardian of any student suspected of needing or qualifying for accommodations under Section 504 may make a referral for an evaluation to the principal or site administrator. A copy of the Charter School's Section 504 policies and procedures is available upon request.

## Special Education/Students with Disabilities

We are dedicated to the belief that all students can learn and must be guaranteed equal opportunity to become contributing members of the academic environment and society. The Charter School provides special education instruction and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEA"), Education Code requirements, and applicable policies and procedures of the Lassen County SELPA. These services are available for special education students enrolled at the Charter School. We offer high quality educational programs and services for all our students in accordance with the assessed needs of each student. The Charter School collaborates with parents/guardians, the student, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each student.

Pursuant to the IDEA and relevant state law, the Charter School is responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating children enrolled at the Charter School with known or suspected disabilities to determine whether a need for special education and related services exists. This includes children with disabilities who are homeless or foster youth. The Charter School shall not deny nor discourage any student from enrollment solely due to a disability. If you believe your child may be eligible for special education services, please contact Whitney Mauck, Special Programs Administrator, 530-827-2395.

## APPENDIX B: COMPLETE POLICIES

### **Suspension and Expulsion Policy    Adopted/Ratified: 5/16/17    Revision Date: 8/10/23**

Suspension and Expulsion Policy has been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well-being of all students at the Charter School. In creating this policy, the Charter School has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* which describe the offenses for which students at non-charter schools may be suspended or expelled and the procedures governing those suspensions and expulsions in order to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions, expulsions and involuntary removal. The language that follows is largely consistent with the language of Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* The Charter School is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions, expulsions, and involuntary removals, and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension, expulsion, or involuntary removal.

Consistent with this Policy, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction. This shall serve as the Charter School's policy and procedures for student suspension, expulsion, and involuntary removal, and it may be amended from time to time without the need to seek a material revision of the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements. Charter School staff shall enforce disciplinary policies and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. This Policy and its Procedures will be printed and distributed annually as part of the Student Handbook which will clearly describe discipline expectations.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.

The Charter School administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians<sup>2</sup> are notified in writing upon enrollment of all discipline and involuntary removal policies and procedures. The notice shall state that this policy and its procedures are available upon request at site administrator's office.

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

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

No student shall be involuntarily removed by the Charter School for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five (5) schooldays before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian, and shall inform them of the basis for which the pupil is being involuntarily removed and their right to request a hearing to challenge the involuntary removal. If a parent/guardian requests a hearing, the Charter School shall utilize the same hearing procedures specified below for expulsions, before the effective date of the action to involuntarily remove the student. If the student's parent/guardian requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the Charter School issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include removals for misconduct which may be grounds for suspension or expulsion as enumerated below. Students may be involuntarily removed for reasons including, but not limited to, failure to comply with the terms of the student's independent study Master Agreement pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(c)(4).

#### **Procedures**

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<sup>2</sup> The Charter School shall ensure that a homeless child or youth's educational rights holder; a foster child or youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker; and an Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker have the same rights as a parent or guardian to receive a suspension notice, expulsion notice, manifestation determination notice, involuntary transfer notice, involuntary removal notice, and other documents and related information. For purposes of this Policy and its Procedures, the term "parent/guardian" shall include these parties.

## A. Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students

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

## B. Enumerated Offenses

1. Discretionary Suspension Offenses. Students may be suspended for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
  - a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
  - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
  - c) Unlawfully possessed, used, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
  - d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
  - e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
  - f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of pupil's own prescription products.
  - i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
  - j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
  - k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. This section shall only apply to students in any of grades 9-12, inclusive.
  - l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
  - m) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
  - n) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
  - o) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
  - p) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
  - q) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for their own safety or for their immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or their immediate family.
  - r) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  - s) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision c of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  - t) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers, and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
  - u) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.



- 1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
    - i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of their age, or for a person of their age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
    - ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
    - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with their academic performance.
    - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
  - 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the schoolsite, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
    - i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
    - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
      - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
      - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
      - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
    - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
      - (a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
      - (b) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
  - 3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.
- v) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)-(b).
  - w) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.
2. Non-Discretionary Suspension Offenses: Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
    - a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.
    - b) Brandishing a knife at another person.
    - c) Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, *et seq.*
    - d) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 or former Section 288a of the Penal Code, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4
  3. Discretionary Expellable Offenses: Students may be recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the pupil:
    - a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
    - b) Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.

- c) Unlawfully possessed, used, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
- e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- h) Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of pupil's own prescription products.
- i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j) Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- k) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- l) Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
- m) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- n) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- o) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- p) Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for their own safety or for their immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or their immediate family.
- q) Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- r) Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- s) Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers, and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to pupils in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- t) Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
  - 1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
    - i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of their age, or for a person of their age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
    - ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
    - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with their academic performance.
    - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.

- 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the schoolsite, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
  - i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
  - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
    - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
    - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.
    - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.
  - iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
    - (a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
    - (b) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

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

- u) A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (3)(a)-(b).
- v) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.

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

- a) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Executive Director or designee's concurrence.
- b) Brandishing a knife at another person.
- c) Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, *et seq.*
- d) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code Sections 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289 or former Section 288a of the Penal Code, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code Section 243.4

If it is determined by the Administrative Panel and/or Board of Directors that a student has brought a firearm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or dangerous device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994. In such instances, the pupil shall be provided due process rights of notice and a hearing as required in this policy.

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

The term "knife" means (A) any dirk, dagger, or other weapon with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing; (B) a weapon with a blade fitted primarily for stabbing; (C) a weapon with a blade longer than 3½ inches; (D) a folding knife with a blade that locks into place or (E) a razor with an unguarded blade.

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

## **C. Suspension Procedure**

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

### **1. Conference**

Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee with the student their parent/guardian and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the student to the Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee.

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

At the conference, the pupil shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against them and shall be given the opportunity to present their version and evidence in their defense, in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(i). This conference shall be held within two (2) school days, unless the pupil waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a pupil for failure of the pupil's parent or guardian to attend a conference with Charter School officials. Reinstatement of the suspended pupil shall not be contingent upon attendance by the pupil's parent or guardian at the conference.

### **2. Notice to Parents/Guardians**

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

### **3. Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion**

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five (5) consecutive school days per suspension. Upon a recommendation of expulsion by the Executive Director or Executive Director's designee, the pupil and the pupil's parent/guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the pupil should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. In such instances when the Charter School has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the pupil or the pupil's parents/guardians, unless the pupil and the pupil's parents/guardians fail to attend the conference.

This determination will be made by the Executive Director or designee upon either of the following: 1) the pupil's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the pupil poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the pupil's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

### **4. Homework Assignments During Suspension**

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(a), upon the request of a parent, a legal guardian or other person holding the right to make education decisions for the student, or the affected student, a teacher shall provide to a student in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who has been suspended from school for two (2) or more school days, the homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned.

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(b), if a homework assignment that is requested pursuant to Section 47606.2(a) and turned into the teacher by the student either upon the student's return to school from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, is not graded before the end of the academic term, that assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class.

## **D. Authority to Expel**

As required by Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(ii), students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer to determine whether the student should be expelled. The procedures herein provide for such a hearing and the notice of said hearing, as required by law.

A student may be expelled either by the neutral and impartial Charter School Board of Directors following a hearing before it or by the Charter School Board of Directors upon the recommendation of a neutral and impartial Administrative Panel, to be assigned by the Board of Directors as needed. The Administrative Panel shall consist of at least three (3) members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the pupil or a member of the Charter School

Board of Directors. Each entity shall be presided over by a designated neutral hearing chairperson. The Administrative Panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense, and the Board of Directors shall make the final determination.

## **E. Expulsion Procedures**

Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee determines that the pupil has committed an expellable offense.

In the event an Administrative Panel hears the case, it will make a recommendation to the Board for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session (complying with all pupil confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the pupil makes a written request for a public hearing in open session three (3) days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

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

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

## **F. Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses**

The Charter School may, upon a finding of good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations that shall be examined only by the Charter School or the hearing officer.

Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the pupil.

- 1) The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of their right to (a) receive five (5) day's notice of his/her scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of their choosing present in the hearing at the time the complaining witness testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
- 2) The Charter School must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
- 3) At the discretion of the entity conducting the expulsion hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which the complaining witness may leave the hearing room.
- 4) The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.
- 5) The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours the complaining witness is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
- 6) Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the entity presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany the complaining witness to the witness stand.
- 7) If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, the Charter School must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to the Charter School. The entity presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising their discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom they believe is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.
- 8) The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.
- 9) Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in public at the request of the pupil being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have their testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are no alternative procedures to avoid the

threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by means of closed-circuit television.

- 10) Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard absent a determination by the person conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstance can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness shall be entitled to be represented by a parent/guardian, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

### **G. Record of Hearing**

A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

### **H. Presentation of Evidence**

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the Administrative Panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board or Administrative Panel determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

If, due to a written request by the expelled pupil, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have their testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

### **I. Expulsion Decision**

The decision of the Administrative Panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board of Directors, which will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the Board of Directors shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion or the Board ultimately decides not to expel, the pupil shall immediately be returned to his/her educational program.

The Board of Directors may also determine to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order for a period of not more than one (1) calendar year from the date of the expulsion hearing and return the student to the student's previous educational program under a probationary status and rehabilitation plan to be determined by the Board. During the period of the suspension of the expulsion order, the student is deemed to be on probationary status. The Board of Directors may revoke the suspension of an expulsion order under this section if the student commits any of the enumerated offenses listed above or violates any of the Charter School's rules and regulations governing student conduct. If the Board revokes the suspension of an expulsion order, the student may be expelled under the terms of the original expulsion order. The Board of Directors shall apply the criteria for suspending the enforcement of the expulsion order equally to all students, including individuals with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code Section 56026. The Board of Directors shall further comply with the provisions set forth under Education Code Section 48917, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein.

### **J. Written Notice to Expel**

The Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee, following a decision of the Board of Directors to expel, shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Board of Directors' adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following: (a) Notice of the specific offense committed by the student; and (b) Notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with the Charter School.

The Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the authorizer. This notice shall include the following: (a) The student's name; and (b) The specific expellable offense committed by the student.

### **K. Disciplinary Records**

The Charter School shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at the Charter School. Such records shall be made available to the authorizer upon request.

#### **L. No Right to Appeal**

The pupil shall have no right of appeal from expulsion from the Charter School as the Charter School Board of Directors' decision to expel shall be final.

#### **M. Expelled Pupils/Alternative Education**

Parents/guardians of pupils who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs including, but not limited to, programs within the County or their school district of residence. The Charter School shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during expulsion.

#### **N. Rehabilitation Plans**

Students who are expelled from the Charter School shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by the Board of Directors at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one year from the date of expulsion when the pupil may reapply to the Charter School for readmission.

#### **O. Readmission or Admission of Previously Expelled Student**

The decision to readmit a student after the end of the student's expulsion term or to admit a previously expelled student from another school district or charter school who has not been readmitted/admitted to another school or school district after the end of the student's expulsion term, shall be in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors following a meeting with the Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee and the student and student's parent/guardian to determine whether the student has successfully completed the rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the student poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Executive Director or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors following the meeting regarding the Executive Director's/Superintendent's or designee's determination. The Board shall then make a final decision regarding readmission or admission of the student during the closed session of a public meeting, reporting out any action taken during closed session consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act. The student's readmission is also contingent upon the Charter School's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission or admission to the Charter School.

#### **P. Notice to Teachers**

The Charter School shall notify teachers of each pupil who has engaged in or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in any of the acts listed in Education Code Section 49079 and the corresponding enumerated offenses set forth above.

#### **Q. Involuntary Removal for Truancy**

As charter schools are schools of choice and as a charter school student who fails to attend school is potentially depriving another student of their opportunity to enroll, a student may be involuntarily removed as described within the Charter School's Board adopted Attendance Policy for truancy or independent Study/missed assignments policy and only after the Charter School follows the requirements of the Attendance Policy and/or Independent Study Policy and only in accordance with the policy described above which requires notice and an opportunity for a parent, guardian, educational rights holder to request a hearing prior to any involuntary removal. Students who are involuntarily removed for truancy/failure to adhere to the terms of the independent study policy will be given a rehabilitation plan and will be subject to the readmission procedures set forth herein.

#### **R. Special Procedures for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion or Involuntary Removal of Students with Disabilities**

##### **1. Notification of SELPA**

The Charter School shall immediately notify the SELPA and coordinate the procedures in this policy with the SELPA of the discipline of any student with a disability or student that the Charter School or the SELPA would be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability.

##### **2. Services During Suspension**

Students suspended for more than ten (10) school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting (which could constitute a change of placement and the student's IEP would reflect this change), and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral

assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

### 3. Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination

Within ten (10) school days of a recommendation for expulsion or any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the Charter School, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP/504 Plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents/guardians to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
- b. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If the Charter School, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

If the Charter School, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

- a. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that the Charter School had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- b. If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
- c. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent/guardian and the Charter School agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If the Charter School, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a direct result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then the Charter School may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

### 4. Due Process Appeals

The parent/guardian of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or the Charter School, believing that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, may request an expedited administrative hearing through the Special Education Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings or by utilizing the dispute provisions of the 504 Policy and Procedures.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent/guardian or the Charter School, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer in accordance with state and federal law, including 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k), until the expiration of the forty-five (45) day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, unless the parent/guardian and the Charter School agree otherwise.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(3), if a parent/guardian disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or if the Charter School believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, the parent/guardian or Charter School may request a hearing.

In such an appeal, a hearing officer may: (1) return a child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed; or (2) order a change in placement of a child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

### 5. Special Circumstances

Charter School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

The Executive Director/ Superintendent or designee may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability in cases where a student:



- a. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

#### 6. Interim Alternative Educational Setting

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP/504 Team.

#### 7. Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has violated the Charter School's disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if the Charter School had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

The Charter School shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, to Charter School supervisory or administrative personnel, or to one of the child's teachers, that the student needs special education or related services.
- b. The parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the child.
- c. The child's teacher, or other Charter School personnel, has expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child, directly to the director of special education or to other Charter School supervisory personnel.

If the Charter School knew or should have known the student had a disability under any of the three (3) circumstances described above, the student may assert any of the protections available to IDEA-eligible children with disabilities, including the right to stay-put.

If the Charter School had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed discipline. The Charter School shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents/guardians; however, the student shall remain in the education placement determined by the Charter School pending the results of the evaluation.

The Charter School shall not be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if the parent/guardian has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

## **Title IX: Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, And Bullying Policy**

Adopted/Ratified: 2/20/18      Revision Date: 8/10/23

Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors, which interfere with students' ability to learn, negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. The Charter School prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether. This policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means.

As used in this policy, discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions, and parental status), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality (including national origin, country of origin, and citizenship), race or ethnicity (including ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background, and traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twist), religion (including agnosticism and atheism), religious affiliation, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, age or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or based on any other characteristic protected under applicable state or federal law or local ordinance.. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct prohibited by this Policy."

To the extent possible, the Charter School will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, address and report on such behaviors in a timely manner. The Charter School staff that witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Moreover, the Charter School will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by this Policy by any employee, independent contractor or other person with whom LVCS does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This Policy applies to all employees, students, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. LVCS will promptly and thoroughly investigate and respond to any complaint of misconduct prohibited by this Policy in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent and will take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. LVCS complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations and local ordinances in its investigation of and response to reports of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

**Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Coordinator (“Coordinator”):**

Sherri Morgan, Executive Director/Superintendent

P.O. Box 7, Doyle, CA 96109

(530) 827-2395

[smorgan@longvalleycs.org](mailto:smorgan@longvalleycs.org)

**Definitions**

**Prohibited Unlawful Harassment**

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs.
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work or school because of sex, race or any other protected basis.
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment.
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected characteristics listed above

**Prohibited Unlawful Harassment under Title IX**

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*; 34 C.F.R. Part 106) and California state law prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex. Under Title IX, “sexual harassment” means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of therecipient on an individual’s participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, andobjectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient’seducation program or activity; or
- “Sexual assault” as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), “dating violence” as defined in34 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)

In accordance with these existing laws, discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in education institutions, including in the education institution’s admissions and employment practices, is prohibited. All persons, regardless of sex, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination and harassment in education programs or activities conducted by LVCS.

LVCS is committed to providing a work and educational environment free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106 may be referred to the Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

Sexual harassment consists of conduct on the basis of sex, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct on the basis of sex, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual’s employment, education, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment, educational or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual’s work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against themselves or against another individual.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.
  - Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another’s body, or poking another’s body.

- Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:
  - Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
  - Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.
  - Subjecting or threats of subjecting a student or employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the student's or employee's performance more difficult because of the student's or the employee's sex.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the work or educational environment, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view in the work or educational environment.
  - Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work or educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic.
  - Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the work or educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this Policy.

### Prohibited Bullying

**Bullying** is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes one or more acts committed by a student or group of students that may constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, or creates an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment, directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable student<sup>3</sup> or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with the student's academic performance.
4. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by LVCS.

**Cyberbullying** is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, video or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

**Electronic act** means the creation or transmission originated on or off the schoolsite, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
  - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of "bullying," above.
  - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.
  - c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.
3. An act of "Cyber sexual bullying" including, but not limited to:
  - a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a student to another student or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in definition of "bullying," above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

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<sup>3</sup> "Reasonable student" is defined as a student, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs student, who exercises care, skill and judgment in conduct for a person of the student's age, or for a person of the student's age with the student's exceptional needs.

- b. "Cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
4. Notwithstanding the definitions of "bullying" and "electronic act" above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

**Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment** means a written document filed and signed by a complainant who is participating in or attempting to participate in LVCS's education program or activity or signed by the Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that LVCS investigate the allegation of sexual harassment.

**Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

### **Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures**

LVCS has adopted the following procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying.

#### **1. Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures**

LVCS advises students:

- a. To never share passwords, personal data, or private photos online.
- b. To think about what they are doing carefully before posting and by emphasizing that comments cannot be retracted once they are posted.
- c. That personal information revealed on social media can be shared with anyone including parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and potential employers. Students should never reveal information that would make them uncomfortable if the world had access to it.
- d. To consider how it would feel receiving such comments before making comments about others online.

LVCS informs Charter School employees, students, and parents/guardians of LVCS's policies regarding the use of technology in and out of the classroom. LVCS encourages parents/guardians to discuss these policies with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with such policies.

#### **2. Education**

LVCS employees cannot always be present when bullying incidents occur, so educating students about bullying is a key prevention technique to limit bullying from happening. LVCS advises students that hateful and/or demeaning behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable in our society and at LVCS and encourages students to practice compassion and respect each other.

Charter School educates students to accept all student peers regardless of protected characteristics (including but not limited to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identification, physical or cognitive disabilities, race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status) and about the negative impact of bullying other students based on protected characteristics.

LVCS's bullying prevention education also discusses the differences between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and includes sample situations to help students learn and practice appropriate behavior and to develop techniques and strategies to respond in a non-aggressive way to bullying-type behaviors. Students will also develop confidence and learn how to advocate for themselves and others, and when to go to an adult for help.

LVCS informs LVCS employees, students, and parents/guardians of this Policy and encourages parents/guardians to discuss this Policy with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with this Policy.

#### **3. Professional Development**

LVCS annually makes available the online training module developed by the California Department of Education pursuant Education Code section 32283.5(a) to its certificated employees and all other LVCS employees who have regular interaction with students.

LVCS informs certificated employees about the common signs that a student is a target of bullying including:

- Physical cuts or injuries
- Lost or broken personal items
- Fear of going to school/practice/games
- Loss of interest in school, activities, or friends
- Trouble sleeping or eating
- Anxious/sick/nervous behavior or distracted appearance

- Self-destructiveness or displays of odd behavior
- Decreased self-esteem

Charter School also informs certificated employees about the groups of students determined by LVCS, and available research, to be at elevated risk for bullying. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth (“LGBTQ”) and those youth perceived as LGBTQ; and
- Students with physical or learning disabilities.

LVCS encourages its employees to demonstrate effective problem-solving, anger management, and self-confidence skills for LVCS’s students.

## **Grievance Procedures**

### **1. Scope of Grievance Procedures**

LVCS will comply with its Uniform Complaint Procedures (“UCP”) policy when investigating and responding to complaints alleging unlawful harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying against a protected group or on the basis of a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of the protected characteristics set forth in the UCP that:

- a. Are written and signed;
- b. Filed by an individual who alleges that they have personally suffered unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, or by one who believes any specific class of individuals has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying prohibited by this Policy, or by a duly authorized representative who alleges that an individual student has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and
- c. Submitted to the LVCS UCP Compliance Officer not later than six (6) months from the date the alleged unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The following grievance procedures shall be utilized for reports of misconduct prohibited by this Policy that do not comply with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements of a uniform complaint. For formal complaints of sexual harassment, LVCS will utilize the following grievance procedures in addition to its UCP when applicable.

### **2. Reporting**

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, to intervene when safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in this Policy for reporting alleged acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

Any student who believes they have been subject to misconduct prohibited by this Policy or has witnessed such prohibited misconduct is encouraged to immediately report such misconduct to the Coordinator:

Sherri Morgan, Executive Director/Superintendent P.O. Box 7, Doyle, CA 96109 (530) 827-2395 smorgan@longvalleycs.org  
Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders may also be available to complainants.

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report to the Coordinator. LVCS will investigate and respond to all oral and written reports of misconduct prohibited by this Policy in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report.

Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this Policy or other verbal, or physical abuses. Any student who feels they are a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, the Executive Director/Superintendent, Coordinator, a staff person or a family member so that the student can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this Policy.

LVCS acknowledges and respects every individual’s right to privacy. All reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process to the greatest extent possible. This includes keeping the identity of the reporter confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to comply with the law, carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Coordinator or designee on a case-by-case basis.

LVCS prohibits any form of retaliation against any individual who files a report or complaint, testifies, assists, participates, or refuses to participate in any investigation or proceeding related to misconduct prohibited by this Policy. Such participation or lack of participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the individual. Individuals alleging retaliation in violation of this Policy may file a grievance using the procedures set forth in

this Policy. Knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. All staff, and any individual designated as a coordinator, investigator or decision-maker and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

### 3. Supportive Measures

Upon the receipt of an informal or formal complaint of sexual harassment, the Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Coordinator will consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and explain the process for filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment.

Supportive measures are 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 of sexual harassment or where no formal complaint of sexual harassment has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to LVCS's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or LVCS's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures available to complainants and respondents may include but are not limited to counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. LVCS 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 LVCS to provide the supportive measures.

### 4. Investigation and Response

Upon receipt of a report of misconduct prohibited by this Policy from a student, staff member, parent/guardian, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of LVCS, the Coordinator (or designee) will promptly initiate an investigation. A third-party investigator may be retained to conduct the investigation. In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than twenty-five (25) school days. If the Coordinator (or designee) determines that an investigation will take longer than twenty-five (25) school days and needs to be delayed or extended due to good cause, the Coordinator (or designee) will inform the complainant of the reasons for the delay or extension and provide an approximate date when the investigation will be complete.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Coordinator (or designee) will meet with the complainant and, to the extent possible with respect to confidentiality laws, provide the complainant with information about the investigation, including any actions necessary to resolve the incident/situation. However, the Coordinator (or designee) will not reveal confidential information related to other students or employees.

For investigations of and responses to formal complaints of sexual harassment, the following grievance procedures will apply:

- Notice of the Allegations
  - Upon receipt of a formal complaint of sexual harassment, the Coordinator (or designee) will give all known parties written notice of its grievance process, including any voluntary informal resolution process. The notice will include:
    - A description of the allegations of sexual harassment at issue and to the extent known, the identities of the parties involved in the incident, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident;
    - A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a final decision is reached;
    - A statement that the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
    - A statement that LVCS prohibits an individual from knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.
- Emergency Removal
  - LVCS may place a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a formal complaint of sexual harassment grievance process in accordance with LVCS's policies.
  - LVCS may remove a respondent from LVCS's education program or activity on an emergency basis, in accordance with LVCS's policies, provided that LVCS undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, 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, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.
  - This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA.
- Informal Resolution

- If a formal complaint of sexual harassment is filed, LVCS may offer a voluntary informal resolution process, such as mediation, to the parties at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility. If LVCS offers such a process, it will do the following:
  - Provide the parties with advance written notice of:
    - The allegations;
    - The requirements of the voluntary informal resolution process including the circumstances under which the parties are precluded from resuming a formal complaint of sexual harassment arising from the same allegations;
    - The parties' right to withdraw from the voluntary informal resolution process and resume the grievance process at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution; and
    - Any consequences resulting from participating in the voluntary informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared; and
  - Obtain the parties' advance voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.
- LVCS will not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.
- Investigation Process
  - The decision-maker(s) will not be the same person(s) as the Coordinator or the investigator. LVCS shall ensure that all decision-makers and investigators do not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents.
  - In most cases, a thorough investigation will take no more than twenty-five (25) school days. If the investigator determines that an investigation will take longer than twenty-five (25) school days and needs to be delayed or extended due to good cause, the investigator will inform the complainant and any respondents in writing of the reasons for the delay or extension and provide an approximate date when the investigation will be complete.
  - The parties will be provided with an equal opportunity to present witnesses, to inspect and review any evidence obtained that is directly related to the allegations raised, and to have an advisor present during any investigative meeting or interview.
  - The parties will not be prohibited from discussing the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.
  - A party whose participation is invited or expected at an investigative meeting or interview will receive written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting or interview with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.
  - Prior to completion of the investigative report, LVCS will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, a copy of the evidence subject to inspection and review, and the parties will have at least ten (10) days to submit a written response for the investigator's consideration prior to the completion of the investigation report.
  - The investigator will complete an investigation report that fairly summarizes all relevant evidence and send a copy of the report to each party and the party's advisor, if any, at least ten (10) days prior to the determination of responsibility.
- Dismissal of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment
  - If the investigation reveals that the alleged harassment did not occur in LVCS's educational program in the United States or would not constitute sexual harassment even if proved, the formal complaint with regard to that conduct must be dismissed. However, such a dismissal does not preclude action under another applicable LVCS policy.
  - LVCS may dismiss a formal complaint of sexual harassment if:
    - The complainant provides a written withdrawal of the complaint to the Coordinator;
    - The respondent is no longer employed or enrolled at LVCS; or
    - The specific circumstances prevent LVCS from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a decision on the formal complaint or the allegations therein.
  - If a formal complaint of sexual harassment or any of the claims therein are dismissed, LVCS will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) for the dismissal simultaneously to the parties.
- Determination of Responsibility
  - The decision-maker(s) will not be the same person(s) as the Coordinator, the investigator or the decision-maker(s) for the appeal.
  - The standard of evidence used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard.
  - Determinations will be based on an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence and credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.
  - LVCS will send a written decision on the formal complaint to the complainant and respondent simultaneously that describes:
    - The allegations in the formal complaint of sexual harassment;
    - All procedural steps taken including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
    - The findings of facts supporting the determination;
    - The conclusions about the application of LVCS's code of conduct to the facts;
    - The decision and rationale for each allegation;

- Any disciplinary sanctions the recipient imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity will be provided to the complainant; and
- The procedures and permissible bases for appeals.

### 5. Consequences

Students or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this Policy, knowingly make false statements or knowingly submit false information during the grievance process may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion from LVCS or termination of employment. The Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies ordered by LVCS in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment.

### 6. Right of Appeal

Should the reporting individual find LVCS's resolution unsatisfactory, the reporting individual may, within five (5) business days of notice of LVCS's decision or resolution, submit a written appeal to the President of the LVCS Board, who will review the investigation and render a final decision.

The following appeal rights and procedures will apply to formal complaints of sexual harassment:

- The complainant and the respondent shall have the same appeal rights and LVCS will implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.
- Within five (5) business days of LVCS's written decision or dismissal of the complaint, the complainant or respondent may submit a written appeal to the Coordinator.
- The decision-maker(s) for the appeal will not be the same person(s) as the Coordinator, the investigator or the initial decision-maker(s).
- The complainant and respondent may appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from LVCS's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:
  - Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
  - 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; and
  - The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), 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.
- LVCS will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed.
- The decision-maker(s) for the appeal will: 1) give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; 2) issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and 3) and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

### 7. Recordkeeping

All records related to any investigation of complaints under this Policy are maintained in a secure location.

LVCS will maintain the following records for at least seven (7) years:

- Records of each sexual harassment investigation, including any determination of responsibility; any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript; any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and any remedies provided to the complainant.
- Records of any appeal of a formal sexual harassment complaint and the results of that appeal.
- Records of any informal resolution of a sexual harassment complaint and the results of that informal resolution.
- All materials used to train Title IX coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.
- Records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment.

#### TITLE IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination & Bullying COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Alleged Incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: \_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses that were present: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the incident(s) occur? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e., specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_



I hereby authorize LVCS to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand that providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion or termination of employment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature of Complainant

**To be completed by the Charter School:**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Follow up Meeting with Complainant held on: \_\_\_\_\_

**Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy**

Long Valley Charter School recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning-conducive environment possible.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)

1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
2. Preventing a pupil from committing an act of vandalism;
3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
4. Forcing a pupil to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.

B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)

1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
3. Paddling, swatting slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Student Behavior

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between students and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, "Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by staff members while interacting with a student. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with students certainly fosters learning, student/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

#### Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of student behavior that crosses boundaries or where a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

#### Examples of Specific Behaviors

The following examples are not an exhaustive list:

##### Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)

- (a) Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- (b) Kissing of any kind.
- (c) Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.
- (d) Intentionally being alone with a student away from the school.
- (e) Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- (f) Sexual jokes.
- (g) Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
- (h) Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- (i) Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- (j) Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.

##### Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission

**(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.)**

- (a) Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities.
- (b) Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- (c) Allowing students in your home.

##### Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors

**(These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence)**

- (a) Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
- (b) Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- (c) Sending emails, text messages or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.

##### Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors

- (a) Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.
- (b) Obtaining formal approval to take students off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- (c) Emails, text, phone and instant messages to students must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to school technology).
- (d) Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- (e) Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- (f) Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- (g) Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- (h) Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
- (i) Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- (j) Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
- (k) Informing the Principal about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- (l) Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- (m) Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.

- (n) Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs student.
- (o) Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- (p) Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- (q) Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- (r) Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- (s) Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

**Handbook & Annual Notices Acknowledgement**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF  
2023-24 HANDBOOK & ANNUAL NOTICES**

The Student Family Handbook may be reviewed online at:

<https://www.longvalleycs.org/Parents--Students/Forms-and-Documents/Handbooks--Annual-Notices/index.html>

If you prefer a printed copy, please see below.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy (digital or printed) of the Student-Family Handbook, which includes the Annual Notices. I understand that I am responsible for knowing the procedures and policies within this document.

Student Name(s) Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Guardian Signature Date

<p>I've not yet reviewed the handbook. I'd prefer a printed copy to be sent home.</p> <p>Student Name (s): _____</p> <p>Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____</p>
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